

THE STARTER PACK

**31ST AMAZON
BEAVERS**

WELCOME TO BEAVERS



We would like to welcome you to the 31st Itchen North Amazon Beaver Scouts and introduce ourselves:

Rachael Birchall (Otter) as Section Team Leader. Phil Price (Fox) and Elaine Kendall (Badger) as Section Team Members.

The 31st Itchen North Amazon Sea Scout Group, are part of the Itchen North District. We take boys and girls, from Scouting backgrounds or not, from all parts of the District and County. The age range is 6 – 8.

The Troop's regular meeting time is 5.30 pm – 6.45 pm on Thursday evenings, at The Norman Rodaway Pavilion, Hedge End.

As a new starter, you are welcome to attend meetings for a few weeks so you can see whether you think you will enjoy it. Once you have decided to join you will need to obtain a uniform, start paying a subscription and participate in an investiture ceremony.

The subscriptions (which are reviewed each year) are £13 each calendar month, and payments are to be made using online banking, as it keeps things simple and spreads the costs. Other than subs, there may be payments for other optional events or activities throughout the year.

The Young Person Information Form is to be filled out online using the Parent Portal in Online Scout Manager. The Section can be contacted via email or we also have a private Facebook group which is used for sharing information and notices.

This pack contains pages about:

[General Information](#)

[Uniform details](#)

[Additional Information](#)

Thanks, and I hope you enjoy your time with the Group!

Yours in Scouting, 31st Itchen North Amazon Beaver Leaders

Email: beavers@amazonseascouts.org.uk

Website: <https://amazonseascouts.org.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/31stItchenNorth> - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/31stItchenNorthBeavers/>

The Purpose of Scouting

The purpose of Scouting is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Scout Method

Scouting uses a method, in which young people, in partnership with adults, enjoy what they are doing, learn from doing, participate in varied progressive activities, make choices for themselves, take responsibility for their own actions, work in groups, take increasing responsibility for others, taking part in outdoor activities, sharing in faith activities, and making and living out their Beaver Scout promise and Beaver Scout law.

How Do We Do This

By offering good quality Scouting and training; underpinned by the structure, fundamentals and rules of the Scout Association as outlined above.

How Our Group Is Made Up

Beaver Scout Colony core age 6 – 8
Cub Scout Pack core age 8 – 10½
Sea Scout Troop core age 10½ – 14½
Explorer Sea Scout Unit core age 14 – 18

The Group Council

All parents are automatically members of the Group Council, once their child is invested into the Scout Group. As with all voluntary organisations, we rely heavily on fundraising to enable the Scouting activity to be maintained and developed. You will be asked occasionally to help and support these fundraising initiatives, making it possible for your child to get the most from Scouting.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions (reviewed each year) are paid each term directly to the Group Treasurer, who then passes on a proportion of the money to each section. The retained money is used by the Group Trustee Board for the running costs of the Group, i.e. insurance, capitation fees, equipment etc.

Capitation

This is a fee that every uniformed member has to pay each year to the Scout Association. It is broken down into three parts; the majority of the money goes to Headquarters and covers the national running costs, the provision of insurance and legal requirements. The second part goes to Hampshire County Scouts.

Our Leaders

All our uniformed Leaders are required to attend formal training courses and complete training plans to assist in running the Beaver section effectively for the benefit of the young people. They will be required to undertake Child Protection training and a First Aid course. Leaders taking Beavers on camps and expeditions will also have undertaken specialist training before obtaining the necessary permits for such activities, this is the same for Leaders instructing Beavers on the water.

All uniformed, and non-uniformed Leaders and helpers are vetted and will have completed a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. This ensures that they are fit to be entrusted with the care of our members. Certificates are issued and renewed every five years.

GENERAL INFORMATION



The Trustee Board

Our Trustee Board – consists of the Group Lead Volunteer, Chair, Treasurer, Administrator and additional elected members. The Group Trustee Board meets regularly and its responsibilities include management of group property, fundraising and group finance.

