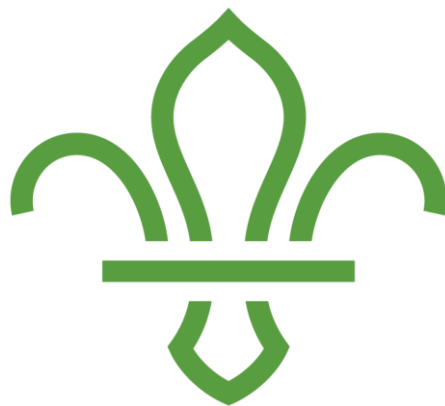


MAFEKING

Explorer Scouts



Welcome Pack

Mafeking Explorer Scouts Welcome Pack



Welcome!

For the New Explorer:

A huge Welcome to Mafeking Explorer Scout Unit!

Whether you have been in Scouting for ages, moving up through Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, or whether you are joining the Scouting movement for the very first time, we wish you the very best of experiences while you are with us.

For the Parents or Guardians of the New Explorer:

We are really pleased to welcome your son or daughter to Mafeking Explorer Scout Unit! We sincerely hope that they will have a rewarding time, make lasting friendships, develop new skills, gain a sense of independence, and, perhaps most importantly, have loads of fun along the way.

Please do feel free to contact any of the adult volunteer team if you need us to provide clarity on anything, or if you want to provide us with any feedback.

What are Explorers?

According to the UK Scout website...

"Explorers are a go-getting group of young people aged 14 to 18. Together, they make up the fifth section of the Scouts.

Week in and week out, they gather in groups called Units to try new things, make new friends and conquer the small task of changing the world."

More pragmatically, Explorers are about young people getting together to have fun, to take on new challenges and adventures and to have the opportunity to enjoy experiences that they would not get through their school and family lives.

Our unit is based in the South Derbyshire district, centred around Repton, but also taking members from surrounding areas.

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What do Explorers do?

Have Fun and Make New Friends:

Playing games at the start of an evening session allows the young people to let off steam and helps them to develop trust in each other, encouraging teamwork and collaboration. This is often accompanied with a healthy dose of competitiveness!

At Mafeking, the Explorers have some favourite games that they play regularly, including hockey when indoors or rounders on the field adjoining the den on summer evenings. Introducing new games and challenges on a regular basis helps Explorers build new skills, develop new friendship bonds and to push their boundaries.

Activities and Adventures:

Adventure is very much at the core of Scouting, and at the Explorer age group the adventures become bigger and bolder. These are a selection of the activities that the Explorers at Mafeking have had the opportunity to experience over the last few years:

- Outdoor rock climbing in the Peak District
- Indoor rock climbing
- Night-time canoeing along the River Trent
- Dusk-to-Dawn hikes over upland moorlands
- Bouldering on Peak District crags
- Survival camps
- Stand-up paddle boarding
- Bushcraft skills, including fire lighting, food preparation and cooking
- Expeditions, carrying full camping gear
- Forest-based rescue scenarios
- Clay target shooting
- Go-kart racing

Adventure is also present in the opportunity to travel, to explore the world we live in. We have had Explorers travel to South Korea, representing our unit at the World Scout Jamboree, and some have also travelled to the Swiss mountains to learn winter sport activities.

Gain Skills for Life:

At Explorers we aim to develop new skills that will bring benefits to young people as they prepare to head out into the great wide world. One of the most popular sessions that we run helps the Explorer to develop their cooking skills, an important asset for university life, and hey, teenagers love their food, right?!

But we might also train young people in skills that we hope that they never need, such as first aid for critical bleeding, how to use a defibrillator and how to decide who to help in a mass-casualty incident.

Other, more practical skills are developed simply through the activities that we do in Scouting. Teamwork, collaboration, problem-solving, safety and risk management, resource management, self-reliance, resilience; these are the softer skills that are all so important in day-to-day adult life.

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The Scout motto is “*Be Prepared*”. With skills development we are helping young people be better prepared for life.

Gain Awards:

Recognition of achievements through badges and awards follows through all sections of the Scouting Movement. In addition to a plethora of activity badges, the top awards that are available to Explorers, in ascending order of magnitude, are:

Chief Scout's Platinum Award



Chief Scout's Diamond Award



King's Scout Award



Each award represents a very significant achievement, showing a commitment over a sustained period of time. They are also closely aligned with the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, with Bronze being the basis for the Chief Scout's Platinum, Silver being the basis for the Chief Scout's Diamond, and Gold being the basis for the King's Scout Award. The Scouting awards include additional qualification criteria for International, Community and Values categories above and beyond the Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Another top award is the Explorer Belt. The Explorer Belt 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.

