

THE BOATING PACK

31st **AMAZON**
 **SEA SCOUTS**

WELCOME TO BOATING



Welcome, this pack is for Scouts and parents to provide information regarding our activities, equipment and expectations whilst on the water. For the majority of water-based activities, we are based on the River Hamble at Mercury Yacht Harbour and Holiday Park.



Mercury Yacht Harbour and Holiday Park
Satchell Lane
Hamble
Southampton
Hampshire
SO31 4HQ

The 31st is fortunate to have a wide range of equipment allowing our Scouts to gain skills and experiences whilst having fun on the water. Activities may include kayaking, canoeing, pulling, dinghy sailing, rowing, raft building & power boating. Scouts will assist in the set-up, rigging, cleaning and maintenance of boats and equipment whilst applying their Scouting skills in practical terms. They will learn about water safety, being considerate of other watercraft and learn the effects of tidal waters & weather conditions. Scouts may also have the opportunity to gain qualifications such as British Canoeing (BC) and Royal Yachting Association (RYA).

Scouts will be split into separate groups based on their experience from beginners to advanced. Scouts will be given the opportunity to try various water activities during the season. Session times do vary due to the tidal water; dates/times will be published on OSM. Certain circumstances (e.g. weather conditions) may have an effect on the activities we are able to perform; on rare occasions, this may mean we need to cancel a session for safety reasons. (Parents need to be contactable at all times).

The safety and welfare of the Scouts are of the highest importance, Scouts will be instructed by Leaders who hold appropriate Scouting permits and/or recognised national governing body qualifications. Additional Leaders/helpers will be in attendance to assist where appropriate.

As per The Scout's rules, all participants must be able to demonstrate their ability to swim 50 metres & keep afloat for five minutes (in clothing & equipment appropriate to the activity). Scouts who cannot meet this are classed as non-swimmer and will participate in water activities at the discretion of the instructor in charge.

We do expect all Scouts to comply with the Scouts Code of Conduct, to have the correct equipment (the equipment list is attached), comply with any safety briefings and the instructions provided by Leaders or helpers. For safety reasons, incorrect equipment or poor behaviour may result in us stopping an activity and/or excluding the individual.

Thanks, we look forward to seeing you on the water!

Yours in Scouting, 31st Itchen North Amazon Sea Scout Leaders

BOATING KIT LIST



Boating equipment checklist:

Essentials	Weather Dependent
Kit Bag/Dry Bag	Layers (Rash Vest worn under wetsuit)
Polythene bags (wet/dirty kit)	Dry Cag or Water/Windproof top
Towels	Fleece/Coat
Wetsuit/Rash Vest	Sun Cream
Wet Boots/Beach Shoes (Closed toe/non-slip)	Sun Hat/Warm Hat
T-Shirts or Similar (Quick Dry best)	Sun Glasses
Warm/Spare Clothing (To change into)	Sailing Gloves
Shoes/Trainers (To change into)	
Medicines (Hand in on arrival)	
Water/Drinks	
Lunch/Snacks	

Occasionally we may hold the odd second-hand wet suit or dry cag please ask a Leader for more information.

Suggested stores for local boating equipment

Wetsuits & beach shoes can be purchased at a reasonable price from most major supermarkets.

Andark Diving and Water sports: <http://www.andark.co.uk/>

Force 4 Chandlery: <http://www.force4.co.uk/>

Southampton Canoes: <http://www.southampton-canoes.co.uk/>

- Water temperatures under the surface are much colder than the ambient air temperature. Wetsuits trap water between the skin and the wetsuit, allowing this water to warm up.
- Wetsuits are meant to be tight; loose wetsuits increase water circulation and prevent the water from warming up.
- The thicker the wetsuit (mm), the warmer you will be. Ideally, wetsuits of 3mm or 5mm are recommended. These can be full wetsuits or Shortie (sleeves and legs are cut short).
- Footwear must be worn at all times in/on the water. Most injuries occur to the feet.
- Open cuts and grazes must be covered with appropriate plasters/gauze.
- Scouts may wish to bring their own personal flotation device i.e. Buoyancy aid/ Lifejacket (This must be checked with the Leader/instructor prior to use and be a minimum of 50N (Newton's).
- Medication is to be handed in on arrival.
- Incorrect personal equipment may result in the Scout being unable to participate in an activity/session.
- After a session wash down your personal equipment and have a shower/bath on your return home.

GENERAL RULES & NOTICE'S



General Rules

1. Scouts will follow instructions immediately and at **all** times.
2. The code of Conduct applies at **all** times.
3. Misbehaviour will result in stopping the activity, with the possibility of the Scout no longer participating in the session.
4. Personal Flotation Devices must be correctly fitted and worn at all times.
5. Personal Flotation Devices are not to be removed until given the okay from a Leader (to be washed down & not left on the floor).
6. If anyone capsizes or falls overboard, the Leader is to be notified immediately.
7. Any open cuts or wounds must be dressed appropriately.
8. No running, take extra care on entry/exit to watercraft and on the Slipway.
9. No horseplay or capsizing on the water near the slipway and washing down the craft.
10. Correct clothing/footwear (no open-toe) to be worn at all times.
11. Correct entry/exit methods to be used on boats.
12. Stay a safe distance near the instructor & do not travel into areas that are not allowed. Notify the Leaders if you wish to get off the water.
13. Please notify a Leader if a participant feels unwell within the days following a boating session, particularly with flu-like symptoms or diarrhoea and goes to see a medical professional. They should advise their Doctor that they had been in the River Hamble recently.
14. Boats are to be lifted and carried by a minimum of 2 Scouts.
15. Equipment is not to be left lying around on the floor.
16. No Scout to enter the Boat Store without a Leader agreement.
17. Wash/clean hands before handling food.
18. Shower as soon as possible after a session.

Drop Off

Parents are to park in the main car park and walk their children to the boatyard. Please ensure that we have more than one Leader present & confirm the activity is going ahead as planned; there is a slight chance of last-minute cancellations due to insufficient Leader cover or conditions that dictate a potential risk to the wellbeing of the Scouts. Any Scouts who arrive late and miss the safety briefing may be unable to participate during that session (this is down to the leader's discretion).

Collection

Please try to collect on time and vacate your vehicle by coming to us. It may be that we overrun & you are waiting for your Scout, unfortunately, this does happen. If you know in advance you cannot arrive at the correct time/or collect promptly then please let us know. If we are not aware then we may already have started the activities which could result in the Scout being too late to be included.