



Welcome to 'Gillingham St Mary Scouts'

INTRODUCTION TO SCOUTING

"The best camp we did this year was Goose, 7 days of non-stop fun and scouting skills, with over a thousand members there we met loads of new friends and also caught up with some friends that we had met on previous camps, the weather was brilliant, and we will definitely be back for the next one."



Scouting is the largest youth group in the world with 28million member's worldwide and approximately 520 000 members in the UK alone. In 1907 Baden-Powell held a camp on Brownsea Island in Poole, Dorset, to try out his ideas and brought together 20 boys from a variety of backgrounds. This was the start of scouting as the world sees it today. Scouting hit the headlines in 2009 when TV adventurer Bear Grylls was announced as the new Chief Scout. Although originally for boys, the scout movement welcomes both boys and girls in the movement now.

Scouts is the third section of the movement after cubs and generally has young people aged between 10 ½ - 14yrs before they move onto Explorer Scouts.

JOINING

Generally, young people will join at the age of 10 ½ either by moving up from cubs, or directly from outside of the movement. Although we also get new members who are transferring from another area when their family moves.

STRUCTURE

A Scout Troop is divided into small groups called Patrols, each headed up by an older Scout called a Patrol Leader, and often with an Assistant Patrol Leader.

Scouting is about being with friends, as part of a team, and participating fully in the adventure and opportunities of life.

PROMISE, LAW AND MOTTO

The scout promise is:-

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 is:- 1. A

Scout is to be trusted.

2. A Scout is loyal.

3. A Scout is friendly and considerate.

4. A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.

5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties.

6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.

7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

The Scout Motto:-

Be Prepared

Uniform:-

Scouts wear a teal green shirt or blouse, navy blue activity trousers or skirt, a group scarf with a leather woggle, and a Scout belt.

Flag

The Scout flag is dark green, bearing the Scout symbol and Motto.

Scout badges and awards

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

Activity badges

Many of the badges available are activity badges, which allow Scouts to show their progress in existing pursuits, but also to try all kinds of new things and form new interests.

Challenge awards

Gaining a challenge badge involves accomplishing a number of more ambitious tasks within the Troop or community. There are several challenge badges across a number of themes, from the physical and outdoorsy to challenges dealing with the local community or issues connected with the Scouting world.

Core badges

In addition, there are a number of core badges, obtained upon joining or moving on from the Troop, or for time spent in the Scouting movement.

Activity packs

Some activity badges are sponsored by outside companies, and these companies often provide extra exciting resource packs to help Scouts towards gaining their badges.

Badge Positions

Scout uniform



Gillingham Scouts

The Gillingham Scout Troop is run by Paul Lampard with assistance from Jim Harwood, Mark Wakelin, Emma Miller and Colin Steadman

Scout Leader – Paul Lampard – Tel 01747-823956, Mob 07740-511432,

Assistant Leader – Jim Harwood – Tel 01747 835703, Mob 07805 437031,

Timings:-

Scouts are run on a Friday evening from 7.30pm and finish at 9.15pm, at the headquarters in Hardings Lane.

In the scouts we do a lot more outside activities and camps than the younger sections, details of these will be given on the program published at the start of each term.

Gillingham scouts generally get quite involved in district as well as county activities which is a fun way for our members to meet and join in with children from other troops in the surrounding area.

A typical year would comprise: -

1. Trig Tor Challenge – 1-day District Hiking challenge venue changes each year.
2. Local Weekend camp late April / early May, Friday evening to Sunday lunchtime.
3. Rae Award – weekend District Camping Competition, venue changes each year.
4. Backwoods Camp – we build bivouacs to sleep in and cook on open fires.
5. 5. Summer Camp – 1st week in August we spend a week at an activity centre.
6. Autumn Weekend camp – somewhere local.
7. Backwoods Camp – District event overnight.

In amongst those there are often themed County camping weekends, and every four years the County runs a week long Jamboree known as 'Goose' or more latterly 'Jurassic Jamboree'.

If there are any parents who feel that they would like to join in and help occasionally or even full time, then please feel free to contact Paul or any other of the scout leaders and let them know, as an organisation we thrive on the support of our members and their families.

Below are just a small sample of the activities Gillingham Scouts have been at in recent years, we hope you enjoy your time with us.

Yours In Scouting

Paul, Jim, Mark, Emma and Colin.



Above – Part of our campsite at Goose 2014

Below – Two happy campers in their bivouac at Ferny Croft, Summer Camp 2016



Paddle boarding and Rafting at Buddens, our Dorset Scout Council County Campsite and Activity Centre



Tree climbing with a twist



**Above – One of the many ‘fun’ activities at Goose
Below - Remembrance Day Parade**





Above - An evening of percussion at our HQ.

Below – Capture the Flag! Wide game at Duncliffe Nature Reserve



Below – Autumn Saturday morning, hiking back from Buckhorn Weston, with Templecombe Scouts. After catching the train from Gillingham on Friday evening, we met at their HQ and night hiked across the fields to stay overnight at Buckhorn Weston village hall.

