

Everything you need to know



The 8th Wimbledon Scout Group

Newcomers' pack



WELCOME

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

On behalf of the Leaders of the 8th Wimbledon Scout Group, I thank you for showing an interest in the good work we do for the young people of our community. Since it began in 1909, the 8th Wimbledon Scout Group has provided a healthy mixture of challenging and adventurous activities for its Members. The name of our game is "fun" And we have to ensure that our Members enjoy themselves throughout their Scouting experiences.

The aim of this booklet is to help you, the parents or guardians of a potential Member of the Group. It also forms a simple reference tool for parents and guardians of children who are already Members of the Scout Group who may be moving from one Section to another.

The booklet gives you a wider perspective of the incredible amount of work that goes into a Scout Group, both on the part of the Leaders and on the part of other volunteers who help with the Group. Many of these volunteers are parents, just like you. Any assistance you feel you may be able to offer the Scout Group will be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions which this booklet does not answer, please feel free to contact me direct and I will be more than happy to answer them. As the head of the team of Leaders who will be guiding your child through the Scout Group, I take this opportunity to thank you for your interest.

I look forward to yours and your child's association with the 8th Wimbledon Scout Group and once again I emphasise that we are here to help with any enquiries you may have.

Yours faithfully,

David Stevens, Group Scout Leader

p.s. We have a fantastic website which can be a source of inspiration for adults as well as children... please visit it to find out more about us:

www.8thwimbledon.org

HOW 'WE' CAN SUPPORT THEM AND OUR CHILDREN

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I also take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to the 8th Wimbledon Scout Group. I am the Group Chairman. I am a parent of a Member of the Group and I help David Stevens, the Group Scout Leader, to ensure that your son or daughter will receive good Scouting from this Group.

I chair a committee made up of parents, Leaders and supporters of the Group who meet on a regular basis to govern the Scout Group.

We rely heavily upon the support of parents and guardians to ensure that the Scout Group can provide every activity it wishes to provide for the benefit of your child.

We also want you to feel part of the Group - we run a number of social events, where you can enjoy yourselves with like-minded adults, either with or without the children. We also encourage you to show us your skills and interests... you may be particularly good at something which young Members of the Scout Group may be interested in learning more about. You may have particular connections that could benefit the Scout Group... all of these things are of use to you and to us. Please let us know.

Please keep me posted on any developments you feel would be good for the Group.

I look forward to working with you.

Martin Gough, Group Chairman



THE GROUP

The Aim of our Scout Group is to provide an exciting framework of activities that enable a young person to develop through learning from these experiences they have shared with their friends.

How do we manage to achieve this? Through a series of weekly Meetings, outings and expeditions where, as a young person grows and develops, so does the level of activity and challenge provided. Everything we do is geared toward the age and ability of the individual, encouraging them to learn new skills and 'grow' in their knowledge of themselves and the world around them - particularly in the role they have to play in society.

So just who is Scouting open to? Anyone from the age of six to 25 can be a youth Member of the Scouts, be they male or female. A Scout Group is split down into Sections, which enable its Members to work with people of a similar age.

Our Scout Group consists of four Sections:

Beaver Scouts	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Explorer Scouts
Aged 6-8 yrs	Aged 8-10 ^{1/2} yrs	Aged 10 ^{1/2} -14 yrs	Aged 14-18 yrs

The Sections meet on the following nights and times:

Beaver Scouts	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Explorer Scouts
Tuesdays 5.45 p.m.-7 p.m.	Thursdays 6.10 p.m.-7.45 p.m.	Thursdays 8 p.m.-9.30 p.m.	Wednesdays 8 p.m.-10 p.m.

Where do they meet? The whole of the Scout Group, apart from our Explorer Scout Unit that we link in to, meets in central Wimbledon, near to Wimbledon Station (contact us to get our exact address).

Our Explorer Scouts meet in Merton Park and this Section is run by a team of Leaders who we send our older Members to join in with.

Should you wish to know any more about any of the Sections of the Scout Group, or discuss your son's or daughter's Membership of one of these Sections, please contact David Stevens, the Group Scout Leader.

David Stevens, 75 Graham Rd, Wimbledon, London, SW19 3SP
Telephone: 020 8542 0461
e-mail: david.stevens@8thwimbledon.org

THE BEAVER SCOUT SECTION



We have a very strong Beaver Scout Colony, which caters for those aged six to eight years-of-age.

