
Lowestoft Explorer Scout Unit



EXPLORERS

Members Pack 2016

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Index

1. Introduction to Explorers	2
2. Basics	2
3. Communication.....	2
4. Structure and Meetings.....	3
5. Membership Fees.....	3
6. Membership Requirements.....	4
7. Activities	4
8. Activity Fees	4
9. Consent Forms	4
10. Event Passports	4
11. Fundraising	5
12. Photography	5
13. Explorer Scout Promise, Law and Motto	6
The Scout Promise.....	6
The Scout Law	6
The Scout Motto.....	6
14. Uniform.....	6
15. Explorer Scout badges and awards	7
Activity badges.....	7
Additional badges and awards.....	7
Chief Scouts Platinum Award	8
Chief Scouts Diamond Award	8
Queens Scout Award.....	9
Explorer Belt Award.....	9
Young Leader's Scheme.....	9
Core badges	10
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme	10
16. Leader Contacts.....	10
17. Administrator Contact (new members, payments & leaving).....	10

1. Introduction to Explorers

Explorer Scouts is open to young adults, usually aged between 14 and 18 years old. They make up the fourth section of the Scouting family after Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

Explorer Scouts take part in activities as diverse as sailing, kayaking, abseiling, overseas expeditions, photography, climbing, etc. As an Explorer Scout you can learn survival skills, first aid, computer programming, or even how to fly a plane. There's something for every young person. It's a great way to have fun, make friends, get outdoors, express your creativity and experience the wider world.

Explorer Scouts helps young adults reach their full potential developing skills including teamwork, time management, leadership, initiative, planning, communication, self-motivation, cultural awareness and commitment.

2. Basics

A group of Explorer Scouts is called a unit. The name of our unit is the "Lowestoft Explorer Scout Unit". The majority of members live in and around the Lowestoft area but we are pleased to welcome new members who live in any location.

In many instances the young people who join our Unit will have had previous Scouting experience gained from Beavers, Cubs or Scouts but we also welcome new male and female members from any ethnic, social or religious background.

We develop all members and encourage them to help plan activities and influence the annual programme of events. During 2016 we are establishing an Explorer Executive Committee so members under the age of 18 years can develop their skills at planning, budgeting and arranging some events.

3. Communication

The Leadership team will send out written communications about activities and programme events via group e-mails to Unit members and parents/guardians. In addition, Unit members (over the age of 14 years) and parents/guardians can benefit by joining a Facebook group titled "Lowestoft Explorer Scout Unit". This group is protected so it is not possible for non-unit members to post messages or access any information or photographs associated with members or Explorer events.

4. Structure and Meetings

Weekly meetings take place on a Thursday evening during school terms dates. Other specialist activities and camps are organised at weekends and during school holidays.

The weekly meetings usually take place at the following locations each month, start and finish times are generally 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm but these may be varied due to the activity or availability of the scout headquarters so please check emails regularly: -

Week 1	Week 2 & 3	Week 4 (Varies)	Waterports Activities
14 th Lowestoft Scout Headquarters	1 st Oulton Broad Sea Scout Headquarters	Herringfleet Scout Campsite	Oulton Broad Water Sport Centre
The Den, High Street, Lowestoft, NR32 1JB	The Den, Nelson Wharf, Oulton Broad, Suffolk, NR33 9LP	Ashby Dell, Suffolk, NR32 5ND OS Sheet: 134 Grid Ref: 483995	Nicholas Everitt Park, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 9JR

5. Membership Fees

All the Explorer Scout Leadership and Support team volunteer their time free of charge. However, there are other items that need to be funded so that events can be run effectively and safely in accordance with the Scout Associations policy organisation and rules (POR).

The annual fee to be a member of the Lowestoft Explorer Scout Unit is £84* from 1st April 2016. (**Note: Annual fee includes Herringfleet Campsite Thursday evening fees that were previously collected as a cash payment*).

1. Annual membership subscription fees can be paid via 12 monthly payments of £7 by direct debit
 - The monthly standing order avoids the risks and problems associated with young people carrying cash. It also provides Leaders and Parents with an accurate banking record of each subscription payment.
 - We also accept cheque payments for part or whole years in advance.
2. New members linking from the Scout section are not required to pay Explorer Subscriptions until their investiture as member of the Explorer Unit.
3. New members joining from outside the scout association receive the first month's membership free of charge.
4. Members who fail to make subscription payments for three months will not be entitled to attend any meetings or activities. If you leave please let us know...
5. "GIFT AID" is a government initiative that allows you to increase the value of your donations to Explorers at no extra cost. For every £1 you give, we can claim an extra 25p from HMRC. Please see the attached gift aid form for new members.

