

# Welcome to the Crichton Explorer Scout Unit



This pack contains basic information on Explorer Scouting, meeting location and times, subscription details, uniform requirements, and example kit lists for activities. Registration form and annual consent forms are also included.

## Explorer Scouts

The Scout association is the largest uniformed co-educational youth organisation in the UK with around half a million members. Explorer Scouts is the fourth section of the Scout Association and caters for people aged 14 to 18 years old.

Explorer Scouting is for young people who like to face varied challenges in all facets of life. It provides a balanced programme of activities based on the principles of the Scout Promise and Law to fulfil the purpose of scouting:

*“The purpose of scouting is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as responsible citizens and members of their local national and international community”*



The programme and these challenges are organised to a large extent by the Explorers themselves (with appropriate guidance from the adult leadership). Explorer scouts have the opportunity to take part in adventurous activities, local conservation projects, creative projects, camps and expeditions and many other activities. Participation, skills and experience are recognised and rewarded with activity badges and awards and Explorer Scouts can also participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme.

### **Scout Promise**

*On my honour, I promise that I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and 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 his time and is careful of possessions and property  
A Scout has respect for others*



Explorer Scouting is provided by the Scout District, so there are also lots of opportunities to take part in the programmes of the other District Explorer units. In the Itchen South area there are now 6 Explorer Scout units based in Itchen South, Columbus, Hamble, Poisten, Spartan, Spitfire and of course **Crichton!**

## Crichton Explorer Scout Unit, Weekly Meetings

These meetings take place every Friday from 1900 to 2100. We meet at Netley Cliff Sailing Club in Autumn and Spring terms and meet at the Boathouse in the Summer term and all throughout the school summer holidays. During the boating season our meeting time extends from 1830 to 2130 to make the most of the facilities we have. (On occasions we may meet at alternative venues or at different times to suit programmed activity)

## Uniform

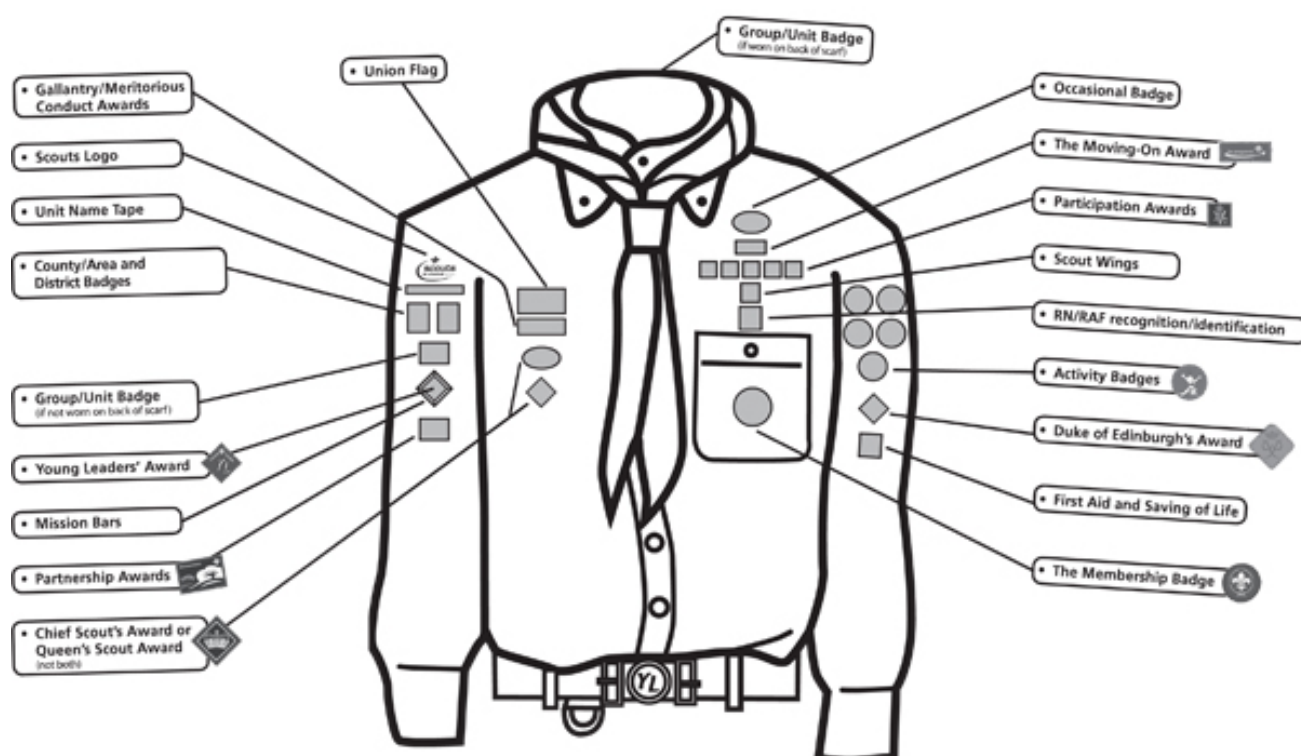
For day to day meetings the Crichton Explorers tend to wear a Crichton ESU polo shirt and hoodie and the red and black Netley scarf. For more formal occasions you will need to obtain the blue Explorer uniform shirt. (If you prefer you are welcome to wear the formal shirt all the time).