There is nothing more important to a Beaver Scout than completing fun activities with your friends and that is the aim of our Colony...

Under the Leadership of Nicolette, our Beaver Scout Leader, weekly Colony Meetings offer the Beaver Scouts a whole range of inspiring activities they will not be able to find anywhere else.

To help her run the Colony Meetings Nicolette has a rota of Beaver Scout parents and Young Leaders who help set-up activities on the night or help with outings. We will be asking you if you can spare just a few hours a year and help the team to run the Colony - your time investment will be greatly appreciated.

The Colony Leader team's aim is that every child will leave a Colony Meeting having learnt something new through a 'fun' activity... they may even have made something special to take home with them.

Our Beaver Scouts go on occasional outings and sometimes go to visit the Cub Scouts when they are on camp but they do not camp overnight or sleep away from home so please, don't expect to have to sort out camping gear just yet for your son or daughter!

Beaver Scouts work best in small groups, and we call these Lodges. One of the Beaver Scouts may be asked to help look after the other Beaver Scouts in his or her Lodge and so they are called the Lodge leader.

Please refer to the section of this booklet entitled **THE FIRST FEW WEEKS** to find out more.

Nicolette Hamilton

THE CUB SCOUT SECTION



We have a very strong Cub Scout Pack, which caters for those aged eight to ten and-a-half years-of-age.

Cub Scouting is where the adventures really start for a child... camps, outings, badges, awards... you name it... Cub Scouting has it!

Under the Leadership of Jean, our Cub Scout Leader, weekly Pack Meetings offer the Cub Scouts a whole range of inspiring activities they will not be able to find anywhere else.

Jean is known to the Cub Scouts as Akela (pronounced arkalar), so if you hear the Cub Scouts calling this name out, you know who they are talking to.

To help him run the Pack Meetings an Assistant Leader, Carol, who hasn't been given a Jungle Book name yet, and a Young Leader called Miles, who is known to the Cubs as Rama (pronounced Rahmar). Occasionally Cub Scout parents help set-up activities on the night or help with outings. We will be asking you if you can spare just a few hours a year and help Jean to run the Pack - your time investment will be greatly appreciated.

The Cub Scout Leader team's aim is that every child will leave a Pack Meeting having learnt something new through a 'fun' activity... they may even have made something special to take home with them.

Our Cub Scouts go on occasional outings and go on camps - for many young children the adventure camping can offer is unparalleled so please encourage your child to take part in all that we offer. If ever you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask one of the Leaders.

Cub Scouts work best in small groups, and we call these Sixes. One of the Cub Scouts may be asked to help look after the other Cubs in his or her Six and so they are called the Sixer. Another child may be asked to help them and they are called a Seconder.

Please refer to the section of this booklet entitled **THE FIRST FEW WEEKS** to find out more.

Jean-Claire Flanagan
07766 082 063
jean-claire.flanagan@8thwimbledon.org

THE SCOUT SECTION



We have a very strong Scout Troop, which caters for those aged ten and-a-half to fourteen years-of-age.

The Scout Section is where young people really develop... pushing themselves into increasingly new experiences; discovering their strengths and building on them through team and personal achievements is what this Section is all about.

Under the Leadership of Andrew, our Scout Leader, weekly Troop Meetings offer the Scouts a whole range of inspiring activities they will not be able to find anywhere else.

Andrew is known to the Scouts as Andy (there are no fancy names for Scout Leaders), so if you hear the Scouts calling this name out, you know exactly who they are talking to.

David Stevens, the Group Scout Leader, also helps to run Troop meetings and activities.

Occasionally Scout

parents help set-up activities on the night or help with outings and camps. We will be asking you if you can spare just a few hours a year and help Andrew to run the Troop - your time investment will be greatly appreciated.

The Scout Leader team's aim is that every child will leave a Troop Meeting having learnt something new through a 'fun' activity...

Our Scouts go on occasional outings and go on camps, with more adventurous activities like CycloCross, orienteering and night hikes - for many young adults the adventure these experiences can offer is unparalleled so please encourage your child to take part in all that we offer. If ever you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask one of the Leaders.

Scouts work best in small groups, and we call these Patrols. One of the Scouts may be asked to help look after the other Scouts in his or her Patrol and so they are called the Patrol Leader (P.L.). Another child may be asked to help them and they are called an Assistant Patrol Leader (A.P.L.).

Please refer to the section of this booklet entitled **THE FIRST FEW WEEKS** to find out more.