6. Membership Requirements

It is important that all members attend meetings on a regular basis so that a full and balanced programme of training can be completed. A membership break may be formally agreed with the Leadership Team in the event of sickness or study/exam periods such as GCSEs or A levels.

As a member you are agreeing to attend: -

- a minimum of one Explorer meeting each month;
- two uniform parades each year (St Georges Day & Remembrance Sunday); and
- two District workdays at Herringfleet in every three years.

7. Activities

Explorer Scouts often get the chance to attend activities with other members from across the County, not just their own Unit, so can take part in an even wider spectrum of activities. There is also a range of ambitious badges and awards, through which Explorers can demonstrate their proficiencies and expand their interests.

8. Activity Fees

The Explorer Leadership Team completes competency and instructor training (e.g. First Aid, RYA, BCU, etc.) so that a wide range of specialist and adventurous activities can be offered at a reasonable cost. In some instances there will be additional activity fees to cover the cost of food, equipment, special insurances, campsite fees and fees to cover the cost for employed specialist instructors.

9. Consent Forms

Parents/Guardians are required to complete consent forms for adventurous activities such as shooting, archery, climbing, etc. In many instances permission forms shall be effective from the date of signing until the member leaves the unit (e.g. upon reaching 18 years old). It is the responsibility of Parent/Guardian to inform the Explorer Leadership team in writing should there any change to the agreed permissions.

10. Event Passports

An Event Passport is used as part of the Nights Away Scheme to encourage young people to lead residential events, such as Explorer Scout expeditions. It allows the young person to lead a residential event **with no leaders present** and lasts for a single event.

An Explorer Leader who holds a valid Nights Away Permit may grant a Nights Away Passport to a young person after they have completed a check on the young person's knowledge and ability to lead and participate in the event. An important factor for the Explorer Leader is to assess how well the young person can follow instructions and act in a **mature and responsible manner** when they are acting alone and also when they are with a group of their peers.

Activities such as DofE Expeditions, International Explorer Belt Expeditions or events requiring independent use of public transport may need significant pre-training and assessment over several weeks or months to ensure each participant has the necessary skills to cope with the varied and unpredictable situations they may encounter. The event passport will be issued on an individual basis following a satisfactory assessment by the Explorer Leader.

11. Fundraising

All members and Leaders are required to seek permission in writing from the District Explorer Scout Commissioner or District Commissioner before commencing any fundraising activities.

In accordance with the Lowestoft and District Scout Association financial requirements the following must also be undertaken: -

- All funds from charitable donations and fundraising activities (e.g. bag packs, etc.) must be handed to the District Treasurer within seven days.
- All funds shall be banked in a registered Lowestoft and District Scout Association account.
- Expenditure for activities from charitable accounts will be authorised by the District Treasurer and an approved signatory.
- All income and expenditure from charitable accounts will be reported to the District Executive and audited annually in accordance with District financial procedures.

Where fundraising is to be completed over several months or years (e.g. for Jamboree, Explorer Belt or a similar activity) a fundraising agreement shall be prepared and signed by all participants. The fundraising agreement is intended to establish basic principals and rules before fundraising is commenced.

12. Photography

We encourage Unit members to take photographs responsibly as a method for recording events and activities. The photos are often used to provide evidence of expeditions or other activities completed for awards and badges.

On occasions, photographs, videos and audio of Unit members taking part in activities may be submitted to the local newspapers, the Group, District or County newsletters, websites or put on display. If you have any objections please indicate you are not willing for photographs to be used in this way by informing the Leadership Team in writing.

13. Explorer Scout Promise, Law and Motto

The Scout Promise

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best To do my duty to God and to the Queen, To help other people And to keep the Scout Law.

The Scout Law

- A Scout is to be trusted.
- A Scout is loyal.
- A Scout is friendly and considerate.
- A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.
- A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
- A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
- A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

