



3rd Woodthorpe (St. Mark's) Scout Group



WELCOME

August 2015



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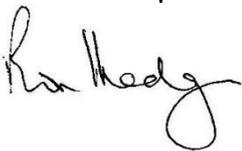
WELCOME

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to 3rd Woodthorpe (3W). This welcome pack will hopefully answer many questions that you may have regarding the Scout Association and our Group. If you have any further queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or one of the other leaders or officers. You can find out more about 3W and details of our activities on our website at www.3Wscouts.org.uk. Parts of the site are restricted to members, but you can get details of password access from Derek@3Wscouts.org.uk.

We are a voluntary organisation; no one in 3W receives payment for the time that they contribute to the Group. We can only continue and thrive with **your** help. We therefore ask, and expect, every set of parents to contribute **at least three half-days each year** of their time to the running of the Group. We cannot guarantee that places will always be available when beavers are due to move to cubs, or cubs to scouts. If there is a shortage of places, priority is always given to the children of those parents who have contributed time to the Group.

Please complete the enclosed forms and return these to me or to your Section Leader.



Group Scout Leader

gsl@3Wscouts.org.uk

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What is Scouting?

Scouting is an International Movement which began in 1907; it is estimated that there are now over 30 million members in over 200 countries. The UK Scout Association offers equal opportunities to all young people in the community no matter what their social, religious or ethnic background. It has a positive policy of integration and welcomes children and young people with disabilities.

"Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society."

Scouting has a simple and positive Promise made by all its Members. This gives a distinctive ethos to the practices of the Movement and acts as a bond with Scouts in other countries. There are several important things which make Scouting different from many other youth organisations: -

- We are a uniformed Movement;
- We involve young people in decision-making as part of their development;
- We require parents or carers to support their children by taking an active part in assisting the running of the Group or a section. Specifically, we require you to give at least 3 half-days a year of your time to assist the Group (see page 12).

We set out to provide a balanced programme of activities, with members progressing from learning basic skills and attitudes to take up more adventurous and challenging activities later on. Our Group is supported through the Central Nottinghamshire Scout District and the Nottinghamshire Scout County organisations. We join other Scout Groups in District and County activities. Members have opportunities to extend their Scouting experiences at national and international Scouting events.

3W was first established in 1955 and we are now one of the largest Scout Groups in Nottinghamshire. Demand for places in the Group is very high and we maintain waiting lists for places in all our sections. Our continued success depends upon the commitment of our adult leaders, committee members and helpers and the enthusiasm of our members and young leaders. The management of the Group is undertaken by a Team of Leaders and by a Parents' Committee. The Group Scout Leader (GSL) heads the Team of Leaders and helpers and ensures that the development of the young people is co-ordinated as they move through Scouting. Our Support Committee, led by its Chairperson (Chair), supports the activities of sections and ensures that our resources are safeguarded and maintained. To find out more about joining the Leadership Team or the Committee then please contact the GSL or Chair. 3W is a registered charity number 507206.

You can find out lots more about UK Scouting on the national website at www.scouts.org.uk. Scouting in the UK is as popular as ever and there are over 500,000 young members and adults active in UK Scouting.

The 3W Beaver Scout Colonies



Our Beaver Scout Colonies are for girls and boys of 6 to 8 years old. We have two Colonies that meet for one hour each week on Wednesday or Friday evenings during school term times and also for special outings and events.

The team running Beaver Scouts is likely to comprise two uniformed Leaders together with at least one parent helper. Parent helpers attend on a rota basis, typically once each term, to help run the Colony. **Please note that all parents of our Beavers are expected to give a firm commitment to be part of this rota.** After a few weeks of going to Colony meetings, a new beaver scout will make a promise at a simple 'Investiture' ceremony, making them a member of the worldwide Scouting movement. You are welcome to attend the Investiture.

Beavers do lots of fun activities like making things, playing games, singing songs, learning about Scouting and making new friends. We also take part in District events and outings, usually held at weekends in Nottinghamshire. Beaver scouts have a number of joining-in and activity badges. Those who stay with the Colony and earn a series of challenge badges become eligible to receive the 'Chief Scout Bronze Award' - the highest award for beaver scouts.