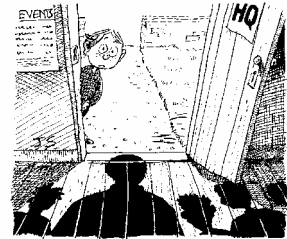
Andrew Ellam, Scout Leader
14 Dolphin Court, Southey Rd, Wimbledon, London SW19 3NS
Email: andrew.ellam@8thwimbledon.org

THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

No matter what the Section, every child who joins has some apprehension... will I know anyone? Will I like it there? Will I like what they do? All are reasonable questions so we like to make sure that your child WANTS to join.

When you bring your child along we ask that you complete a form, giving us your child's details and some details about you and how we can contact you if we have to.

Our copy of that form goes off to be processed by our Group Secretary and we then have your child on our books... throughout this process, which takes about four weeks, we ask for no money and don't ask you to buy a uniform or anything like that.



Once we are happy that your child is happy and really does want to join, the Leaders will talk to you about getting the uniform.

THE UNIFORM AND BITS TO BUY

The uniform is different for each of the Sections, and our Group is fortunate to provide many items for you that other Scout Groups do not provide:



Beaver Scouts

Just ask them for a standard Beaver Scout uniform with a woggle. We will provide your child with a copy of the Beaver Scout Log Book and their Lemon Yellow Scarf.



Cub Scouts

Just ask them for a standard Cub Scout uniform with a woggle. We will provide your child with a copy of the Cub Scout Powerpack and their Lemon Yellow Scarf.



Scouts

Just ask them for a standard Scout uniform with a woggle, along with a copy of the Scout Matrix - we give your child a Record Book and their Lemon Yellow Scarf, so you do not have to purchase these as well.

WHERE DO YOU BUY IT?

We recommend that you buy your child's uniform from the following stores:

- Outdoors Ltd. There are stores in Croydon and Victoria, or you can buy online (see the Parents' Zone of our website, www.8thwimbledon.org) or by mail order on 01903 766921.
- Fields Scouting Supplies, 32 Tolworth Rise South, Tolworth KT5 9NN. Tel: 020 8335 5450 (ring for opening times).

THE INVESTITURE

It sounds terrifying but it is a simple ceremony held at the end of a meeting - each Section has its own ceremony - where a prospective Member makes their Promise and is presented with their badges and their scarf to wear.

The Leader will explain to you when the Investiture ceremony will be taking place and they will give you a time to arrive at the hall so that you may see your child become 100% Beaver Scout, Cub Scout or Scout... please bring a camera and feel free to take photos... your child will be very proud of themselves.

After the Investiture your son will have a handful of badges that need to be sewn onto their uniform by the next meeting. To help you know what goes where, we have provided these few diagrams but if you have any questions, just give one of the Leaders a ring.

Our District and County badges look like this:



Our nametape looks like this:

