



Scouting Safely

As the hours of daylight increase the opportunities offered for adventure here are a range of quick links to help make it easier to find some core requirements - such as training, General Data Protection Regulations and [Policy, Organisation and Rules \(POR\)](#).

- [Safety](#) and [Safeguarding](#) - ensure that your own training, and that of your leadership team on any event, is valid at all times. Check [COMPASS](#) if you are unsure when yours expires.
- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) – check out [when a DBS check is required](#), and how long they are valid for in scouting.
- [First Response](#) – those in relevant roles have until the end of 2020 to ensure that they always have a current first aid qualification. There are more [courses](#) with spaces available from June onwards.
- [Risk assessments](#) – assessing risk in order to reduce or remove it is at the heart of safe Scouting and is present in everything we do. Much of it is “dynamic”, constantly re-assessing throughout an activity or event.
- [Nights Away Notifications](#) – ensure the latest form is fully completed, submitted in time and the actual permit is valid at the time of the event.
- [Adventurous Activity Permits](#) – a current valid permit must be in place at the date of the event.
- [International](#) – before the event is offered to any attendees discuss it in principle with those that will need to authorise the trip (such as your GSL and the [Assistant County Commissioner International](#)).

On-Going Learning

Many volunteer roles require on-going learning (in addition to the mandatory topics of safety, safeguarding and first aid). This can be much easier than you think, as much of it probably takes place just as part of fulfilling your role.

In addition to practical skills you might gain (from leading a campfire to archery or cooking on an open fire to climbing) there are a wide range of other topics that you can record. This includes some of the training available e.g. the [Group Scout Leader Webinar](#), an hour at the [Brand Centre Workshop](#), [Youth Mental Health training](#) or the [Executive Committee Workshop](#) (for those leaders on any Exec).

At [review](#) time it can sometimes be hard to remember everything, so why not evidence the average of 5 hours per year by logging it on COMPASS as you go. If you are not sure how to update your record [use this guide](#) or contact a Training Adviser for help.

County Commissioner's Message - Chris Ward

Census

I am pleased to announce that our total membership has topped 9,000! This is an excellent result and one everyone should feel proud of.

We have nearly 200 more young people across all Sections, a 3% increase to 6,754. Adult volunteers have increased by 5.3%, to 2,292 – an increase of 116. In total this gives us 9,046 which is a 3.6% increase compared to 8,734 last year.

The challenge for us now is to continue to work together to see how many more we can welcome to scouting over the year ahead.

Safety

The recent e-mails from Tim Kidd and Matt Hyde, regarding the on-going inquest into the sad death of an Explorer Scout in 2018, included “ the safety of young people is our number one priority, and I know we all take this responsibility very seriously. Please ensure that you take action as required, and support those around you to do the same”. To help everyone do so see the helpful links elsewhere on this page.

Team Updates

Many of you will know Andy Bendon, who has held various roles across Districts and County. For personal reasons he decided to take a break from scouting, and we wish him well.

The appointment of Ian Bullard as District Commissioner (DC) for Fenland means the county has a full set of DCs in place for the first time in some years.

Cambridgeshire Scouts in Action

Have you submitted items on one of the Facebook groups or direct to the website yet (either by the [news form](#) or e-mail to communications@cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk? Please consider doing so – and encourage your young people to be involved in writing them. Here are a few items from February 2020 (more on [website](#) / social media)

2nd March survived Storm Dennis – but then they were on a “superhero” Sleepover!



1st St Neots were joined by the Mayor at their Beer, Gin & Wine Fundraiser



5th St Ives Cubs had ringing in their ears, with an evening of campanology at their local church



1st Papworth Beavers got crafty at their “Woodland Creatures” sleepover

2nd Huntingdon Hinchbrooke Park Beavers and Cubs enjoyed a sleepover in space



Focus on... Perception

Louise Clover, Deputy County Commissioner – Perception

Louise is currently the Registration Service Manager for Cambridgeshire County Council, leading a team of 3 managers and 70 other staff who work from 6 different locations.

She lives in Papworth Everard with her husband Mike (an Operations Manager) and adult children - Ryan (a Management Accountant) and Katie (a Primary School Teacher). Louise became involved in scouting when her son joined Cubs aged 8, 18 years ago. She is soon to step down as Group Scout Leader for 1st Fenstanton & Hilton but will remain a County Training Advisor and Cromwell's Deputy District Commissioner.



What does the County Perception team cover?

The Perception team are there to use, and support other volunteers to use, tools and branding so that scouting is clearly understood, more visible, trusted, respected and seen as playing a key role in today's society. By getting scouting "out there" externally ([updated website](#), [public Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#) and working with the local media) we have already started to see results. In most cases any recruitment messages are primarily aimed at attracting more adult volunteers, which in turn will help us tackle the number of young people waiting to join.

The other main area is internal communication. With nearly 2,300 adult volunteers in a wide variety of roles this is currently a "work in progress". No one method will suffice, and it is a fine balance to ensure useful information is shared without causing inboxes to overflow. The county website, monthly county newsletter and the multiple [closed Facebook groups](#) are all growing in terms of content and interaction. We do monitor analytics, reflect on any feedback and we know that topics in any one of those places often start conversations with others who hadn't yet seen them for themselves.

What difference does all this actually make?

We have had some great feedback, and helpful suggestions following the re-launch of the County website just over a year ago and the first few editions of this monthly newsletter. We have started to build good relationships with local media, which has resulted in a range of media coverage – newspapers, radio and television. We can already evidence that this has led directly to some of the new adult volunteers, the offer of the grant funded Youth Mental Health training sessions, donations of equipment, an exciting new project to come around podcasts, offer of multiple free environmental workshops in one area and an exclusive access evening, at discounted rate for [#dinoscouts](#)

Joining the team

We have recently formed a Communications Scout Active Support Unit and are looking for people to help us over the next few years, with as much or as little time as they have available.