The Scout Motto

Be Prepared

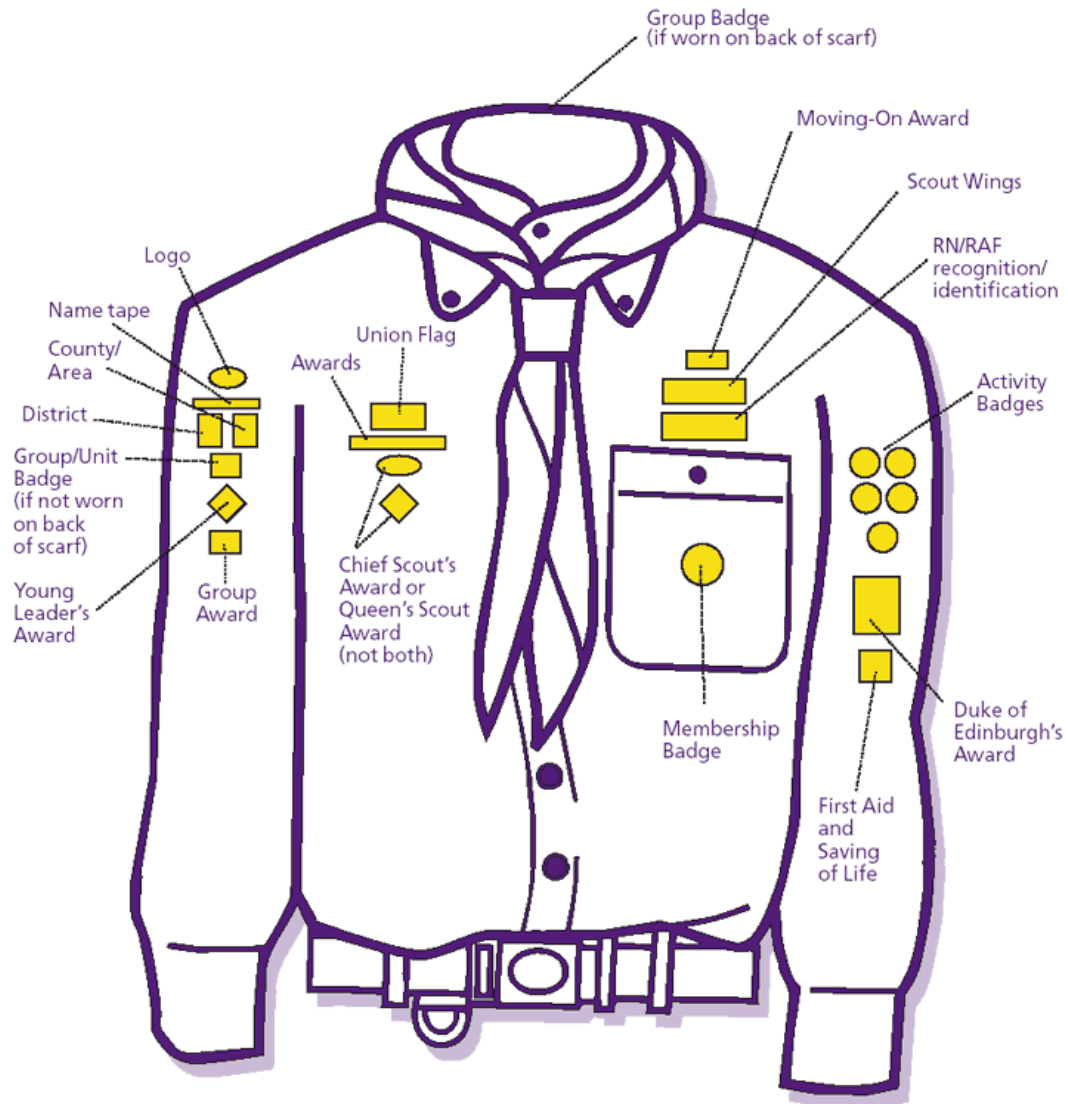
14. Uniform

Explorer Scouts wear a beige shirt or blouse with a Unit scarf (the unit scarfs are free issue by the Unit), and navy blue activity trousers or skirt with a Scout belt.

Members with an interest in the Royal Air Force or Royal Navy should consider buying a blue Explorer Air Scout/Explorer Sea Scout shirt and appropriate headwear.



Air Scouts/Sea Scouts have additional opportunities to attend annual camps and sponsored training events organized via the RAF/RN recognition scheme.



15. Explorer Scout badges and awards

There are a wide range of badges and awards available to young people in the Explorer Section.

Activity badges

Many of the badges available are activity badges, which represent the pinnacle of achievement in a particular field. Whether their interests lie in Hill Walking or Performing Arts, Aviation or Public Relations, Explorers are rewarded both for developing existing strengths and undertaking new ventures.

Additional badges and awards

In addition, there are a number of extra badges and awards, obtained by taking part in particular challenges or schemes.

Chief Scouts Platinum Award

To gain this award the following requirements must be completed.