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The Explorer Belt



Any of the top awards would enhance the CV of any young person.

The Scout Promise:

The Promise is a simple way to help young people and adults keep the Fundamentals of Scouting in mind. The Promise is the commitment made by all Members as they join Scouting, promising to share the values of Scouting. The Christian version of the Scout Promise is:

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

Alternative versions of the Scout Promise are available for all religions, including atheist.

Where does the name Mafeking come from?

Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout Movement, was in command of the British forces defending the township of Mafeking during the Siege of Mafeking in 1899, during the Second Boer War. The innovative defence and deception methods that he applied during this time earned him renown and fame when the siege was eventually lifted after 217 days. Later, Baden-Powell would go on to write the book *Scouting for Boys* and form the Scout Movement with the objectives of developing good citizenship, decent behaviour, and skills in outdoor activities in young people.

Meetings

During school terms times we meet on Monday evenings between 7:30pm and 9:00pm at “The Den”, off Mitre Drive in Repton.

Adult Leaders

Leaders adhere to Scout anti-bullying, equal opportunities, safety and child protection policies. Explorer Scouts take part in activities and learn new skills under the supervision of adult volunteers. They work effectively and safely with young people to deliver the Scout Programme and have access to training to support them in their role.

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At Mafeking Explorer Unit, the volunteer team leader is Kevin Bull, with support from volunteer members Josh Nelson, Jo Bull and Dave Moore.

Kevin became the Leader of Mafeking Explorer Scout Unit early in 2020, just as the Covid pandemic kicked in. While he was in Venture Scouts (the predecessor to Explorer Scouts) a passion for being in the mountains developed and he has climbed mountains throughout the UK, the European Alps and in Greenland. Other hobbies include paddle boarding, bushcraft and survival skills.

Josh has been involved in the Scout movement for many years and holds leadership roles in Cubs, Scouts and Explorers at Repton, as well as being Repton Scout Group Assistant Group Scout Leader. Josh is popular among the Explorers for his almost non-stop “Dad Jokes”. You have been warned!

Jo has recently joined the Mafeking leadership team to help with the running of meetings, events and for the all-important background administration activities necessary to keep the unit running smoothly.

Dave has many years of experience in Scouting and up until very recently was the District Explorer Scout Commissioner. He continues to support Explorer Scout units in the district.

We are always looking for new adult volunteers! Perhaps you’ve got a skill that you’d like to share and pass on to the next generation? If you’re interested in joining the adult volunteer team then please do get in touch. How much time you give is completely up to you, and full training is available.

Communications

General:

If you have any questions, at any time, then please do get in touch. You can either catch one of the leaders at the end of a session, or you can get in touch with the leader, Kevin Bull, either via e-mail (kevin.bull@southderbyshirescouts.org) or via phone (07974 454029).

E-Mail:

The adult volunteer team will usually communicate with parents and guardians through e-mails that are sent through the Online Scout Manager (OSM) platform. OSM is where we keep personal records and contact information. The e-mails that we send are also sent to the e-mail address of the Explorer Scout, unless there are exceptional circumstances where this might not be appropriate. E-mails sent via OSM will “blind carbon copy” all other recipients, which means that other parents or Explorer Scouts will not see each other’s e-mail addresses.

For activities that are outside of the normal Monday evening meetings we will ask parents or guardians to complete an Activity Information Form. This provides you with some of the details of the event (when, where, how much, who to contact) but it also includes a slip that we to be completed, signed and returned to us. This slip is important because it contains the latest emergency contact information and leaders take the physical completed slip with them during events.

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WhatsApp:

For quick everyday messages with the Explorer Scouts we operate a WhatsApp group. The adult volunteers monitor the group to make sure that it is not used for purposes that it is not intended, but if you are not comfortable with your young person having access to this then do please let us know.

Website:

The unit also has a website. This includes regular blog posts, written by both leaders and Explorers to document our activities and also includes a section with our programme calendar. While we do put programme information up in The Den, it can and does change, sometimes at quite short notice (e.g. leader availability, or inclement weather). Short notice changes will be communicated through the WhatsApp group.

The URL of the website is www.mafekingexplorers.org.

