



1st Wootton

CUBS

Welcome and Information Pack

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I'm delighted to be able to invite your child to join us at the 1st Wootton Cub Pack. Whether they are coming up from our Beaver Colony or joining the pack from outside the Group, our aim is to make sure that they have lots of fun, challenges and adventures whilst they are with us and take happy memories from us when they eventually leave.

The 1st Wootton Scout Group was established in 1965 and the Cub section now runs to two packs with over 40 boys and girls and more waiting to join all the time!

This booklet is intended to give you an overview of how the Packs work, what we expect of our Cubs and how you can help your child during their time with us. It should also answer some of the general questions that you may have.

If there is anything else you wish to discuss, feel free to speak to any of the Leaders after the Pack meetings (although that can get a bit frantic and may not be suitable if you need a quiet word). You can also contact one of the Leaders by email or phone.

In the meantime, **please let us know whether or not your child will be able to join us** so that we can reallocate the place if it is not possible for them to attend. Contact details can be found at the end of this guide.

Find us at:

[twitter](#) @1stWootton

[Facebook](#) 1st Wootton Scout Group (Northampton)

www.woottonscoutgroup.wordpress.com/cubs



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When and where?

The 1ST Wootton Cub Section is split across two packs – the Rooks and Ravens. Both Packs meet in term times on a Thursday evening. The Rooks meet from 6:45pm to 8:15pm with a home base of Wootton Memorial Hall. The Ravens meet from 6:30pm to 8:00pm, usually at Wootton Primary School. Occasionally the time and/or location may change to accommodate an activity. When this happens, you will always be notified in advance of the revised arrangements. In addition to Pack nights, we also plan supplementary activities such as camps and visits which your child will be invited to attend.

We try to get outside as much as possible, especially during the Summer Term and make use of the Northampton Scouts' Overstone Camping Ground and Activity Centre, a great facility and an enclosed and secure environment for the Cubs to run wild in!

Full details of how to get to the Camping Ground are provided on page 14 of this guide.



An introduction to Scouting

Scouting provides adventurous activities and personal development opportunities for 400,000 young people aged 6-25. Internationally, we have over 28 million young people enjoying the benefits of Scouting across 216 countries.

Personal development means promoting the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual well-being of the individual, helping them achieve their full potential. In Scouting, we believe that young people develop most when they are 'learning by doing,' when they are given responsibility, work in teams, take acceptable risks and think for themselves.

Scouting receives no government support and relies entirely upon its volunteers, subscriptions and fund raising to exist. You may be asked to help out from time to time - it's great fun and we encourage and welcome all parents getting involved.

The first few weeks

Whether your child joins us from Beavers or as a new Cub, the first few weeks will be spent getting to know the people and workings of the Pack before being invested. They will be presented with a set of membership badges and take a full part in all the Cub ceremonies from that point. Children coming to us from Beavers will already have some of these badges and need to remove them from their Beaver uniform for transfer to their new Cub jumper. Please see 'Badges Transferable from the Beaver Uniform' on page 10 for more details if your child is coming to us from one of our Beaver sections.

As part of the investiture, the Cub will be expected to be familiar with the Cub Scout Promise, the Cub Scout Law and the Scout motto. They will be asked to repeat the Cub Scout Promise, line by line, after the Leader.

The Cub Scout Promise

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 Cub Scout Law

The Cub Scout Law

Cub Scouts always do their best,
Think of others before themselves
And do a good turn every day.

The Cub Scout Motto

Be prepared

The Cub Pack

The Pack is divided into mixed age 'teams' called Sixes. Each Six is led by a Sixer with help from a Secunder. Sixers and Seconders are selected from the Cubs based upon their attitude, behaviour, maturity and development needs. Whilst they will tend to be the older Cubs, there is no automatic right to be appointed to these roles.

Each Six is identified by a coloured woggle (the tube which holds their necker in place) that secures their neckers (the scarf which hangs around their necks).

Some activities are completed in Sixes and some are run with the whole Pack together.

Uniforms

Scouting is a uniformed organisation. Cubs are expected to wear full uniform for pack meetings, for arriving and departing from events and for Parades. Occasionally uniform may not be appropriate - if this is the case you will be informed in advance.

As a minimum, a necker will be required at all times.