The Crichton ESU polo shirts cost £15, the hoodie costs £23, the scarf is £5, all these are available directly from Crichton ESU.

Formal uniform shirts are £21, these are available by following the "Shop" link on our website, from the District Scout Shop at Cricket Camp or Wearabouts in Woolston. The formal shirt is worn with black smart trousers (school trousers), a belt, black socks and shoes. As Crichton is a Sea Explorer Unit we also wear a hat, these can be bought new or second hand or we do have some loan ones available for a deposit of £10.

The unit will provide a Woggle, all compulsory badges are supplied as part of the investiture ceremony (Membership Award, Unit Name Tag, District & County badges); other badges are awarded as they are earned by the Explorer Scout.

Badges need to be sewn onto the Formal Shirt in the following locations;



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.

#### **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. 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.

1. Be aged between 16 and 25 years old and have been a member of Explorer Scouts or the Scout Network (or both) for at least 18 months from your date of registration for the award. You must be a member at the time you complete the award.
2. Complete 18 nights away with Scouting, of which 12 must be camping.
3. Complete six activities from the Queen's Scout Award: International, Environmental and Values (IEV) list.
  - a. If you have completed your Chief Scout's Platinum or Diamond Awards, then these are included as part of the six activities.
  - b. If you have the Chief Scout's Platinum you should complete four activities, and if you have the Chief Scout's Diamond, you should complete two. These should be different from the ones already completed for the other awards.
4. Complete the five Queen's Scout Award challenges or hold the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE).
  - a. Take up a **skill** for 6 or 12\* 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 6 or 12\* months, completing an agreed programme by taking part and achieving your objectives.
  - c. Provide **service** to an individual or the community for 12 months. Briefing and training should be given in order to gain the necessary skills. This may include helping with another section of the movement as an Explorer Scout Young Leader or adult volunteer.
  - d. **Expedition/Exploration** training framework. Show that you are competent in the following areas:
    - i. First aid and emergency procedures
    - ii. Risk assessment/health and safety
    - iii. Navigation and route planning
    - iv. Camp craft, equipment and hygiene
    - v. Food and cooking
    - vi. Country, highway and water sports codes
    - vii. Observation, recording and presentation
    - viii. Team building
    - ix. Proficiency in mode of travel
5. Undertake a minimum of 3 days and 2 nights (consecutive) **expedition or exploration** in wild country by foot, cycle, horse, canoe, boat or dinghy.
6. Undertake a 4-day and 3-night (consecutive) **qualifying expedition or exploration** with an aim in wild country by the method used in your practice.
7. Undertake a 5 day and 4 night **residential project** in an unfamiliar environment where the majority of people are not known to you. This project could be environmental work, activity based, service to others or personal training. In exceptional circumstances, the residential can be done on 2 occasions, as long as the same activity is completed.
8. Make a **presentation** covering all elements of your award to a suitable audience, with the aim of inspiring and motivating others to achieve the award. The presentation should be the final activity you complete.