The 3W Cub Scout Packs



We run two Cub Scout Packs for girls and boys aged from 8 to 10½ years old. The 'Wolf Pack' meets for two hours on Friday evening and the 'Lion Pack' on Monday evening each week during school terms and there are other activities such as outings and camping weekends. The Packs are organised into small groups called Sixes, each led by an older Cub Scout, called a Sixer. After a few weeks of going to meetings, a cub will be welcomed into the Pack at a simple 'Investiture' ceremony to recite the Cub Promise. You are welcome to attend the Investiture.

The team running a Cub Pack will comprise of two or more leaders and helpers. The varied programme highlights the care of the environment, personal safety, finding out more about the local community and cultures and customs of other people. Cub Scouts earn joining-in badges for each year of membership, challenge badges for demonstrating skills in different areas and many activity badges leading to the 'Chief Scout Silver Award' - the highest award for cub scouts.



The 3W Scout Troops



We have two Scout Troops for young people, both male and female, aged from 10½ to 14. Some will have been Beaver and Cub Scouts before joining the Scout Troop and we also welcome those who are new to Scouting. The 'Trojan Troop' meets on Tuesday and the 'Viking Troop' meets on Wednesday evenings at Pepperpots during school term weeks. Scouts are encouraged to become involved in the planning and development of their own programme. A patrol system is operated within the section - new scouts begin as a member of a patrol and progress to Assistant Patrol Leader and Patrol leader, taking an increasingly active role in the organisation and leadership of the Troop.

Activities include camping, conservation, backwoods cooking, pioneering, map reading, dragon-boat racing, climbing, day and night hikes and both troops take part in District and County activities and events based at our own Pepperpots site. Participation badges are awarded for annual membership and there are various challenge awards for achievements and many activity badges in the Scout section. Those who stay with their Troop and earn a series of challenge badges become eligible to receive the 'Chief Scout Gold Award' - the highest award for scouts.



The Peppers Explorer Unit



From the age of 14, young people can expect to take an increasing role in the planning and management of their Scouting Activities. They may join one or more Explorer Scout Units, which are organised at District level and all local Explorer Scouts wear a blue and orange scarf.

The **Peppers Explorer Unit** is based at Pepperpots and has an agreement to use 3W Group facilities in exchange for supporting the activities of our Sections. The Unit meets most Thursday evenings at Pepperpots, although its activities determine exactly when and where it operates. The Unit is open to young men and women from the ages of 14 to 18. You do not need to have been in Scouts to join an Explorer Unit. Parental approval is required to join and we expect parents to give support to the Unit and the Group.



Where we meet

St. Mark's Church Hall, De Vere Gardens, Woodthorpe, NG5 4PH.

The Friday Beaver Colony meetings from about October to April are held at the Church Hall. There is car parking available. The Church Hall is also used for occasional events run by our other sections and some Group activities.

It may be helpful at this point to explain the relationship of our Group and St. Mark's Church. The Church is our **Sponsor** within the Scout Movement and members of the Church provide important resources, both physically and spiritually, to assist us. We are an **Open Group**; this means that we accept members of any faith or denomination within the Group. Members of the group are not required to attend church services. However, there are three family services each year, which we attend at St Marks on Sunday mornings, and we hold our own Remembrance Service on an evening in November.

Pepperpots, Corner of Mapperley Plains Rd & Arnold Lane, NG3 5RJ.

Our Group is fortunate to be one of the few in Nottinghamshire to have our own training ground. We call this ground "Pepperpots", named after the structures at the top of the shafts that were built in the 19th century to ventilate the railway tunnel underneath the land. The entrance to the site is on Mapperley Plains Road at the junction with Arnold Lane. **Please drive extremely carefully into and out of the site; it is a busy road, there are youngsters at play here and there is very little parking space!**

Pepperpots is used for most of our weekly meetings of all the sections in the summer months and, in the winter months, by our Wednesday Beaver Colony, our two Cub Packs, our two Scout Troops and the Peppers Explorer Unit. It is also used for special activities such as overnight camping and our annual Bonfire Night Party. The hall at Pepperpots, known as the "Ellis Building" after one of our former GSLs, is also used for weekly meetings and special events. The Ellis Building is also available for hire; please further information email to bookings@3Wscouts.org.uk.