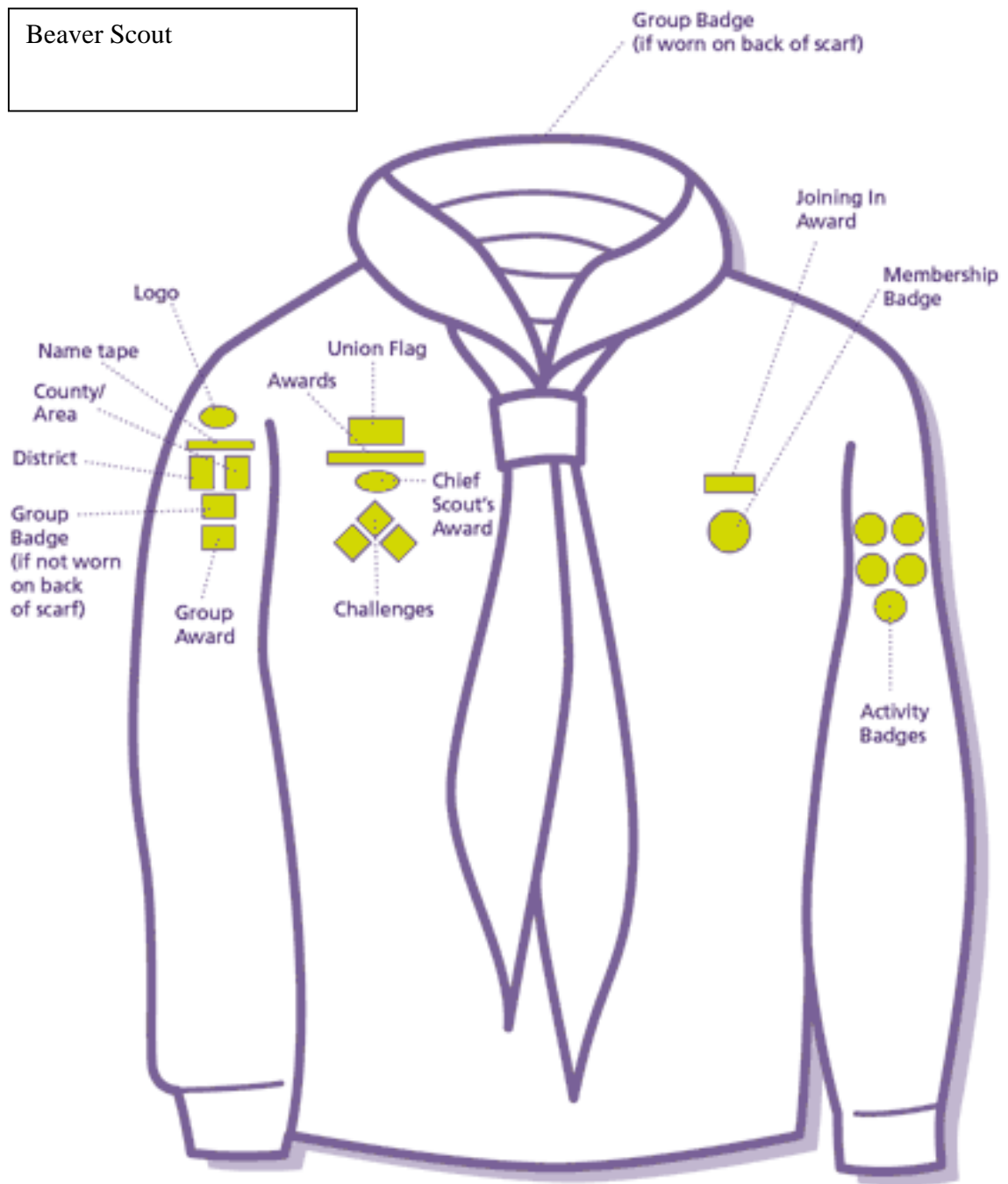


And the Membership Badge looks like this:

