

We are looking for volunteers to join our Beaver leadership team. Some of our current Friday leaders are moving on after leading the section so fantastically for the last few years and we now need to find some new volunteers to enable us to continue to offer fantastic Skills for Life for our young people.

Beaver Leaders deliver a safe, exciting and stimulating programme for our 6-7 year olds. The meetings are based around a programme devised by the Scout Association and are delivered almost entirely through practical activities and games on a weekly basis by our fantastic volunteers.

This is a great opportunity to boost your CV with leadership skills, fill some time during retirement, or just put something back into Nuneaton's fantastic community, while having lots of fun with young people. Please contact us if you feel you can help.

What do Volunteers do?

- Volunteers lead the games and activities each week. Leaders will explain the what's going on to the Beavers and run the session, with support from the other leaders and parent helpers. The activities will be based up on the badge requirements for the Beaver section and our adults help the young people achieve these badges through participation in an exciting programme.
- Volunteers manage record keeping. Leaders keep each child's personal record up to date, both from an admin point of view (eg Subs payments or contact details) and from a badge record point of view, marking off achievements as they are earned and presenting badges as required.
- Planning. Normally done at the start of each term, leaders will get together and plan a programme of activities that is both exciting and fulfils the badge requirements laid out by the Scout Association. There are thousands of books, websites, magazines and guides to help you choose what to do – the only difficulty is narrowing it down to just 12 a term!
- Welcome new starters into Scouting. When a place becomes available (for instance when an 8 year old moves into Cubs), a leader will consult the waiting list and select the next eligible child and arrange with them their first meeting, and then introduce them to their new friends, the programme and prepare them for investiture.
- Ensure the safety and well being of all our members, through good programme planning and risk assessment, whilst maintaining the thrill and fun of the activity.

In reality, it's rare to find someone who can do everything, so we work in teams, with individuals doing the part of the role that best suits them. So if you like to stand up and explain the activity, you could do that whilst another volunteer sits at the back updating the records. Or maybe you are best working one to one with a young person, so you could lend extra support to a Beaver who needs a little extra help, whilst another adult addresses the wider group. Whatever your comfort zone, we have a place for you.

Who is the role working with?

Being a Beaver leader is mostly about working with our young people, (and by extension, their parents). But we are looking to create a team of adults to work together on Fridays and are lucky to already have one experienced leader in the team. Outside of the Friday team, new volunteers will be part of the wider Weddington Scout Group team of volunteers, led by the Group Scout Leader and managed by the Executive Committee. Beyond that, Nuneaton District Scouts offer support, training and activities with like minded volunteers from all other Nuneaton and Bedworth.

What support is available?

We have a whole network of help available, both during your initial training and on going through out your time in Scouting. The outgoing leaders will ensure a smooth takeover and won't leave you on your own at all.

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The Group Scout Leader is responsible for all adults in the group and will be with you every step of the way. The executive committee will support with training, costs and any resources you feel you need. The District and the County teams will provide training sessions for you to attend. Finally, we have our own Active Support section, who can be on call to assist with any issues you may have, from programme ideas to extra supervision for particular events.

What equipment and facilities are available?

Leaders have full access to every piece of equipment the group owns, such as games, sports equipment, craft resources, camping equipment, and everything in between. Want to run a Sleepover in the Scout Hut? Book it on our calendar and it's yours! The building is managed by the Executive Committee, so all we ask is that all leaders leave the building in a fit state for the next section to use.

How much does it cost?

There are no fees for volunteers. The section has their own bank account and budget (with income via the young peoples' subs). This will pay for all resources (eg the cake mix for the next cooking session you plan!) whilst the Group will pay for all insurance and utility bills.

The Group will also pay for your uniform and the cost of any training courses or resources you attend.

In terms of time, the meeting itself is around 90 minutes each week (including opening up and set up), whilst there will also need to be some prep time before hand (eg popping to the shop to buy the cake mix for tomorrow's meeting). We have leader meetings to arrange things such as group events (eg the Xmas Carol service) and to keep everyone updated with current issues, training, events and opportunities. Occasionally there will be weekend events, such as visits or camps. Think of it as time well spent!

However everything is flexible, and it's not a problem if you can't attend certain things. Everyone has busy lives and we know it's not possible to do everything. This is why we work together as a team. It might be that one leader can get to the building early enough to open up but another leader will attend the group meetings, then feed back to the others who can't attend. If you get held up at work, or in traffic, that's fine, we will find a way to work around it.

What skills do leaders need?

You must be over 18 years old, be willing to complete a DBS check, be enthusiastic for all the benefits Scouting has to offer and be eager to learn new skills. That's it really, everything else is a bonus!

No one will ask you to tie a knot or put up a tent on a day one!

What Training do I need?

All adults in Scouting have to attend three training courses: First Aid, Health and Safety, and Child Protection (known as Safeguarding). The group will arrange and pay for these courses.

After these three courses, there is a programme of up to 20 training courses that can be taken to fill any gaps in your skills from topics such as programme planning, behaviour issues or section admin. This training can be completed online, in small groups or one to one. Completion of all of these courses will lead to the presentation of your Adult Training Wood Badge.

What do I get out of Scouting?

Pretty much everything our young people do! You will learn new skills, make new friends, gain new qualifications, do things you never thought you would ever do, travel to places to never dreamed of going to - the possibilities are endless!

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