Cubs are expected to take pride in their uniform and do their best to look smart from head to toe. The uniform consists of the following compulsory components:

- ❖ green Cub Scout sweatshirt (this is what the badges are sewn to);
- ❖ green Cub polo shirt (for wearing under the sweatshirt or by itself with no sweatshirt when the weather heats up);
- ❖ red necker (scarf) with a Wootton Group badge at the point (provided by the Group to new joiners); and
- ❖ a woggle (also provided by the Group, but regularly lost by Cubs. Replacements are available at a small cost.)

Normally, trainers will be the most appropriate form of footwear, but for Parades and other formal occasions, black school shoes should be worn.

ALL ITEMS OF UNIFORM, INCLUDING NECKERS, SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

Any items left behind by Cubs will be identified where possible and kept for a period of four weeks before being disposed of.

The Necker Badge

The 1st Wootton Scout Group necker carries a badge showing St George's Cross and the silhouette of a crow. These images are both connected with the history of Wootton.



The Crow Feast was celebrated in the village for centuries and was the local feast in honour of St George the Martyr (after whom the local Anglican church is named). Some doubt is cast over whether crows were actually eaten at the feast, although dead crows were said to be hung outside the village pubs.

The Scout Shop

Uniform items can be purchased from the Northampton Scout Shop, 97 Ivy Road, Northampton NN1 4QS. Basic uniform is generally in stock and anything not in stock can be ordered. We would encourage you to use the shop whenever possible as prices are generally cheaper and any profits made are re-invested into Scouting in the area.

The shop is staffed by volunteers and therefore has restricted opening times. At the time of writing these are as follows:

Mon 7pm - 8.30pm
Wed 7pm - 8:30pm
Sat 10am - 4pm

It is worth checking the opening times before visiting, either by calling them on 01604 633811 or checking the web site for up to date information on:



www.northamptondistrictscouts.co.uk/facilities/scoutshop

There is a link to the Scout Shop from the 1st Wootton Cub Pack website. Leaders make regular trips to the shop and may be able to pick items up for you if you have difficulty in getting there yourself.

Badges

Cubs love earning badges and there is a huge range available to them, some of which they will work towards at Pack meetings and some they may choose to do separately of their own accord. Details of the full range of badges available to Cubs along with the requirements for each badge are available on the Cub website at <http://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search/?cat=12,67>

Badges are paid for from Pack funds – all that we would ask is that they are sewn on promptly so that the Cub can display them proudly and they do not get lost. The badges fall into several broad categories as described below.

Activity Badges



There are many activity badges which the Cubs can choose from, some of which cover traditional Scouting topics such as Navigator and Camper but the range is much broader and there is almost certain to be one or more which play to a direct interest of your Cub.

From time to time, our work as a Pack qualifies those who have attended the relevant meetings to receive one of these badges, but Cubs may also do many of the badges as individuals at home, with Pack support if required. If you are unsure, please just speak to one of the Leaders.

Staged Activity Badges



**Nights Away Staged
Activity Badge**



**Musician Staged
Activity Badge**



**Information Technology
Staged Activity Badge**



**Hikes Away Staged
Activity Badge**



**Emergency Aid Staged
Activity Badge**



**Swimmer Staged
Activity Badge**

There are 6 staged activity badges. These are earned in stages as the name suggests and looks at the activity of the child over their entire Scouting history. So, for example, the Hikes Away badge is awarded when a Cub or Beaver has completed an organised hike. A higher level of the same badge is available once they have completed 5, then 10, 20, 35, 50 and 100 hikes.

When the Scout moves sections, their staged activity badges move with them. So a Beaver with a 5 Hikes Away badge would transfer it to their Cub jumper when they joined and continue to accumulate hikes to their total.

Other badges are available for progressive achievement in Nights Away, Swimmer, Emergency Aid, Musician, Information Technology and Time on the Water. You may well find that if your child plays an instrument or swims regularly then they qualify for one of the stages of these badges already – just let us know.

Full details of the requirements of the staged badges can be found on the Group website.

Challenge Badges



The Challenge badges cover the core skills of the Cub Scout. The badges are Outdoor, Fitness, Promise, Community, Creative, Global and Outdoor Plus and are more involved than the Activity badges. The first six are pictured above.

Chief Scout's Silver Award

This is the highest badge that a Cub Scout can earn. It is awarded on completion of the first 6 Challenge badges (the Outdoor Plus Challenge badge is not essential).