Instagram:

As of October 2024, we have also set up an Instagram account to document and publicise all of the wide and varied range of things that we get up to in an easy-to-consume manner. If you use Instagram then Please consider following our account, searching for mafekingexplorers.

Use of Photographs:

Photographs, and occasionally videos, are used on both the website and Instagram accounts, which are publicly available. Best efforts are made to ensure that people included in the images are anonymised. We do check records on OSM for previously granted permission to use photographic but, but if you do have any objections to using images in this manner then please do let us know.

Subscriptions

There is a subscription fee of £40 per school term. The objective is that subscriptions cover the cost of:

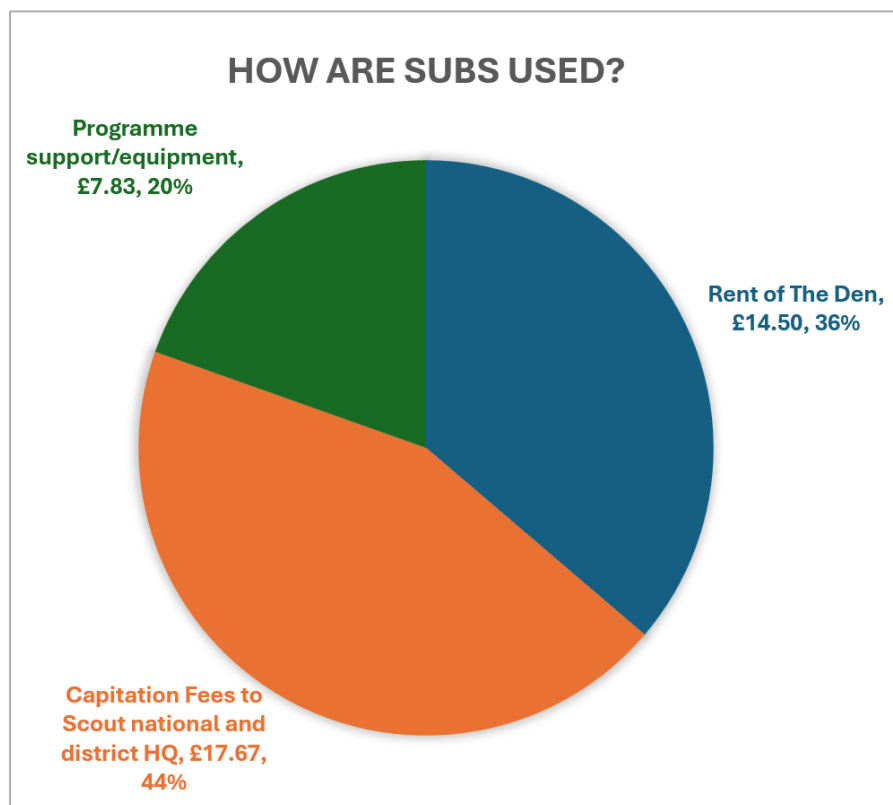
- Using “The Den” each week.
- National and regional Scout Association costs (which includes insurance, training provision, digital platforms and administration), also known as “capitation fees”.
- Costs of equipment depreciation and replacement (camping gear, etc.).
- Costs of consumable items involved in running meetings and events.

The following is a breakdown of income vs. costs, per Explorer Scout, per term:

Description	Income	Expense
Subscriptions	£40.00	
Rental of “The Den”		£14.50
Scouting Association Costs (Capitation)*		£17.67
Sub-Totals:	£40.00	£32.17
Balance (available for consumables, equipment, etc.)		£7.83

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*Capitation fees are reduced for members of the Young Leaders' Scheme. The costs shown here assume that the Explorer is not a member of the YL Scheme.



Special events, such as camps and external activities are charged at cost. To give you an idea, a typical weekend camp will cost between £20 and £30, depending on the activities being undertaken and any external costs.

It should be noted that leaders are volunteers who freely give up their time without any form of reimbursement.