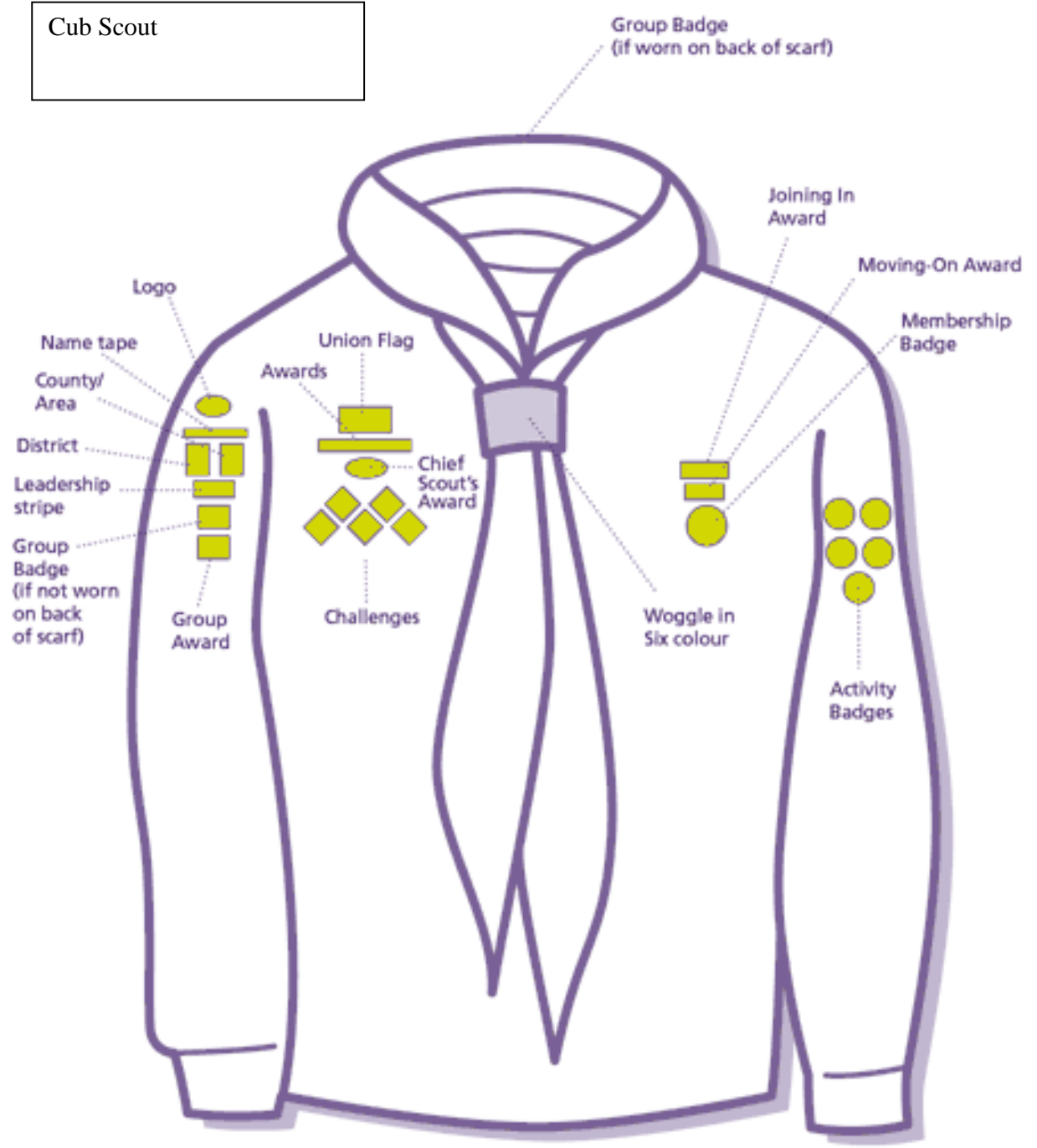


now the next pages will show you where they go...

