

# WELCOME TO EXPLORER SCOUTS...

...and YOUR Explorer Scout Unit!

Explorer Scouting is the section of the Scout Association for 14-18 year old Scouts. We hope you will enjoy what we have to offer.

Our programme is exciting and varied, with the emphasis on *outdoor* activities - camping, climbing, hiking, canoeing, sailing, rafting, cycling, and all the other outdoor activities everyone has come to expect from Scouting, *plus many new things to experience*. You will also have the opportunity to do Scouting Awards, Duke of Edinburgh and other badges and awards.

Above all this is *your* Explorer Scout Unit - we want *your* ideas, *your* help in planning the programme. We think you will find the experience new and challenging, something beyond what you have come across before, whether you have been a Scout before or not. And in addition to having a great time you will gain skills, hobbies and friends which will stay with you for life.

As an Explorer Scout in Stirling and Trossachs District you will be part of a wider family of Explorer Scouts, so as well as the programme on offer in your Unit, you will have access to a wide programme of events and activities offered by the District, the Area, Scotland and the UK.



## STIRLING AND TROSSACHS EXPLORER SCOUTS

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**District Explorer Scout Commissioner**

**Colin Smith**

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**District Explorer Scout Administrator**

**Mel Kesteven (see below for contact details)**

#### Explorer Scout Leaders

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# AQUILA EXPLORER SCOUT UNIT



## EXPLORER SCOUTS

### STIRLING AND TROSSACHS DISTRICT

In Stirling and Trossachs District we currently have one District Explorer Scout Unit – the **Aquila Unit**, which takes Explorer Scouts from all over the District, from Callandar, Bridge of Allan, Dunblane and Stirling. We meet not just at Beechwood, but around the District, and will try to be flexible and make it as easy as possible for you to come. If transport is a problem at any time, let one of the Leaders know - we will do our best to help.

Explorer Scout Units are for males and females, all are welcome. If you know anybody else who you think might enjoy Explorer Scouts, pass this booklet on to them and bring them along. There is no limit on numbers in Explorer Scouts, the more members we get, we'll simply put on more activities.

Also, if you wish to help out as a young leader in one of the younger sections (Beavers, Cubs or Scouts) you will be a member of the **Young Leaders' Unit**.

### YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

#### When will I be invested as an Explorer Scout, and when do I stop going to my Scout Troop?

Anyone can join Explorer Scouts anytime after the ages of 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.

If you are a Scout, most of you will move up at 14. However, *you* decide when you are ready, in consultation with your Scout Leader and the Explorer Scout Leader. So if you wish to continue going to Scouts *as well as* Explorer Scouts for the next few weeks or months you may do so.

However, once you have been to a few meetings we are sure you will want to become a fully-fledged and invested Explorer Scout!

#### What about our meeting places?

We are meeting at Beechwood Scout Hall. We have a great little room that we have decorated. We have such a varied programme that we will not be meeting there all the time, we'll be out and about doing stuff, so keep an eye on your programme!



#### Do we have uniforms and flag-break?

You will need to have an Explorer Scout shirt, along with a Scout Belt. There are other (optional) uniform items available. You will be given an Explorer Scout neckerchief, along with badges, when you are invested as an Explorer Scout.

You will not be expected to wear uniform every week, check the Programme to find out if it is a uniform meeting, at which we will also sometimes have a flag-break.

#### Will I pay a subscription?

Yes, you pay membership to the Unit. There are several ways to pay. Ask Mel for details.

#### How do I have a say in what happens at Explorer Scouts?

First of all we will ask you. We will regularly ask you what you want to see on the Programme. We'll also check how you are getting on with your awards and whether there are any activity badges which you would like to work towards. The Explorer Scout Leaders want to make sure that you have a fulfilling and enjoyable time in Explorer Scouts. If you don't get what you want then we're doing something wrong.

We'll also want members of the Unit to help the Leaders with planning the Programme and making sure that it is full of all the exciting things that you want to do. If you want to be part of that, let your leaders know.

## PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT...

### District Explorer Scout Commissioner

**Colin Smith** is the District Explorer Scout Commissioner for the whole district. He is directly responsible for making sure that young people across the whole district have a good time in Explorer Scouts.

*If you have any questions or problems relating to Explorer Scouts, don't hesitate to contact the DESC*

### District Explorer Scout Administrator

**Mel Kesteven** is the DESA. Her role is to make sure all the information about Explorer Scouting gets to you.

*You will receive information and letters from the DESA, if not let us know as she may not have your contact details.*

### Aquila Unit Leader

**Nick Morris** is the main Aquila Leader, and he is supported by **Phil McGuinness, Jane Morris, Chris Brammer, Mel Kesteven** and of course, **Colin Smith**

### Young Leaders' Unit Leader

**Jane Morris** is the Young Leader Unit Leader. All Explorer Scouts who help with Beavers, Cubs or Scouts are automatically members of the Young Leaders' Unit, even if they are already members of another Unit. If you are a Young Leader, or would like to be, contact the leadership team who can get you her contact details.

### WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Contact Mel Kesteven for further information and to register.

You can also get information on Explorer Scouting from our website—COMING SOON!

[www.scouts.org.uk/explorers](http://www.scouts.org.uk/explorers)