\*All members should complete 12 months in either the skill or the physical activity challenges. Award participants who are not holders of a Chief Scout's Diamond Award or Silver DofE must complete an extra 6 months in either the service or the longer of the skills or physical recreation challenges.

## Explorer Belt

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 an Explorer Scout aged 16 or over, 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.
  - a. The use of public transport is acceptable as part of the travelling time, where opportunities to meet people would otherwise be missed.
  - b. \*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.



## Young Leader's Scheme

The Young Leaders' Scheme is just one of the exciting programme elements in the Explorer Scout 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.

A Young Leader is someone of Explorer age who helps with one of the younger Scouting sections. We are always glad of help with the younger sections and would encourage you to consider becoming a Young Leader. We would welcome YLs to the Beavers, Cubs or Scouts at Netley and we have no doubt that all the other groups in Itchen South would equally welcome you with open arms. Do please let us know if you are hoping to be a Young Leader. Also: don't forget that Young Leaders are expected to do a little training. There is only 1 compulsory module (which is Module A) it only takes 2 hours and Explorers who have been on the course previously have told us it's really fun. Check our website or Facebook page for forthcoming dates.



## 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.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

We hope that during your time in Explorers you will wish to undertake some of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards (if you are not already doing them through school). These awards are a worthwhile challenge that fit well into the ethos of Scouting and will stand you in good stead in the future as well. You can start DofE from the age of 14. It is worth getting registered in good time so that things we do at Explorers can be counted towards your award. You can find out more information about what is involved on the DofE website.



## **Attendance**

It is recommended that all members attend meetings on a regular basis so that a full and balanced programme of training activities can be completed.

- All Unit members are expected to attend two annual uniformed parades a year (St Georges Day & Remembrance Sunday).
- All members are expected to attend a minimum of one Unit meeting in each half term.
- A membership break may be formally agreed with the Leadership Team in the event of sickness or study/exam periods.

## **Activities**

Explorer Scouts often get the chance to attend activities with other members from across the District or 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.

## **Subscriptions**

Activities are not cheap - we are sure you have been asked to pay for school trips. However, we seek to keep the costs at a minimum - the leaders are all volunteers and are NOT paid. The Unit has various funds it can draw upon for cases of hardship. Please do ask as we would not want any willing Explorer to miss out on an activity due to a lack of funds. Please contact Colin Simmons directly if this is the case.

You will find that the costs of camps can be higher for Explorers than Scouts - they eat more, want to go to more exciting places and want to do the more stretching activities.

We also ask everyone to pay a subscription.

### **Subscription Rates 2015**

A monthly membership fee payment of £17

- This fee includes a capitation payment that is set by the national Scout Association and the District, and it is not retained by the Unit, It is used to ensure that your son/daughter is officially registered as an Explorer Scout and consequently is covered by the Scout insurance system
- This is also used by the Unit to cover the costs of running the programme. Examples of this are the part funding of trips, purchasing Scouting literature, replacing camping equipment e.g. gas, shelters, etc.
- This is used to cover rent or other charges we incur as a result of the buildings and equipment we use, the boating equipment we use in the summer is extremely expensive to maintain and run.

We don't ask for the money straight away, to ensure you child enjoys Explorers and doesn't want to leave as soon as you've paid. We'll discuss this directly with you on joining.

*Non-payment of this would unfortunately result in your son/daughter being asked to leave as they would not be registered with the Association, and therefore, not covered by the insurance system.*

### **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, entrance fees, equipment, insurances, room hire or fees to cover the cost for employed instructors.

### **Camps and other things**

Hopefully you will also have received a copy of our programme; the latest version is always available on the website: [netleyseascouts.com](http://netleyseascouts.com). You may have noticed that there are lots of camps and extra events on the programme each term. You are welcome to attend all of them. However we recognise that you are likely not to have the time to attend all the opportunities on offer during your time in Explorers, for example when you are busy with exams. Please come to the camps and activities that you can and want to. At Crichton ESU we will try to pass on all the District and County opportunities that arise, even when this leaves the programme looking rather full. This then allows you the choice.