OSM (Online Scout Manager)

OSM is a secure electronic management system which can be used by Leaders, parents & Scouts. OSM is used to manage each of the sections in the Group. On joining you will be invited to use the system where you will need to create an account. OSM will allow you access to update your Beaver's personal information, follow their badge progress and review the Beaver Programme and upcoming events. Once in the system, you will receive notifications and reminders of upcoming events via email. We do suggest you log on and check for changes in the programme on a regular basis.

Beaver's Personal Mobile Phone Number and Email Address

The Scout Association allows us to keep copies of Beaver's personal mobile numbers and email addresses. This is useful for general communication, especially during scouting events/activities such as expeditions, wide games, and hikes. With an email, the Beaver will also be able to log in to OSM.

Remembrance Day Parade

Unlike some groups, we do not ask our members to attend a Church Parade regularly, but we do ask for compulsory attendance at the Remembrance Day Parade in November. Membership of our group means that for one day a year, all other activities such as football or rugby are to be put aside for children and adult members alike.

Help

We are a registered charity and as such help is required during the year with transport, activities and fundraising, all vital for the successful running of the group. Please do not leave it to the few, remember - many hands make light work! Our social events and bag-packing sessions are an important part of our fundraising and it is expected that the parents and Beavers play a major role in helping with these. We ask that each Beaver helps with at least two fundraising events a year. Please do not leave this to our Leaders who already give up a huge amount of their own time for your children. We are also constantly seeking people to come along and help us at meetings, both on a casual basis and as uniformed Leaders. If you can help, please contact the section Leader. The Scout group is a voluntary association without which we could not operate, we are always actively seeking additional volunteers in various capacities, if parents have an interesting hobby or skill set it is always useful to know as the group could make use of it.

An Amazon Beaver uniform consists of a turquoise Beaver jumper, dark red and navy blue necker, turquoise Beaver polo shirt and dark trousers.

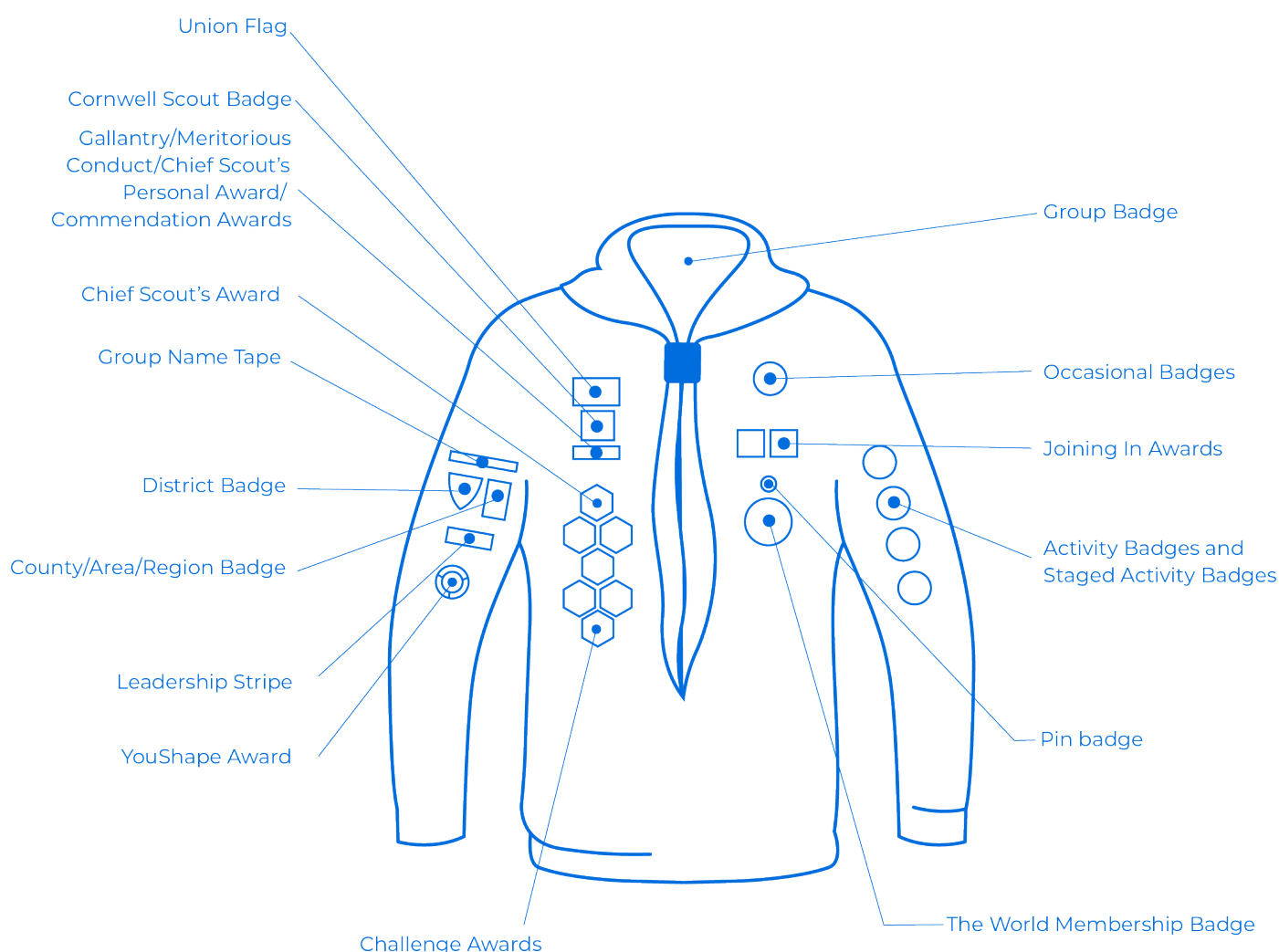
The jumper, polo shirt and trousers will need to be purchased by the Beaver (or the Bank of Mum and Dad). Occasionally we may hold second-hand jumpers/hats at a reasonable price; please ask a Leader for information. At the investiture, the Beaver will be supplied by the Scout Troop with the Initial badges and necker.

