Scouts
11th Nuneaton (Weddington)

Joining Policy

Purpose

The intention of this policy is to ensure that the admission of members into the group and management of joining (waiting) lists conform with regulations laid out in The Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) and to ensure a consistent approach across the group.

Definitions

Joining list	All young people interested in joining the Scout Group (waiting list)
OSM	Online Scout Manager
POR	Policy, Organisation and Rules (http://scouts.org.uk/por)

Attachments

Appendix 1. Joining Form

Introduction

There are six youth sections in the Scout Group:

Section	Core Age	Flexibility	Maximum Capacity
Squirrels Thursday	4 to 6 years old	From 4 to 6 ½ years old	12 *
Beavers Greenwood (Monday) Woodland (Friday)	6 to 8 years old	From 5 ¾ and up, to 8 ½ years old.	24 per colony *
Cubs Fosse (Monday) Watling (Wednesday)	8 to 10 ½ years old.	Up to 11 years old. Young people may not join the Cub section before their 8th birthday.	36 per pack *
Scouts Tuesday Thursday	10 ½ to 14 years old.	Up to 15 years old.	Capacity restricted by volunteer numbers only.
Explorers Wednesday	14 to 18 years old.	From 13 ½ and up to 18. Members must leave on their 18th birthday.	Capacity restricted by number of adult volunteers only.
Network	18 to 25 years old.	Members cease to be a member of Scout Network on their 25th birthday.	No maximum limit.

* Subject to number of volunteers Adapted from The Scout Association FS250045

Explorer Scouts can join a younger section within any Scout Group as a Young Volunteer. The volunteers for this younger section are responsible for the young person whilst at meetings and events. Youth members can choose to become an adult volunteer within the group (section Volunteer or Network member) from their 18th birthday.

Membership

Membership is open to all people regardless of: class or socio-economic status; ethnic or national origin, nationality (or statelessness) or race, gender (including gender reassignment); marital or civil

partnership status; sexual orientation; disability; political belief, pregnancy and maternity; religion, belief or faith (including the absence of religion, belief or faith); sex; age; gender, faith, ethnicity, school etc.

Reasonable adjustments will be made for young people with additional needs, but the Group cannot offer one-to-one support. This may mean it is necessary for a parent or carer to stay with the young person during meetings.

Joining List

The joining list is stored online via OSM. Access to the information on this list is restricted to The Group Lead Volunteer, the joining list administrator, and Section Volunteer teams.

Young people can join the joining list in two ways:

- Using the form on the Group website www.11thnuneaton.org.uk/join-the-adventure
- Complete a 'Joining Form' (appendix 1) handed to a Volunteer who then takes responsibility for adding the young person's details onto the OSM list.

Priority Order

Priority ordering for offering young people a place into Squirrels or a Beaver Colony is as follows:

1. Established members of a Scout Group who have relocated into the Weddington area and who otherwise would be unable to continue scouting.
2. At least 4 years (or 6 years for Beavers) old and child of a volunteer of 11th Nuneaton.
3. At least 4 years (or 6 years for Beavers) old and a sibling or close relative of a current group member.
4. At least 4 years (or 6 years for Beavers) old and have been on the waiting list for the longest.
5. If there are Beaver places available, and there are no children aged 6 or 7 on the joining list, then children aged 5 years and 9 months upwards may be offered a place in Beavers.

7-year-olds will be offered a place in Beavers only if they will be with the colony for at least 2 terms before their 8th birthday. Otherwise, they will remain on the joining list until a space is available in a Cub pack and join when aged 8 and there is a place available.

Any member of another group within Nuneaton District who wishes to join 11th Nuneaton and can commute to continue Scouting with their current group will not be prioritised on the joining list. Any member within Nuneaton District who wishes to move to our group must complete the online joining form and will be prioritised as per the priority order in this policy.

Older children who are directly entering the group into the Cub, Scout, or Explorer sections will be similarly prioritised. However, children who have reached the age to move to the next section will have priority to ensure continuity of their membership.

Availability

Spaces within sections are limited in accordance with Scout Association rules and may be further restricted due to the number of volunteers available to support a section at any given time. Places only become available when a young person moves up to the next section or leaves the group, or

additional volunteers join the section. There are no fixed dates for when a young person leaves, therefore, it is not possible to share an expected start date for young people on the joining list. When a space becomes available, it is filled when deemed most appropriate by the section volunteers; this may be immediately or at the start of the new term.

Offering Places

Following priority ordering outlined above, section volunteers will contact the young person's parents/guardians by either phone or email. Turning down a place for Squirrels or one Beaver Colony does not change their priority order, but they will have to wait until a space becomes available in their preferred section.

Should the young person's parents/guardian wish to defer the place, they can remain on the list and be offered the chance to join when the next space becomes available.

If there is no response to an offer for a place after initial contact has been made, the place will be offered to the next young person on the joining list and the young person will be removed from the joining list.

Exceptions

Exceptional circumstances not covered in this policy will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The Group Lead Volunteer will have final decision in the case of any disputes, disagreements and/or exceptions.

References

The Scout Association. Chapter 2. Key Policies.
The Scout Association. Factsheet FS155058 Guidelines for Managing Registers of Interest and Joining Lists.
The Scout Association. Factsheet FS250045 DC Guidelines – Age Ranges Flexibility (Special Needs).

Joining Form

Please complete this form and hand it to any Scout Group volunteer. This form is an alternative to the online system (www.11thnuneaton.org.uk/join-the-adventure) and does not need completing as well.

Young Person	
Full name:	
Date of birth:	

Contact Details	
Name:	
Relationship:	
Address including post code:	
Email address:	
Phone 1:	
Phone 2:	

Preferred Section

Please tick to indicate your availability for the relevant section. Please leave blank if you have no preference.

- ☐ Monday Beavers
- ☐ Monday Cubs
- ☐ Tuesday Scouts
- ☐ Friday Beavers.
- ☐ Wednesday Cubs.
- ☐ Thursday Scouts
- ☐ Thursday Squirrels

Group Links

Please let us know if the young person has any family members in the group, or siblings on the joining list.

Volunteering

There are no paid members of our Scout Group, and we rely entirely on volunteers. Please indicate if you are willing to help us provide adventure for young people. This could be uniformed or not, regularly or not, working with young people or supporting our trustees with events and the running of the Group.

- ☐ I would be willing to help with a section regularly
- ☐ I would be willing to help with a section occasionally
- ☐ I would be willing to help in a background role
- ☐ Sorry, I am unable to volunteer

Places are offered using our priority ordering system which is outlined in detail on our joining policy.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Volunteer Use Only

Volunteer : _____ Date received: _____ Date added to OSM: _____