Uniform

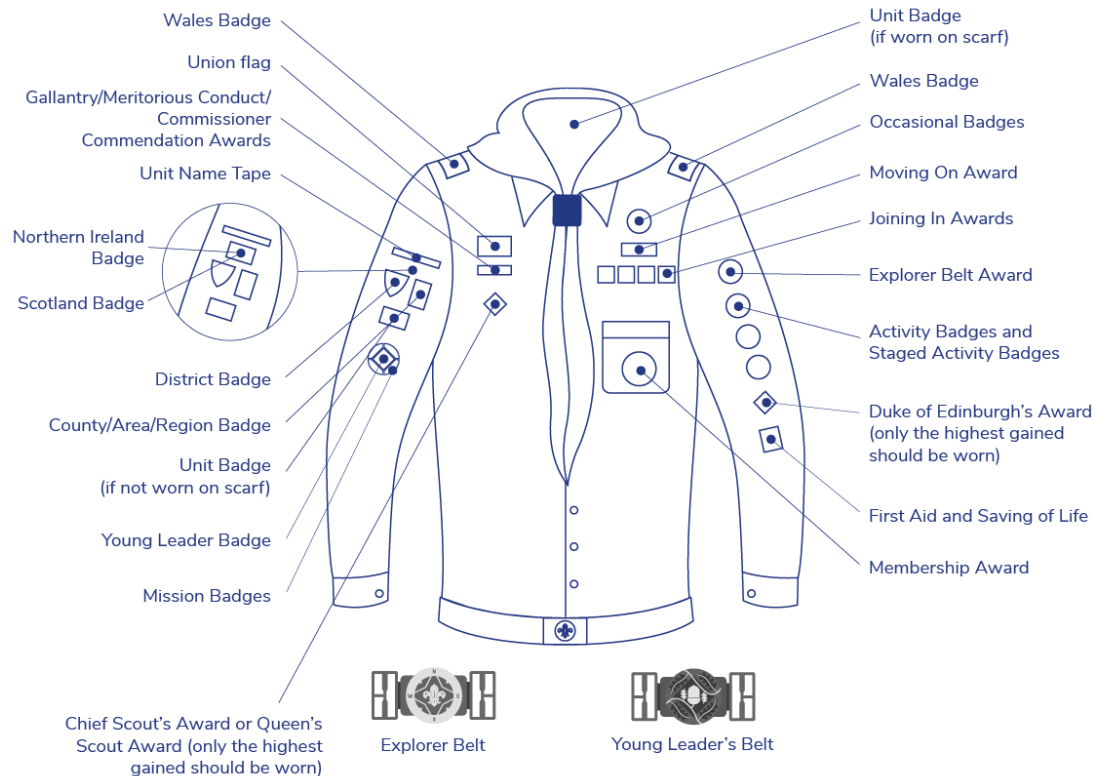
The Scout Movement is a uniformed organisation, and there is an Explorer Scout uniform consisting of a shirt and necker, with colours specific to the district (this is black and red for Explorer units in South Derbyshire). A uniform shirt will need to be purchased, but neckers will be provided by the unit/district. The uniform shirt is available from Scout Store (www.shop.scouts.org.uk).

We do not insist that Explorers wear the shirt for our regular Monday evening meetings, but do ask that they wear their necker. On certain occasions (Scout site visits, Remembrance Day parades, and similar) the uniform shirt and necker must be worn; notice will be given to the Explorers when this is required.

The following is a diagram that shows where badges should be positioned on the uniform shirt:

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Explorer Scout uniform



Data & Personal Information

The Scouting Organisation is governed by GDPR for data handling and data purposes. Personal records and contact information is stored in a web-based platform called Online Scout Manager, or OSM.

If the Explorer is new to Scouting, then we will ask that you to complete a young person information form. This form can be downloaded from the Mafeking website.

If the Explorer is not new to Scouting then it is very likely that their details will already be present in OSM, in which case they just need to be transferred to Mafeking Explorer Scouts. Your Scout leader should be able to do this if you ask them.

The Young Leaders' Scheme

One of the many exciting perks of being an Explorer Scout is the opportunity to take part in the Young Leaders' Scheme. The Young Leaders' Scheme helps Explorer Scouts develop their leadership and communication skills. As a Young Leader, Explorer Scouts will volunteer to help run a Squirrels, Beaver, Cub or Scout section. They work with the leader to plan the sections programme, run activities and share their Scouting skills with younger Scouts.

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When an Explorer completes the scheme they receive the Young Leader Service Award which they can reference in university and job applications.

The Young Leaders Award



The Mafeking Executive Committee

In 2024 we established an executive committee to help steer and manage the unit. The committee is formed of seven Explorers, one of which is the chairperson and another the secretary. Executive committee meetings are also attended by adult leaders to provide advice and guidance. The executive committee meets on the second Monday of each month between 9pm and 9:45pm (i.e. immediately after a regular Monday meeting).

The members of the committee, including the chairperson and secretary roles, are voted for by all members of the Explorer Scout unit at an Annual General Meeting, which normally takes place in April.