

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	List of young people interested in joining the Scout Group (waiting list)
OSM	Online Scout Manager
SASU	Scout Active Support Unit
POR	Policy, Organisation and Rules (http://scouts.org.uk/por)

Attachments

Appendix 1. Joining Form

Introduction

There are five youth sections in the Scout Group:

Section	Core Age	Flexibility	Capacity
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 (Friday)	8 to 10 ½ years old.	Up to 11 years old. Young people may not join the Cub section before their 8 th 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 18 th 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 25 th birthday.	No maximum limit.

Adapted from The Scout Association FS250045 Edition 2 – January 2006.

Explorer Scouts can join a younger section within any Scout Group as a Young Leader. The leaders 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 leader or SASU) 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 Scout Leader and Section Leaders.

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) and hand to a leader who then takes responsibility for adding the young person's detail onto the OSM list.

Priority Order

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

1. Young people who are already members of Scouting in another District, but move into Nuneaton District.
2. At least 6 years old and child of a volunteer of 11th Nuneaton.
3. At least 6 years old and a sibling or close relative of a current group member.
4. At least 6 years old and have been on the waiting list for the longest.
5. Children aged 5 years and 9 months who have not yet turned 6 will only be offered a place if no 6 year olds remain on the list, regardless of how long the 6 year old has been waiting.
6. Young people who have a place in a Beaver Colony elsewhere in Nuneaton District.

NB. 7 year olds will be offered a place in Beavers 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.

An adapted version of the priority list is applicable for other sections, but it is uncommon to have a joining list for sections other than Beavers.

Availability

Spaces become available on an 'ad hoc' basis when a young person leaves a section – usually when they move up to the next. There is no fixed date when a young person leaves therefore it is impossible to share an expected start date with young people on the joining list. When a space becomes available, it is filled when deemed most appropriate by the section leaders; this may be immediately or at the start of the new term.

Offering Places

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

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 3 weeks 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 Scout Leader will have final decision in the case of any disputes, disagreements and/or exceptions.

References

The Scout Association. Chapter 2. Key Policies. POR May 2019.

The Scout Association. Factsheet FS155058 Guidelines for Managing Registers of Interest and Joining Lists Edition 6. Apr 2011.

The Scout Association. Factsheet FS250045 DC Guidelines – Age Ranges Flexibility (Special Needs) Edition 2. January 2006.

Joining Form

Please complete this form and hand 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. Please tick both or leave blank if you have no preference. <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Beavers <input type="checkbox"/> Friday Beavers

Group Links
<i>Please let us know if the young person has any family members in the group, or siblings on the joining list.</i>

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 committee with events and the running of the Group. <input type="checkbox"/> I would be willing to help with a section regularly <input type="checkbox"/> I would be willing to help with a section occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> I would be willing to help in a background role <input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____

Leader Use Only

Leader: _____ Date received: _____ Date added to OSM: _____

11th Nuneaton (Weddington) Scout Group Registered Charity No. 503394

Group Scout Leader Chris Cottrell, 90 Northfield Road, Hinckley, LE10 0LJ

Telephone 07511 859028 **Email** chriscottrell@me.com

Website <http://www.11thnuneaton.org.uk>

Joining Policy version 1 appendix 1, September 2019. (Review September 2023) LM