

CC Chat

Hello everyone,

Over the coming months members of the County Team are looking forward to seeing you at various events and to find out what they can do to support you. To make this easier, you will see emails over the coming weeks introducing the County teams, which should make it easier for you to know the right people to speak to.

The first of these events is the GSL conference this weekend and then in May we see the return of Awards Day. It will be really good to get everyone together across the weekend and celebrate the achievements of our Young People. More details can be found below.

The good news is that Census shows our numbers of Young People are increasing across the County - so thank you for all you are doing. We know recruitment of adults is proving difficult across the County, and affecting the spaces we can offer to Young People. We are looking at how we can provide more support for this. In the meantime, The Scouts website has lot of resources available to help - <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/growing-scouts/ready-to-recruit/recruitment-toolkit/>

Compliance also remains a key target for us as a County; the aim for safety and safeguarding training is less than 2% non-compliance. We are currently at 7%, so have a way to go. It has been nearly two years of monthly emails from Headquarters informing people that these modules are overdue and regular reminders ahead of modules expiring. Roles are now being suspended where these modules remain overdue. So, if you have received an email about these modules, I would urge you to complete the training as soon as possible. If you have any problems completing the online training modules please email info@oxonscouting.org.uk.

If you are not receiving emails from headquarters, could you please check your Compass profile to ensure the correct email address is entered. We also use the email address on Compass for County emails, so its really important this is up-to-date. If you have unsubscribed from headquarter emails you can contact the info centre to re-subscribe; unsubscribing means that you will not receive any emails even those key to your role and about your training.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the GSL conference at the weekend, and everyone else at later events.

Wendy

County Commissioner

cc@oxonscouting.org.uk

Awards Day 2022

We are really excited to let you know that Awards Day 2022 will be taking place over 2 days. Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th May 2022 at Youlbury Scout Adventure. We will release dates for each District after the nomination deadline.

The deadline for nominations is 11th March 2022, the deadline to accept invites is 18th April 2022.

Details about how Awards day works and the links to nominate or download the multiple nomination form can be found by downloading our useful [FAQ here](#).

Jack Hill Trophy for courage

Jack Hill was an Oxfordshire Scout, Leader and Commissioner in Oxfordshire. Unfortunately, he lived his whole life suffering with a severe heart condition. Jack was determined to develop and enjoy his life, his family and friends and trying to live up to his Scout Promise. After his death, his family donated a memorial trophy to be awarded annually to a member of the 6-25 section who has shown the courage to remain positively active in scouting whilst suffering from physical, emotional or social difficulties.

You are asked to recommend a young person (or people), from the Beaver, Cub, Scout, Explorer Scout and Scout Network Sections, who you believe has shown during last year, the quality of courage in the face of difficulty. In the past recipients have been young people who have faced physical or mental difficulties in their lives and who have coped with social or emotional difficulties, i.e., family deaths or illnesses.

We are not looking for people who have achieved high levels of badge work but for those who have truly enjoyed Scouting, through their attendance, willingness to help and their interaction with their fellow members.

To give us time to consider the nominations please complete the online form by 6th March 2022. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hZJi6VxzCA5ZfY72gaq8RQwhwvd_rbhINjpjILpAXwc/edit

Southern 50 Challenge Hike - 2022

Congratulations to Didcot EUS for coming third place in the Southern 50 Challenge hike.

The full event report can be [downloaded here](#).

Defibrillator grants

Recent tragic Cardiac Arrest events involving persons at the peak of their fitness goes to show that Cardiac Arrest can happen to literally ANYONE, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!

If you go into cardiac arrest, without a defibrillator, you have a 7% chance of survival. If a defibrillator is on the patient within the first 3-5 minutes, the chances of survival is over 70%.

London Hearts have launched an initiative to assist your establishment in obtaining this life-saving equipment.

They are therefore currently offering a minimum £200 grant towards the cost of every Defibrillator they supply to councils across England. With every Defibrillator they supply they provide free online training.

Equipment is available now and can be with you in a matter of days.

In order to proceed in obtaining a Defibrillator simply complete the short online application to receive a quote via the following link: <https://londonhearts.org/apply-for-a-defib>

If you have any queries or wish to discuss obtaining a Defibrillator please contact Jo or Ria by telephone on 02070432493 or by email reply to: ria@londonhearts.org

A Beaver Scout Activity for returning to “normal” Programme, post-COVID

Returning to normal in Scouting is amazing, fantastic and such a relief. As we return to “normal”, in the County Programme team we want to share activities that can be done in a variety of ways, virtually (if the need demands), over school holidays to connect Beaver Scouts together and their families or as additional activities to keep in touch with your Young People to build them up to go forward.

For this month our activity is based on kindness which could contribute to the My Outdoors, My Teamwork or My World Challenge Awards; easy to do at home, and easy to work together. A nice activity to connect with each other and connect with the local area.



You will need:

- A set of **BIG** pebbles, you can buy a big bag from B&Q cheaply or scavenge safely from the environment
- Paint (either acrylic or poster) or felt pens
- Varnish (if using poster paint or felt pens)

What to do:

- Ask your Beaver Scouts to think about their rocks as a gift of kindness and to think about how they want to give away that kindness
- They might give their finished rock to a friend, family member, or leave in their local environment to bring a smile to someone – a smile can make someone’s day.
- Ask them paint or decorate their rock however they choose and if needed to varnish it.
- When it’s dry it’s theirs to give away as a gift to someone they know or even someone they don’t but needs a little lift.

