

# Volunteering with Scouting in Beeston, Chilwell, Stapleford, Toton and the surrounding area



September 2014

## Scouting

Scouting is a world-wide, multi-faith, uniformed youth organisation, now just over a century old. In Britain it is co-educational. Its target is to enable young people to fulfil their full physical, mental, social and spiritual potentials. It does this by encouraging them to work together in small teams, in particular by using outdoor activities.

## Age-Groups (“Sections”)

Beavers ----- 6 → 8  
Cubs ----- 8 → 11  
Scouts----- 11 → 14  
Explorers ----- 14 → 18

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are organised into family units known as “Groups”. Explorers form “Units” covering wider areas.

The activities are appropriate to the age-group, but typically involve weekly meetings at a regular meeting place plus weekend or longer residential events, which may range from just a night away from home in a purpose-built facility for Beavers, to Duke of Edinburgh expeditions or camps overseas for Explorers.

In addition there is Scout Network for young adults 18 → 25, and Scout Active Support Units for other adults. Members of these sections may be involved regularly with younger members, or may perform background roles.

## How you could help

Scouting needs men and women who can work with young people, teaching:

- Team-work
- Leadership and organisational skills
- Practical abilities - how to pitch a tent, read a map or cook a meal
- Adventurous activities - hill-walking, climbing, boat-work

But Scouting is also a charitable organisation, so we need fund-raisers and treasurers, chairpeople and secretaries, and we own headquarter buildings, activity-centres, camping equipment and watercraft, all of which require maintenance.

## Flexible Volunteering - Time

Scouting recognises that volunteers differ in the amount of time they can give, and in the pattern in which they can give it. So...

- A Section Leader, responsible for the programme of their Section, will attend most weekly meetings and all of their Section's residential activities, whether one-night sleepovers for Beavers or a week on the continent for Explorers.
- A Section Assistant might attend every other weekly meeting.
- A member of an Activity Centre Service Team might spend a day a month on site, booking campers in and out, manning a first-aid post or fixing a leaking roof.
- A treasurer might spend a few minutes most days processing subscriptions and bills.
- And we have an appointment of "Occasional Helper" - the title says it all!

## Flexible Volunteering - Generalist or Specialist?

Most adults involved with young members are generalists, running a game of rounders one minute, and teaching first aid the next. However, there is also a need for instructors and advisors who specialise in a particular activity, such as climbing.

In particular, although we are so far from the sea, in Beeston we have an Admiralty-recognised Sea Scout Group, with a base on an island in the Trent, and just over the border in Derbyshire at Trent Lock there is a water-activities centre.

## Appointment and training

It will come as no surprise to you that anybody wishing to work with young people will be subject to background checks before appointment. Also, some roles require training to be undertaken, but Scouting recognises existing experience - and some of our courses can lead to externally-accepted qualifications.

## Think you could help?

If we have whetted your appetite, and you would like to know more about volunteering opportunities, then your first point of contact is:

**For South West Notts District (Beeston, Bramcote, Trowell, Stapleford, Toton, Attenborough and Chilwell):**

Simon Clark, District Commissioner, 07740860452, email: [swnottsdc@gmail.com](mailto:swnottsdc@gmail.com)

Or see <http://www.swnotts-scouts.org.uk/> and <http://www.swnotts-scouts.org.uk/explorers/>