We structure our programme to cover all of these badges in the Pack nights over the two-and-a-bit years that the Cub is usually with us. Our aim is to send our Cubs on to Scouts with their Chief Scout's Silver Award proudly displayed!

There may be times when some work towards these badges needs to be completed at home. If this is the case, please encourage your child to complete the work – but don't do it for them. The emphasis is very much on each Cub taking part to the best of their ability – there are few absolute standards that have to be reached.

It is worth pointing out, that a Cub will not be able to gain the Outdoor Challenge badge (and therefore the Chief Scout's Silver Award too) unless they have spent two nights away with the Pack.

Participation Awards



Members of the Scouting movement are awarded Participation Awards that show how many years they have spent in Scouting. This includes periods spent in a previous section such as Beavers. Each year, a new Award is presented which can be added to the previous years' awards on the Cub jumper. The number on each award represents the number of years served.

On moving from Beavers to Cubs or Cubs to Beavers, the most recent award is transferred to the new jumper.

More information on badges

A full list of badges available and the requirements for each badge are listed in the Cub Powerpack available from the Scout Shop or online at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search?cat=12,67>

Badges transferable from Beaver uniforms

For those Cubs joining us from Beavers, there are a number of badges that should be transferred across from the old Beaver jumper to the new Cub jumper, as follows:

- ◆ the highest badges that the Cub earned in each of the staged badge categories;
- ◆ the latest Joining in Award earned (previous awards can be left on the Beaver jumper)
- ◆ the Scout Membership badge;
- ◆ the County and District badge; and
- ◆ the Section name tape.



Cubs not joining us from our Beaver Pack will be provided with the badges they need for the first time when they are invested.

Badges: where do they all go?

One of the questions we are most often asked is 'where does this badge go on my Cub jumper?' The following diagram shows the location of all key badges.



Communicating with parents

Most of our communication with parents is via email and Facebook - "[1st Wootton Scout Group \(Northampton\)](#)" - where you can download and comment on photos. The group is a closed group for past and present members of the Scout Group only (see links at the end of this pack for the address).

Please let us know if this is not suitable for you and we will try to provide alternatives.

We also have a twitter feed ([@1stWootton](#)) which we use to keep parents up to date with news when we are away on trips or camp.

Looking after your children

Most adults in Scouting, including all the adults at the 1st Wootton Group, are volunteers. The Scout Association has a thorough training programme that all leaders have to participate in. We must also undergo a full DBS check (formerly a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check), supply personal references and be approved by the Adult Appointments Committee before our first appointment.

All appointments are then subject to regular review and renewal.

Leaders also have regular First Aid training and, of course, we always do our best to ensure that no Cub is injured, with all activities fully risk-assessed. However, with up to 30 young, energetic, enthusiastic and active children in a confined space, parents should be aware that there is always the possibility of an accident.

In addition to the adult leaders, we have invaluable assistance from Young Leaders. Young Leaders are Scouts from one of the more senior sections who also volunteer to help out.

Clearly the safety of everyone involved in Scouting is our primary concern at all times and we have strict guidelines for the ratio of adults to Cubs. There may be times when we need parental help to make sure that we meet these supervision requirements, such as if an existing leader is unable to attend a meeting, or if the nature of the activity is such that more adult supervision is required to ensure the Cubs' safety.

At 1st Wootton Cubs we don't currently operate a rota for parent help as some Packs do, but rely instead on volunteers stepping forward if we need to ask for some extra help from time to time. It is not fair for this burden to fall on just a few and everyone is encouraged to find time to volunteer at some point if possible.

We really appreciate any help that parents are able to give us. If you want to help out, please feel free to talk to us, even if you are not able to make a regular commitment.

Anyone wishing to help out on full-day or overnight activities has to be DBS checked. This just involves filling out a very simple form, but it can take a few weeks to get the necessary clearance, so please give us plenty of notice.

Attendance

Due to the shortage of places available and the number of children waiting to join Cubs, we ask that Cubs attend meetings regularly.

We do understand that there may be valid reasons for non-attendance, but in the absence of an adequate explanation, Cubs not attending for three weeks in a row, or for more than half of any term will trigger a review of their on-going membership that may result in their place being taken away. We will always give parents an opportunity to explain the reason for non-attendance prior to arriving at this conclusion.

Photography

From time to time, we will take photographs of the Cubs during Pack meetings or camps for publishing on our website, Facebook or issuing to parents. Whilst Cubs may be referred to by their first names, their surnames will not be published. If you have any objections to your child being included in these photographs, please inform a Leader in writing in advance so that we can try to comply with your wishes.