The 1st Bampton Beaver Scouts did this as a treasure hunt/geocaching type activity. Every Beaver Scout left their rock and then these could be found by other Young People when they were out and about. We set aside a time when everyone went out hunting for the rocks – the only rule was to leave them behind for someone else to find and be cheered.

One rock was delivered back 2 weeks ago, a year after being placed. In the pictures you can see some examples of the rocks we made.

If you would be interested in more programme ideas, why not join us for the Leaders Skills Days on Saturday and Sunday 1st and 2nd April.



Inclusion surgeries

Do you need advice on any aspects of inclusion adults or young people? Are you struggling to make your programme inclusive? If so, we are here to help you? Why not make an appointment at one of our online surgeries and speak with a member of our inclusion team? Email: inclusion@oxonscouting.org.uk



Dates:

26th March 2022 - 10am – 12pm

#GoodForTwo

We're encouraging members to join in #GoodForTwo from Founders Day on 22/2/22.

The concept is for volunteers and young people to invite a friend or parent down for a taster night. It's an informal way to encourage potential new adult volunteers to give Scouts a try.

Checkout [this link](#) for resources from HQ to run your own taster session.

Don't forget to share your experience with us by contacting media@oxonscouting.org.uk



All Leaders – two dates for your diaries: 2nd & 3rd April 2022

Now that Covid restrictions have ended, the County Programme Team have re-scheduled the two consecutive days of skills training for all the County's Section Leaders postponed from the end of November last year! We have confirmed the venue to be Headquarters of 6th Chipping Norton Scout Group, We are planning to run for sessions for Beaver and Cub Leaders on Saturday 2nd April and for Scout and Explorer Leaders on Sunday 3rd April.

As originally envisaged during the Skills Training Sessions we will be looking to cover such diverse topics as programme planning, risk assessments, nights away assessment preparation, Young Leaders, Duke of Edinburgh awards, Queens Scout award, some local charity fundraising schemes and much, much more....

There will also be lots of opportunities to "network" with other Leaders from other areas of the County and to perhaps share ideas and resources.

Places can be booked here: <https://bookwhen.com/oxfordshirescouts>

20 for 20

The year 2022 marks 20 years since both Explorer and Network Scouts began (after replacing Venture Scouts). To celebrate this the guys and girls at West Oxfordshire Network have come up with the "20 For 20 Years" challenge. There is a different task to complete every month, plus a few extras on the side.

For the January challenge, we had to spend an hour a day for 20 days learning a new skill - here's a picture of Megan and Lucy from WODNET learning how to sew reusable sanitary pads going towards their Sustainable Development project for their Scouts of the World Award.

We would love to see how you are all getting involved with the challenge. If you have any photos of your 20 for 20 years challenge activities, send them over to network@oxonscouting.org.uk



Happy Birthday Explorer and Network Scouts!

20 years on since the two sections were started in the UK, we thought we'd celebrate this milestone birthday with challenges that will teach us new skills, help others, and be fun!

There's a challenge for each month for you and your Unit to complete, plus 8 smaller challenges to complete at any time during the year. Have fun and don't forget to celebrate!

January

Spend an hour a day for 20 days learning a new skill

February

Plant 20 trees each
Why not support a local reforestation project?

March

Walk 20 miles, collecting litter as you go

April

Take part in a 20 hour challenge as a Unit (a continuous 20hr task!)
You could raise money for a local charity

May

Cook a meal for your unit with a budget of £20.
You could think of a theme or limitations to make it even trickier!

June

Play 20 different board games - see if you can find a new favourite!
You could play traditional as well as newer games

July

Paddle 20km each
You could canoe/kayak/raft/paddleboard etc.

August

Sleep outside for 20 nights in a tent/hammock/bivouac etc.

September

Create 20 or 20m of something to donate
E.g. Knit 20m of scarves as a unit, create 20 care parcels etc.

October

Write 20 positive notes for future you, friends, family etc.
Write something to share a smile!

November

Volunteer for 20 hours
Which charities in your local area could benefit from your help?

December

Take 20 photos that sum up your 20 For 20 Years challenge and share them in a celebration of our 20th birthday year!

Challenges for any time of the year:

- Bake & decorate 20 Scouting cookies
- Meet and take part in activities with 20 other Units (not all at once!)
- Spot 20 things in the night sky
- Put 20 T-shirts on in 1 minute
- Spend 20 hrs helping another section
- Read 20 books as a Unit
- Score 20 bullseyes (e.g. archery, raffles, axe throwing etc.)
- Pet 20 different dogs (photos are fab!)

Welcome to Oxfordshire Scouts

We would like to welcome the following new adult volunteers who joined the Oxfordshire Scouting family or taken on a new role in February 22

Gordon Weston

Stuart Weekes

Zara Zimmerman

Sarah Oleary

Alex Peatfield

Katie Laing

Joshua Wright

Daniel Bruce

Emma Taylor

Edward Patmore

Sarah Legge

Chris Brummitt

Seamus Fearon

Eve Garrett-Allen

Vicky Johnston

Susanna Williams

Natasha Holmes

Astha Bajoria

Hannah Forse

Woodbadges

Congratulations to the following adult volunteers who achieved their Woodbadges in February (according to Compass):

Matt Szyndel - Assistant Section Leader - Scouts

Anna Dashwood - Group Scout Leader

James Brudenell - Assistant Section Leader - Scouts



Got a story?

We love to publish real scouting stories, do you have something you would love for us to publish? Get in touch by emailing us [here](#) with your story!

Scouts
Oxfordshire



Stay in the loop with all the latest news!