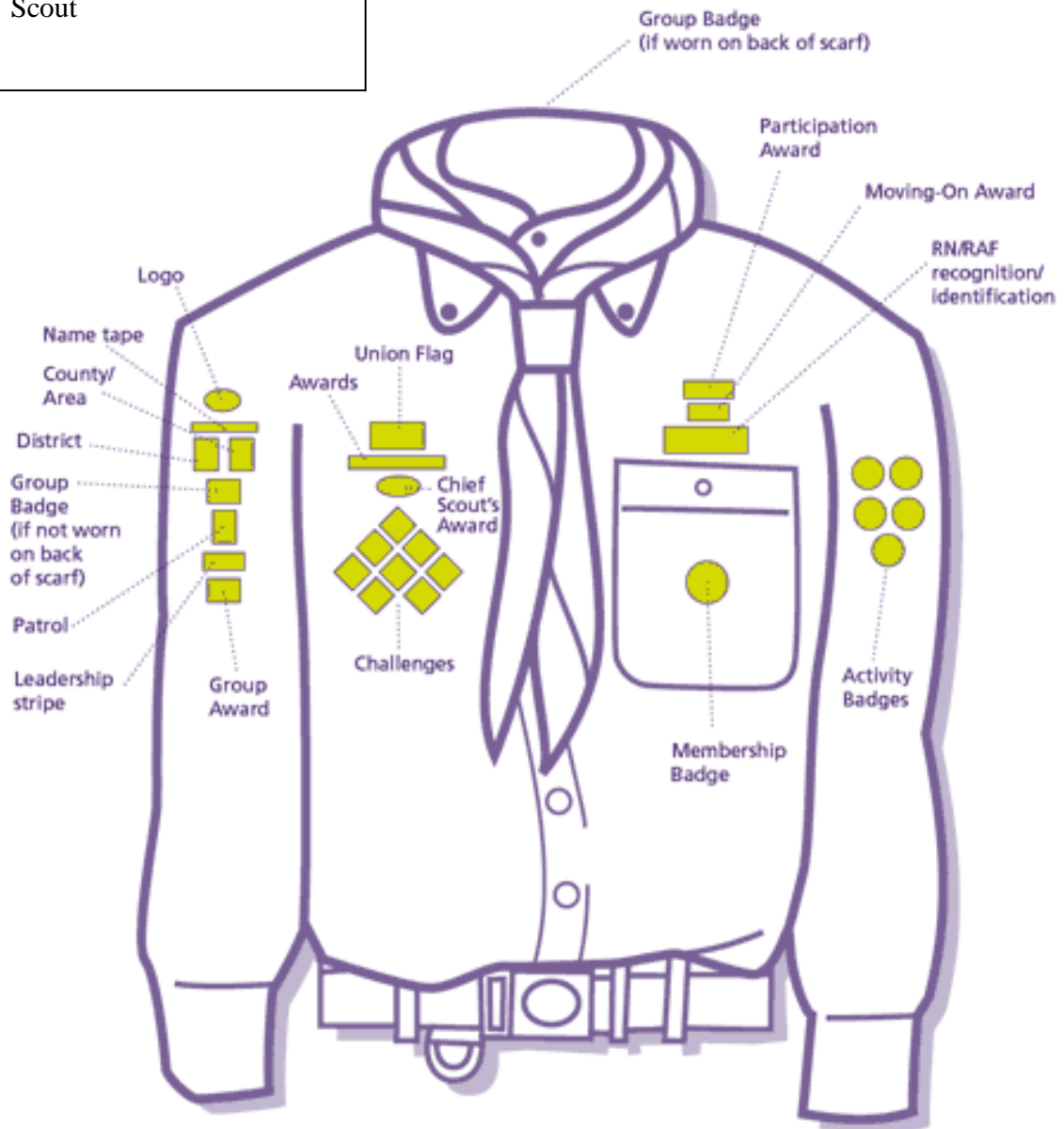
Beaver Scout



Cub Scout



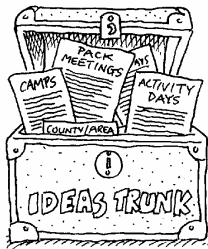
Scout



THE FIRST FEW MONTHS

Your child will now be immersed into the Scouting experience. They will get from Scouting as much as they want to put into it and the same will count for your relationship with Scouting.

As a Leader team we aim to give your child as many opportunities as we physically can and we appreciate your support. You may now be hearing about events coming up because you've received a letter from a Leader; because you've received our termly newsletter or because you have registered to receive our more regular e-newsletters or chosen to view our calendar on the Group website and you have downloaded the information... whatever way the information arrives, please take time to read it properly... there may be some very important information in there and your child may miss out on something as a result of you doing the same.



You will hear about Outings:

- With all outings, you will be required to complete a form to give permission for your child to take part.
- There may be some personal/medical details required.
- There will be instructions about payment.
- There will be a closing date.
- Please ensure that you take it all in and follow the instructions - they will be there for a reason.

You will hear about Camps and Residential experiences:

- With all camps and residential experiences you will be required to complete a form to give permission for your child to take part.
- There may be some personal/medical details required.
- There will be instructions about payment.
- There will be a closing date.
- Please ensure that you take it all in and follow the instructions - they will be there for a reason.
- If you have any questions, please ask a Leader at the earliest opportunity.

HOW ARE THESE THINGS ORGANISED?

Sadly, nothing in this world is for free... running an active Scout Group costs a lot of money. All of that money has to come from somewhere.

As a parent of a child in the Group you will be paying a Membership Subscription each term. This equates to £20 for Beaver Scouts and £25 for Cub Scouts and Scouts... this money goes toward providing badges and resources for use week in week out.

As a Scout Group we have to pay money to The Scout Association Headquarters and to our Scout District of Wimbledon and Merton for every Member of the Group to be a member of The Scout Association and receive its privileges, such as insurance cover when undertaking activities.

In addition we have to pay rent for the hall we meet in.

All of this money has to be raised each year.

The Leaders and all of the people on the Committees are 100% voluntary and receive no payment - if anything they often pay out a lot of money, as well as their time.

Behind the scenes there is a small dedicated team of Leaders, parents and friends of the Group helping to raise this money and provide what the Group needs to exist and then flourish.

They have created schemes like **Gift Aid**, which enables us to claim 28p from the Inland Revenue for every £1 that a UK tax payer gives us - either as Membership subscriptions, as payment for a camp or outing or simply as a donation.

They have created a calendar of social events that you will be informed of on a regular basis to help raise money for the Group and for us.

All of this is there to help us provide top quality Scouting for your child.

We ask that all parents help us to achieve this - We are a registered charity and any time and energy you can give us will be appreciated.

If, at any time, you have suggestions for the provision of better Scouting... please let us know.

We need your help to raise our already very high standards!

Welcome to the 8th Wimbledon!!!