Pepperpots contains a grassy area ("The Plateau") outside the Ellis Building and adjacent to the "Top Pepperpot" used most weeks for activities. The walkway on the left and "Otter's Steps" to the right lead down to the "Bottom Field" used for ball games or wider ranging activities. At the lower end of the bottom field on the left hand side is our "Centenary Camp Fire Circle" which was opened by the Mayor of Gedling in October 2008. Further on is the "Bottom Pepperpot" leading to a less developed part of the site used for nature work and bivouacs. **The area beyond the Bottom Pepperpot is out-of-bounds to all young people unless accompanied by a leader or helper.**

What we wear: Uniforms etc.

One of the things making Scouting different from many youth organisations is that we have a uniform. The uniform is different to each section:

- Beavers Scouts - a turquoise sweatshirt,
- Cub Scouts - a dark green sweatshirt,
- Scouts - a dark green shirt and navy blue activity trousers

We also have our own 3W red sweatshirts and t-shirts with our special Pepperpots logo. They are particularly useful to wear at Pepperpots and on camps.

Each Scout Group has a scarf (or necker) in its own colours. In our case the scarf is royal blue with a red edging and can be tied with a plastic, leather or bound woggle. The scarf is an essential part of our uniform; it indicates that the wearer is a member of both 3W and the world-wide Scouting movement.



However, your child will not be expected to wear a uniform for the first few weeks in trying out Scouting, so you do not need to purchase a uniform until it is clear that he or she wishes to continue in the Group. After several weeks the section Leader will tell you when your child will be 'Invested' into the Group. A uniform is needed for this ceremony at which membership badges and a 3W scarf will be presented. All members of the section renew their Scouting promise at the investiture ceremony.

Please note that all invested members (beavers, cubs and scouts) are expected to wear either the full uniform or 3W shirts to weekly meetings. We reserve the right to send home any member who is not dressed appropriately for a meeting. Note that certain events, such as parades, require full uniform to be worn.

- Uniform items may be purchased from various shops in Nottingham including John Lewis at the Victoria Centre and Schoolwear Solutions, 806 Woodborough Road (at the junction with Porchester Road). On-line stockists include www.shop.scouts.org.uk and www.scout-and-guide-shop.co.uk.
- Neckers and woggles can be obtained through your section leader. 3W red t-shirts and sweatshirts are available from the 3W clothing manager; see 'Useful Contacts'.

The positioning of badges on the Uniform can be explained by your section leaders and is shown in diagrams (one for each Section) available from your section leaders or posted on the notice boards at Pepperpots or online at www.scouts.org.uk.

What we pay: Subscriptions etc.

Subscriptions are payable at the start of each term in January, April and September. You will receive notification of the amount of the subscription from your section leader. The level of subscriptions is set each year by the Executive Committee and is usually increased for each calendar year. Subscriptions from September 2015 are £30 per term for beavers and £43 per term for Cubs and Scouts. We prefer that subscriptions are paid by cheque made payable to '3rd Woodthorpe Scout Group'.

Subscriptions are used to pay the many expenses of providing our activities:

- About one-third of the subscriptions are used to pay annual fees to District, County and National Headquarters for insurance, leader training and national membership fees.
- Another third cover the Group's costs of hiring the church hall, maintaining Pepperpots, our tents and equipment and to subsidise certain group events.
- The final third pays for the cost of running the weekly section meetings such as materials, badges and books etc.

When a young member is first invested into the Group, they will receive a Group scarf and woggle and the cost of these, about £5, will be charged to you. There will be an additional charge if new members are provided with log-books for their section activities at investiture. Some section activities, such as camping weekends, theatre visits and District events may involve the payment of additional amounts towards the cost of the visit.