### **Example kit lists**

While the unit has access to group equipment, there are some items of kit that we would expect the Explorers to have for camps, expeditions and taking part in the awards. While we understand that camping equipment can be expensive a quality piece of equipment really is an investment for the long term, there are many leaders who still proudly use equipment from their scouting days.

The Scout Association has deals with many high street retailers who provide discounts of between 10 – 15% for those involved in scouts (eg, Cotswolds, Blacks, Go Outdoors and Millets) – make sure you ask to ensure you get the best price.

These are not intended to be exhaustive kit lists, more detailed lists will be provided for specific activities. These lists are intended to give you an idea of the sort of personal equipment an Explorer Scout will require (and to provide possible solutions to birthday/Christmas present dilemmas!!)

#### **For weekly meetings as programme requires:**

Torch or headtorch  
Waterproof cagoul and overtrousers  
Walking boots or outdoor trainers  
Small rucksack  
Small notebook and pen (to make a note of what you need for the next meeting etc)



**For camping:**

- 3 or more season sleeping bag
- Sleeping mat
- Unit Activity shirt (polo shirt & hoodie)
- Activity clothing per day, suitable for time of year and activity
- Waterproof cagoul and overtrousers
- Towel and personal wash kit
- Tea towel
- Personal first aid kit
- Torch, spare batteries and bulb
- Walking boots or outdoor trainers

**For hiking:**

- Personal first aid kit
- Strong boots and good quality walking socks
- Activity trousers (not jeans or heavy tracksuits)
- Rucksack with waterproof liner (AKA black bin bag or similar!)
- Emergency whistle
- Emergency rations (Mars bar or similar)
- Waterproof cagoul and overtrousers
- Additional warm top
- Reflective armband or high visibility jacket for night hikes
- Torch with spare batteries
- Personal map, map case and compas if you have them

Please do ask the Leaders if you want any advice on equipment. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has compiled a list of equipment that is suitable for their Expeditions and as such, the majority is also suitable for normal Scouting purposes. Please visit [www.dofe.org/go/expeditionkit/](http://www.dofe.org/go/expeditionkit/) for more information.

**Contact details**

<b>Explorer Leader</b> Colin Simmons Grange Road Netley Abbey SO31 02380 454750 07519 268312 shiftysimmons1@gmail.com	<b>Asst Explorer Leader</b> Chris Exton 4a Pound Road Old Netley SO31 8FE 02380 406761 07962 013290 chrisexton@virginmedia.com	<b>Asst Explorer Leader</b> Barry Powell    02380 07738 031042 barryp130@googlemail.com
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Please always feel free to contact any of us if you have any issues or questions at all.

**Become Fans or Followers to keep in touch with everything we are doing**

[www.facebook.com/groups/322643697876100/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/322643697876100/) (or just search for Crichton Explorer Scout Unit) - live updates on camps & activities, this is a safe, closed group for both parents and Explorers.

### **Other useful links**

Our group website [www.netleyseascouts.com](http://www.netleyseascouts.com)

Itchen South District Scouts <http://www.isdsc.org.uk/>

The Scout Association [www.scouts.org.uk/join](http://www.scouts.org.uk/join)

D of E Award - [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org)

### **Communication system**

Communication is key, so we all know what's going on, and nobody misses out. Beyond the meeting to update the Explorers the leadership team will use;

- Website – netleyseascouts.com, this terms program, events for the rest of the year
- E-mail – Event / Camp details, forms, programme changes and other updates
- Facebook – Camp details, Group news, photos
- SMS – Quick reminders (e.g. “Don't forget your camp forms” or “Pancakes this week – don't forget your batter!”)

We encourage the Explorers to contact us directly if they have any issues. If parents want to be copied in on these communications, or would like to discuss any of the forms of communication we use please do let us know.

### **Consent Forms**

Parents/guardians are required to complete consent forms for adventurous activities.

### **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.