1. Be a member for at least 6 months
2. Complete six nights away as an Explorer Scout of which four must be camping.
3. Complete two activities from the International, Environment and Values list. The two activities should come from different areas.
4. Hold the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, or complete the four Platinum Scout Challenges, which are:
 - a. take up a **skill** for three months, and show progress and lasting interest. The skill can be an existing interest or something entirely new
 - b. take up a **physical activity** for three months, completing an agreed programme of taking part and achievement
 - c. provide **service** to an individual or the community for three months. Briefing and training should be given in order to gain the necessary skills. This can include helping with another section as a Young Leader
 - d. complete a two day and one night **expedition** in rural country by foot, cycle, horse, canoe, boat or dinghy. The expedition should involve careful preparation, training, responsibility and review
5. Members must undertake an extra three months in any of the skills, physical recreation or service challenges.
6. Further details can be downloaded from: -
<http://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/363/chief-scouts-platinum-award/>

Chief Scouts Diamond Award

The Chief Scout's Diamond Award is the highest of the Chief Scout's Awards, and the final step before the Queen's Scout Award.



1. Be a member of Explorer Scouts or the Scout Network or both for at least 12 months. This can include any time counted for the Chief Scout's Platinum Award.
2. Complete 12 nights away as an Explorer Scout or member of the Scout Network, of which eight must be camping. This may include the nights counted for the Chief Scout's Platinum Award.
3. Complete two activities from the list of International, Environment and Values activities. These should be different activities from the Chief Scout's Platinum Award and not from the same area.
4. Hold the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, or complete the four Diamond Challenges, which are:
 - a. take up a **skill** for three or six months, and show progress and lasting interest. The skill can be an existing interest or something entirely new.
 - b. take up a **physical activity** for three or six months, completing an agreed programme of taking part and achievement.
 - c. provide **service** to an individual or the community for six months. Briefing and training should be given in order to gain the necessary skills. This may include helping with another section as a Young Leader.
 - d. complete a three day and two night **expedition** in rural or open country by foot, cycle, horse, canoe, boat or dinghy. The expedition should involve careful preparation, training, responsibility and review.
5. All Members should complete six months in either the physical activity or the skill.
6. Further details can be downloaded from: -
<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/364/chief-scouts-diamond-award>

Members who have not completed the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award or the Chief Scout's Platinum Award must undertake an extra six months in either the Service Challenge or the longer of the Skills or Physical Recreation Challenge.

Queens Scout Award

The Queens Scout Award is the highest award that can be achieved in Scouting. To gain the award you must complete all of the following requirements before your 25th birthday.



Full details of the requirements for the Queens Scout Award can be viewed and downloaded from the following link: -

<http://members.scouts.org.uk/qsaw>

Explorer Belt Award

The Explorer Belt is a challenge of a lifetime. It is a chance to take part in a ten day expedition that brings you a real understanding of a different country, its culture and way of life. You will develop this understanding by travelling through your chosen country, working as part of a small team to complete a series of projects and most importantly by meeting local people. It is an experience and an achievement that you will remember for the rest of your life.



1. Be aged 16 or over, an Explorer Scout or a member of the Senior Section of Girlguiding, or a Scout Network member.
2. Undertake a **10 day expedition** as part of a team* outside of the UK with a minimum travelling time of 50 hours over the 10 days, by foot, cycle, horse, canoe, boat or dinghy.
 - The use of public transport is acceptable as part of the travelling time, where opportunities to meet people would otherwise be missed.
 - *Minimum starting number of young people per team is three with the minimum of two per team completing the expedition.
3. Take part in a **debrief** of the expedition with your mentor and leadership team. Ideally this should be within 24 hours of the 10th day of the expedition or within 24 hours of return to the UK.
4. Make a **presentation** including all elements of your award to the assessment panel and other invited guests of your experiences and achievements.
5. Further details can be downloaded from: -
<http://members.scouts.org.uk/explorerbelt>

Young Leader's 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 regular members of an Explorer Scout 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.

Core badges

There are a number of core badges, obtained upon joining or moving on from the Unit, or for time spent in the Scouting movement. Further details are available from: -

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources>

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

We encourage members to complete the Bronze, Silver & Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. Members can register to complete the DofE awards directly via the Lowestoft Explorer Scout Unit or alternatively they can register with DofE via their local High School or Sixth Form College and complete parts of the award by attending Explorer activities.



Members (over the age of 14 years) participating in the DofE scheme and parents can exchange information via Facebook group "Lowestoft Explorer Scout Unit DofE".

16. Leader Contacts

David Adams, District Explorer Scout Commissioner
lowestoft.explorers.david@outlook.com

Ross Richardson, District Explorer Scout Leader
lowestoft.explorers.ross@outlook.com

Kyle Beamish, Assistant Explorer Scout leader
lowestoft.explorers.kyle@outlook.com

Steve Bell, Air Scout Leader
giralda@btinternet.com

Sam Adams, Assistant Explorer Scout Leader
sam.adams@hotmail.co.uk

17. Administrator Contact (new members, payments & leaving)

Sue Julings, District Explorer Scout Administrator
lowestoft.explorers.sue@outlook.com