It is Group policy that any additional fund-raising is used to develop group activities and provide improved resources for scouting activities. Fund-raising is NOT used to subsidise the level of subscriptions.

We appreciate that money can sometimes be tight. Please have a confidential talk with your section leader if you need some help towards the cost of a camp or event or if you want to spread the payment of your subscription. We always try to avoid having our young members not being able to take part in Scouting because of family financial circumstances.

The Group has adopted a policy in recent years of providing a discount of 50% of the subscriptions for the children of uniformed leaders in the Group. If you wish to become a uniformed leader then please contact the GSL.

Gift Aid

The Group is able to recover income tax on any donation, including subscriptions. The only criteria is that the individual making the donation has to pay income tax or capital gains tax of at least the amount to be recovered by the Group. Please sign the declaration included with this booklet and we can recover 25p for each £1 of subscription from the "Tax Man", with no additional cost to you.

Health and Safety Matters

Generally

We want Scouting activities to be FUN and SAFE at the same time. We recognise that there is no such thing as a risk-free event while, at the same time, we seek to ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to ensure that no member, leader or helper comes to harm as a result of our activities. Please contact the GSL, on a confidential basis, if you have reason to believe that any of our activities are being conducted in a manner that involves inappropriate levels of risk to any participant.

Notification of new member / the Health Form

The Leader of your child's section uses the information given on this form. The Scout Association Rules stipulate that no child is allowed to undertake any activity without a Health Form. Please complete the Health Form (enclosed with this pack), which will be kept on file by the section leader for all future activities. **Please inform the section leader of any changes to the details shown on the Health Form.**

Special Needs

Please discuss any special needs of your child with your Section Leader, on a confidential basis. We can then work together so that all of our members get the most out of Scouting.

Data Protection Act

We maintain the minimum of personal information necessary for the safety of all those involved in the Group and to meet the requirements of the Scout Association. Information held by 3W is NOT made available to organisations outside the Scout Association.

Safety and Child Protection / Disclosure and Barring Service

The Scout Association takes pride in its safety record. Guidance is provided to Leaders through their District and County support. Safety issues are covered in our Leader Training. For more adventurous activities such as water sports, caving and mountaineering, we have special authorisation arrangements to ensure Scouts are in safe hands. The Scout Association provides public liability insurance and we take out additional personal injury insurance for leaders and regular helpers.

As part of our child protection procedures, we may require you to complete a DBS ID Form to obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS, formerly the CRB). This enables you, after clearance, to take part in Section, Group and District activities involving our young people, including our annual Family Camp or to help at other overnight events. Please contact your section leader or the GSL to get forms to apply for DBS clearance.

Values, Anti-bullying Policy, Code of Conduct & Disciplinary Procedures

Our values, policies and codes apply to all sections and to members of all ages. Parents or carers of our members are required to support these policies and to support officers and leaders in their implementation. The application of these policies and rules helps to ensure that everyone can get full benefit and enjoyment from 3W Scouting.

Values of Scouting

In our Scout Group we apply these values...

INTEGRITY: We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.

RESPECT: We have self-respect and respect for others.

CARE: We support others and take care of the world in which we live.

BELIEF: We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.

COOPERATION: We make a positive difference, cooperate with others and make friends.

Anti-bullying Policy

In OUR Scout Group...

We DO have respect for everyone as individuals, whatever their differences.

We DO take bullying seriously - it's not 'just a bit of fun'.

We DON'T accept any bullying behaviour -

- name-calling
- physical violence
- threats
- being left out
- spreading nasty rumours either in person or by text and email
- stealing, damaging or hiding other people's possessions
- or any other way of making people feel bad.

We DO report any bullying we see, whoever it's aimed at. It should be reported to a Leader or to someone else we trust like our Sixer or Patrol Leader or a Young Leader.

We DO take someone seriously if they tell us they're being bullied, and we also don't watch others being bullied without doing something about it.

We DON'T just put up with bullying. We DO make sure something is done about it.