Cubs Behaviour and Conduct

All Cubs are expected to be polite, considerate and respectful to others, take turns, share, play fairly, be quiet when others are speaking and take care of equipment.

Fighting, kicking, shouting, teasing, bad language, hitting, pushing and bullying are not acceptable and this sort of behaviour will not be tolerated. At all. We encourage all Cubs to report this behaviour when it occurs.

Minor incidents will be discussed with the Cub directly and may result in a 'time out' during a game or activity if appropriate. More serious or repeated incidents will result in the Cub's parents being contacted and you could be asked to collect your child from the meeting or camp. We want all of our Cubs to enjoy their time with us to the full – but not at the expense of others in the Pack.

The support of parents is very much appreciated in enabling us to correct unacceptable behaviour, but we do ultimately reserve the right to suspend or remove the Cub from the Pack if opportunities to improve are not taken or the incident is serious enough.

Concerns

Every Cub has an absolute right to be comfortable at Pack meetings and activities. If anything happens that makes your child, or you, concerned or worried or if the behaviour of a Leader is in any way inappropriate then you must let us know.

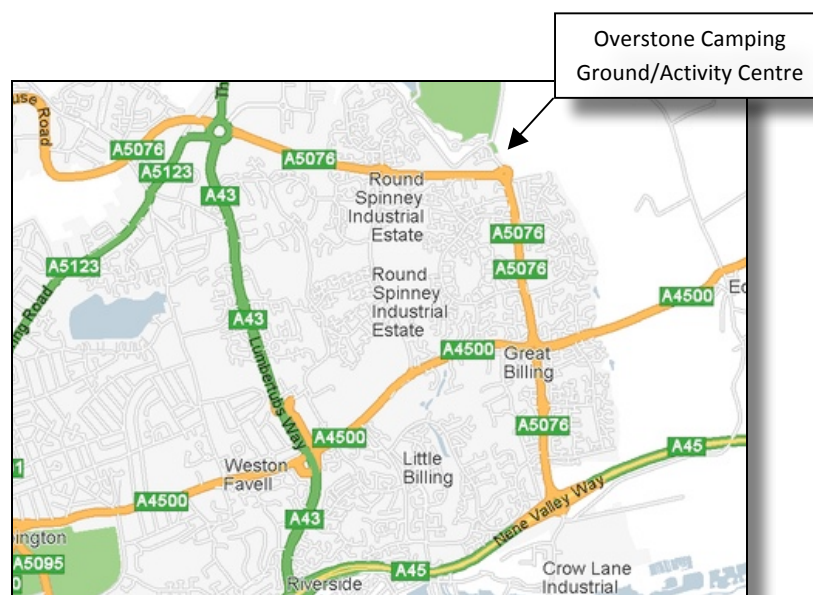
You should speak about your concern in the first place to the Cub Scout Leader, but if you prefer you can speak to the Group Scout Leader who is responsible for all Scouting in Wootton (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts). Contact details for all of these are available on our website and on page 16 of this document.

Directions to Overstone Camping Ground / Activity Centre

Billing Gate, Billing Lane, Northampton NN6 0AF

Directions

Take the A45 towards Wellingborough. At the Great Billing Interchange, turn left and follow signs for Overstone and then Overstone Park Resort. Go straight ahead at three roundabouts and the Centre is the very first entrance on the right – don't overshoot, it looks residential at first. The left hand set of gates is the 'in' side. Once through the gates, turn first right into the car park. Leave the car park by the other set of gates.



Contact Details - Ravens Pack

Akela

Mike Rushton – firstwoottoncubs@gmail.com

mob: 07970 273586 / 01604 702954

Assistant Cub Scout Leaders

David Handley

Carl Stanton

Adam Weatherley (aka 'Floppy')

Group Scout Leader

Chris Gyles – woottonscouts@gmail.com

Useful websites

1st Wootton Scout Group – all the latest on what's going on across all sections at Wootton Scout Group.

www.woottonscoutgroup.wordpress.com

The Northampton District Scout website – information about Scouting resources in the Northampton area.

www.northamptondistrictscouts.co.uk

The Scout Association – general information about scouting.

www.scouts.org.uk

Badges – how, what and even more usefully, where!

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/search?cat=12,67>