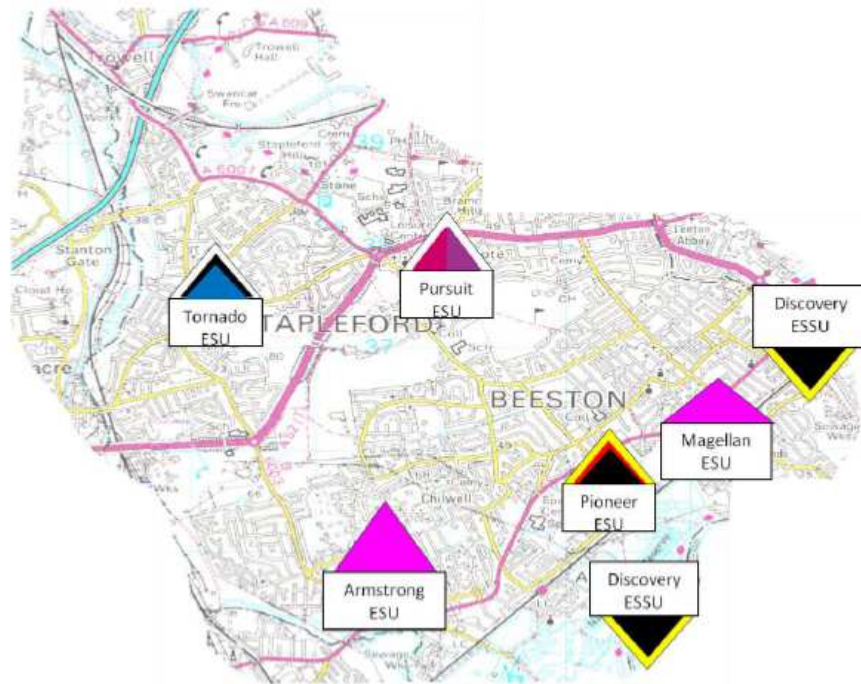




## South West Notts District Explorer Scouts



# Information for prospective Explorer Scouts and their parents

v.12 January 2012

### How do I find out more?

Speak to any Leader in the District, or contact the District Explorer Scout Commissioner, Chris Coats, on 0115 9522849 or drop a note to: [c.coats@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.coats@ntlworld.com) or visit: <http://explorers.swnotts-scouts.org.uk/> or visit: <http://www.notts-scouts.com/explorerscouts/index.html>

Registered Charity no. 1073964

### **Who are Explorer Scouts?**

Explorer Scouts are young people, usually aged between 14 and 18 years old. They make up the fourth Section of the Scouting family.

### **When and where do Explorers meet?**

There are many types of Explorer Scout Units, some are linked to local Scout Groups, others are based around different activities. Not all Units meet each week, because explorers will often be out and about at weekends or in the holidays doing activities. There will be times when young people will be busy doing other things such as exams, and being an Explorer Scout will have to fit around these. Explorers can go to any or all of the meetings in the District. The units in the S W Notts district are:

**Pioneer ESU** - meet on Monday evenings in Chilwell

**Tornado ESU** - meet on Monday evenings in Stapleford

**Pursuit ESU** - meet on Wednesday evenings in Bramcote

**Magellan ESU** - meet on Thursday evenings in Beeston

**Discovery ESSU (Water Activities)**- meet on Thursday evenings in Beeston Rylands or on Barton Island in the Trent depending on the weather and time of year!

**The Young Leader ESU** – a unit that supports Explorers working with other sections.

**Armstrong ESU** – is dormant currently due to lack of demand.

We aim to establish units in other parts of the District when there is the demand, enough leaders and a suitable venue.

### **What do Explorers do?**

That's up to the Explorers, really - the young people in each Unit will help to plan their own programme of activities, and will also get involved in organising events. Here are some examples of the activities that units have enjoyed as part of a varied programme: Pioneering, Swimming, Wide games, Debating, Cinema trips, Sailing, helping out at the District Scout Camp, Barbecue and Cocktails (non-alcoholic, of course!)

### **What about Badges and stuff?**

Explorers wear uniform on formal occasions like St George's Day parade. Through the weekly programme, you'll be able to gain activity badges while working towards obtaining the Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond Awards and of course, the Queen's Scout Award - the highest award for young people in Scouting. While you're achieving these awards, you can also complete the requirements for the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. There are 28 Activity Badges to have a go at, and several more Group Awards to earn.

Uniform (navy trousers/skirt with beige shirt/blouse) can be obtained from [www.outdoors.ltd.uk](http://www.outdoors.ltd.uk) or locally from:

D & P Schoolwear, 16- 18 Maid Marion Way, Nottingham. 0115 947 5128

Morleys, 118 Bramcote Avenue, Nottingham, NG9 4DR. 0115 925 8046

Your leader will present you with either the Unit necker or the District Purple one.

### **Are there some District and County activities?**

Yes - as an Explorer Scout, you will get the chance to work with other Explorer Scouts in your District and County, not just your own Unit. By doing this, you will get the chance to do many more activities, not just the ones your Unit organises. For instance, endurance go-karting and canoeing courses.

### **What is the Young Leaders' Scheme?**

The Young Leaders' Scheme is just one of the exciting programme elements in the Explorer Scout section. All leaders in the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Section who are between the ages of 14 and 18 must be members of a Young Leaders Unit. They are Explorer Scouts who choose to devote a large proportion of their time in Scouting to service in another section. The Young Leaders' Scheme helps Explorer Scouts to develop and grow as individuals. It allows them to make a valuable contribution to their community and give service to others. The scheme also helps them fulfil the service elements of their awards.

### **How much does it cost?**

Subscriptions to Explorers Scouts in South West Notts currently range from £8 to £10 per calendar month, payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Cheques should be made payable to *S W Notts Explorer Scouts*, however ideally, subs should be paid by Standing Order - please speak to a leader to get the details. Many of the activities that Explorers will want to do (camping, climbing, 10-pin bowling, going to the cinema etc) will incur additional costs, for those taking part. Part of this goes towards the HQ Membership Fee (£33 in 2011).

### **Can I Gift Aid my child's subscriptions?**

YES! Please do! If you are a UK taxpayer, Scouting can claim back a further 25% of your subscriptions, helping to keep costs low. Ask your leader for the appropriate form.

### **What can you tell me about the Leaders?**

Each unit is led by a team of Leaders, who will have access to extensive training to equip them to run safe and exciting activities for the young people in the unit. All the adults working in Explorer Scout Units are volunteers who give up their spare time to provide good quality programmes for the members of their units. We're always looking for additional help so if you think you might like to get involved, please call the number overleaf.