Beaver jumpers and polo shirts are available from the Eastleigh District Scout Shop. The shop is only open on Thursdays 6 pm-8 pm & Saturdays 2 pm-4 pm. Call 08456 445253 for more information or visit: <http://14theastleighscouts.scoutsites.org.uk/our-group-shop/>, alternately purchase online from <http://shop.scouts.org.uk/>.

Payment assistance

Talk to the Amazon Leaders if you'd like to spread the payments or discuss other options

The picture below shows where your badges go:



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Payments

Monthly subscriptions are paid into the Group Account. Payment for additional events/activities/camps will normally be paid directly into the Beaver Section Account (details will be provided). Whilst we will take payment by cheque, we do prefer payment by BACS transfer please (this simplifies payment for our Leaders). Cheques for the Scout Section should be made payable to '[31st Itchen North \(Amazon\) Scout Group](#)' (unless we inform you otherwise).

Drop Off

Before leaving please ensure that we have more than one leader present & confirm the activity is going ahead as planned; there is the slight chance of last-minute cancellations due to insufficient Leader cover or where conditions dictate a potential risk to the wellbeing of the Scouts (especially boating).

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.

Additional Activities/Events/Camps

We will at times arrange other events which could incur additional costs. We will always endeavour to keep these fees to a minimum, should anyone have difficulty with payment (Subs or Events) please discuss it with a Leader.

Medication

It is important that we understand the medical history of each Beaver; this information is stored in OSM which should be updated regularly by parents/guardians. An inappropriate kit or missing medication (such as inhalers) may exclude the Beaver from the Activity.

Store Discounts

Scouts can receive additional discounts at certain outdoor stores (we suggest you take along your necker as evidence). An example of stores are 'Cotswolds' and 'Go-Outdoors'.

Water Based Activities

As a Sea Scout group, we participate in many water-related activities and must comply with scouting policies to ensure the safety of all participants. As such we need to know if there are any conditions that may have an impact on participation. Beavers must be able to swim a minimum of 50 metres in light clothing (shorts/t-shirt) and tread water for 5 minutes; we will perform our own assessments.