If you know anyone who takes great photographs or video, is able to edit visual images, is great at interviewing or being interviewed, able to write content for website, social media and / or press releases, can help with expanding our community radio team or....Part of the Unit remit will also be to offer workshops and training on a variety of related topics, aimed at adults and young people – from photography to writing press releases.

Please just e-mail communications@cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk to find out more about becoming part of the SASU.

Just Take 10

We are asking all adult volunteers in Cambridgeshire Scouts to help us continue to raise the profile of scouting, and share more great ideas, by taking just 10 minutes at some point in 2020 to consider "shouting for scouting". The aim is not to suggest you do anything differently, or to create any major additional work, though! Here's some simple ideas, and why not get the young people involved too:

- Book on the [Brand Centre Workshop](#) on the 7th March – the session lasts just an hour (multiple slots that afternoon)
- Submit an entry to the [County Photography Competition](#), taken by you or perhaps your young people themselves
- Share the County [public Facebook page](#) and / or [public Twitter account](#) far and wide
- Ask your young people to write up an event or a camp, then [submit it with some photos](#)
- [Send in](#) details of fundraisers you would like us to highlight, or training courses you have spare spaces on
- Include a Perception item on your team meeting agendas
- Copy communications@cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk into any press release you issue
- Consider joining the Communications SASU (see item above)
- If you are on Facebook join the closed [County Facebook Group](#), and share some of your activities on there
- Ensure your website / e-mails / posters are all in the [current branding](#)

Snippets from

Support

Free money!

Around 50 Groups / Units indicated on the census that they are not yet registered for [Gift Aid](#), plus many more who have not claimed in the past year.

The scheme pays 25p for every £1 of relevant income from taxpayers (for example subs and donations - but not camp or event fees) and is claimed on-line from Revenue & Customs (HMRC). E.g. every £5,000 in subs is £1,250 waiting to be claimed and spent on scouting – multiply that by 50 and it totals at least £62,500 across the county! Currently you can also back 4 years too.

Please contact your District team for any initial help and support.

Annual General Meeting Survey

Help shape your County AGM. Simply complete this [brief on-line survey](#) to have your say on the 2020 event.

Programme

Opportunities Ahead

Checkout the county website calendar for an ever-growing list of programme events and activity related training opportunities, including how to book. Here are just a few examples:

- **21st March** – [Royal British Legion Awards](#)
- **4th April** – [Tomahawk Throwing](#) – leaders course
- **3rd May** – [Beaver Scouts Go Wild](#) at Colchester Zoo
- **9th May** - [Jamboree on the Trail](#)
- **13th / 14th June** – [Beaver / Cub Fundays](#) at Gilwell Park
- **12th August** - [#dinoscouts](#)
- **19th-21st June** – [Beavers in Tents](#) (BiTS) – bookings open by 9th March
- **10th – 12th July** – [Gilwell 24](#)

The site also includes a range of camps suitable for Scouts / Explorers and / or Network over the next few years.

Scouts for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

There are now updated pages on the national website about these 17 key [SDG](#) areas, which link in particular to the staged [Community Impact](#) badges and the [Million Hands](#) project. Why not take a look?

Local to Global

Scouting is a great way to make connections, and lots of international members are also keen to practise their English. Why not see if you can set up a letter exchange or a Skype call - remember to “stay safe”. There is also a closed scouting [Facebook Group](#) where you may find suitable contacts.

Growth & Development

It has been great to see positive increases in the census numbers from a variety of projects the team has been involved with - particularly 1st Northstowe (Beavers & Cubs), 2nd Cambridge (Cubs) and 1st Brampton (Beavers re-opened).

Groups / Districts with a potential project for consideration should email David Briston to arrange an initial discussion.

The team has recently offered all Districts the following two specialist workshops (up to 20 attendees per session):

- The new (3 hour) Safeguarding course for all leaders and “Advisers” (e.g. Training Advisers) who want to renew or update their Safeguarding Mandatory Training and knowledge; and
- The updated workshop (around 2¼ hours) clarifying District & Group Executive (Exec) members roles and responsibilities as Charity Trustees etc. It’s for both new and existing members of Exec Committees

Workshop dates and more details will shortly be published for Cambridge, Ely and Hinchingsbrooke Districts. Those 4 for other Districts will be added as they are finalised.

People

Young Leaders (YLS)

To protect your Young Leaders please ensure that all leaders know any new ones **MUST** be registered with your District from the week they start – and complete Module A within 3 months too. This applies to all 3 types of YL, including those “just” volunteering as part of a Duke of Edinburgh scheme. To see the 3 types, and to find out more about the YL scheme please take a look at the [full details on the website](#).

Woodbadge Training

The new County Training Manager (Woodbadge), Lynne Radbone, is keen to encourage everyone currently working on, or who has completed in the last 5 years, a Woodbadge to complete a [short survey](#). If Training Advisors have any feedback let the training team have it via [get in touch](#). These will allow the team to pick up on good practice and reflect on any missed opportunities - to help shape the programme for the future.

Local Training Managers

There are currently several opportunities (Cromwell, Crafts Hill Districts and Ely) for new Local Training Managers to join the wider team. [Take a look](#) and [get in touch](#) if you are interested or would like to suggest someone.

Trainers and facilitators

Could you help deliver, or facilitate, the expanding range of courses?

We are particularly keen to expand the First Aid training team. Perhaps you have skills from work you could bring to this role?

Please [get in touch](#) if you can help.