Code of Conduct

General rules:

1. We DO follow the Group's Anti-bullying Policy.
2. We DO have respect for all other members of the Group; beavers, cubs, scouts, explorer scouts, young leaders and leaders.
3. We DO come to section meetings in our uniform and we wear it for appropriate events such as making a lodge, grand howls and flag breaks.
4. We DO have respect for our uniform. We DON'T damage our own or anyone else's uniform.
5. We DO keep our Beaver Scout Promise / Cub Scout Promise / Scout Promise.

Rules to control the level of noise

6. We DO keep quiet if a Leader running an event raises an arm or blows a whistle.
7. We DO keep quiet if a Leader is speaking. We DO listen to what he or she is saying.
8. When forming a lodge or at a flag break, we DO stand still facing inwards to the circle. We DO remain quiet. We DO raise our hand and wait our turn if we wish to speak to the Leader in charge.

Rules to help activities go well and to control physical contact.

9. We DO keep our hands and feet to ourselves. We DO NOT push, pull, punch, kick, scratch, bite or physically abuse anyone else.
10. We DO NOT throw objects or anything else unless it is part of an authorised activity.
11. We DO listen carefully when the rules of an activity are being explained.
12. We DO NOT lie or cheat.
13. We DO NOT deliberately cause damage or mess to property or equipment.

Disciplinary Procedures

1. If a Beaver / Cub / Scout is being disruptive or not following the Rules of Conduct he or she will be given an official warning by a Leader.
2. If unacceptable behaviour continues in the same meeting the Beaver / Cub / Scout will be given a second official warning by a Leader.
3. If unacceptable behaviour continues in the same meeting and the Beaver / Cub / Scout is given a third official warning, then his or her parents will be informed and will be asked to take him or her home and that Beaver / Cub / Scout will be suspended for the next meeting.
4. A serious single incident (e.g. threatening the personal safety of members) may also lead to an immediate suspension for that session and the following meeting.
5. A Leader will always notify a parent of that Beaver / Cub / Scout informing them of the suspension.

The third suspension of a Beaver / Cub / Scout in any one term may result in a permanent exclusion from membership of the 3rd Woodthorpe Scout Group.

Your Commitment as a Parent or Carer of a 3W Member

Supporting your children in 3W is NOT like sending them to a Youth Club. We require you to contribute some of your time to 3W. You are expected to meet the minimum commitments listed below. This declaration of your commitment is taken as given when you allow your child to be invested into the Group.

Your Minimum Commitment (either parent) is as follows:

1. That you make arrangements to deliver your Beaver Scout or Cub Scout to the location of the meeting at the notified start time. Please note that you should NOT leave your child before the meeting starts without ensuring that a Leader is present to take that meeting. We are not responsible for the welfare of your children outside of our stated meeting times.
2. That you will make arrangements to collect your Beaver Scout or Cub Scout at the end of the meeting. Please note that we will NOT allow Beaver Scouts or Cub Scouts to leave our premises on their own at the end of a meeting.
3. That you attend to help out at least once each term at a weekly meeting if your child's 3W section runs a Parents' Rota.
4. That you assist the Group for at least three half-days in any year while your child is a member of any 3W section.
5. That, if requested, you will apply for Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS, formerly CRB) clearance to enable us to comply with safeguarding regulations and to enable you to help at section, group or district activities, including any camping or other overnight events.
6. That, if your child takes part in any of our camps, you will help at the start or end of the camp by helping to set up or take down our tents and equipment.
7. That you support us in applying our anti-bullying policy and code of conduct.
8. That you pay subscriptions that are due at the start of each term.

Additional ways of supporting the Group

1. Become a uniformed leader. Full training is provided. The Group pays for your uniform and provides a discount on your children's membership fees. Please contact the GSL for more information.
2. Become a regular (non-uniformed) helper in a section. Full training is provided. Please contact the Leader of the section for more information.
3. Join the Parents' (Executive) Committee to help develop the Group and to maintain and extend our resources. Please contact the Chair for more information.
4. Help to maintain Pepperpots during our regular work-weekends.
5. Organise a special event for a section or the Group or help to run events to suit your own particular skills and interests. Please contact the Chair or your section leader.