



www.wemyssbayscouts.org.uk
www.inverkipscouts.org.uk

85th Greenock & District (Inverkip & Wemyss Bay)

New Member Pack

Dear Parent / Guardian,

This pack is intended to give you the information you need to help your child get all they can out of Inverkip & Wemyss Bay Scouts.

The pack should contain:

- This Welcome Letter
- What uniform to buy – and where to buy it
- Where to sew badges
- 'You Can Help Too' form which we invite you to complete if you are able to help either occasionally (transport, etc) or more regularly

All these contents are also available to view on our website under the Scout → Forms library.

Scouts are open to ages 10½ -14 . Outside of that age range your child will be more than welcome to join the 85th Beavers, Cubs, or (for 14 – 18 year olds) Explorer Scouts.

The 85th currently have Beavers, Cubs and Scout sections in both Inverkip and Wemyss Bay, and Explorers based in Inverkip which serves both Inverkip and Wemyss Bay.

Joining the Troop

New members normally join and attend informally for 3 weeks or so, and are then formally invested into the troop. They can either come up from Cubs (and may attend Cubs also during the 3 weeks) or can come along entirely new to the Group any night. The investiture ceremony normally takes 15 minutes at the start of the night chosen, and parents are welcome to come along for the occasion.

By the time of the investiture ceremony (or soon after it) we aim to see the new member in Scout uniform. This is as described in the Uniform sheet. Some items such as the kilt are provided by the Troop. We wear Hunting Stewart tartan in recognition of the Stewarts of Ardgowan.

Wemyss Bay Scout Troop meets on Tuesdays 7pm to 9.30pm in Wemyss Bay Primary School. Inverkip Scout Troop meets on Wednesdays from 7pm to 9.30pm in Inverkip Church Hall. We often arrange activities outside of those times. These activities contribute to badgework and development. We encourage Scouts to participate in these whenever possible as they will help them to progress through their badgework to the goal of achieving the Chief Scout Gold Award by the time they move up to Explorers. Many employers see a Chief Scout Gold Award as a way to distinguish preferred candidates from a list of applicants.

Fees

There are no weekly fees. Instead we collect Annual fees each year around September. The Scout Association is a voluntary organisation and so these fees are kept as low as possible. No payments are needed until these fees become due. The fee as of 2023 is £95, but this is changeable depending on how much of the fee Scottish Headquarters and UK Headquarters will require for insurance purposes, etc. In order to keep our costs to you low, we have major fundraising efforts during the year which we really need everyone to contribute to. These fundraisers are our main source of income and every Scout available for these means more money in our funds.

Money

We are trying to eliminate the amount of cash we handle. You are able to pay for anything relating to your child in Scouts electronically. The electronic options are as below:

- **GoCardless:**
'GoCardless' is the payment facility used by our Troop's online management system OSM. It works using Direct Debit and is our preferred option. It is also the easiest option for parents and removes the effort from making payments while still giving you full control.
- **PayPal:**
You can use PayPal (no account required) at the link below (or google '85th scouts online payments'). This can be used for any payment including capitation fees, camp or activity fees and uniform. Just say what you're paying for when prompted. You will receive an email receipt.
<http://www.inverkipscouts.org.uk/payments.html>
- **Card Payments:**
We can take card payments on a Troop night. No need for cash.

Badges

The Scout Programme is designed to promote each young person's physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential. The training scheme takes various forms including camps, activities and of course badgework.

We always aim to cover the requirements for badges in an enjoyable way and often badges can be earned by simply taking an active part in the activities we arrange in the normal weekly meetings, or at camps, etc. Our weekly programme is designed to flow through one or more badges, and so it is always best if each Scout can attend every week and attend extra activities where possible so as not to miss an important part of a badge. The Scout Troop will always concentrate on a certain set of core badges. However, there are a great many badges available, some more specialist than others. Scouts are encouraged to work on others that interest them in their own time. The requirements for all badges are available to view at the national scout site - www.scouts.org.uk. Written approval that the requirements have been met can be provided by an instructor, parent or other responsible person, although we will also talk to the Scout about the badge to understand how well they know the subject.

We record each Scout's progress towards the 9 main 'Challenge' badges (the ones they wear on their chest) and make their progress available via "the Parent Portal of OSM which is the web based system that we use to manage every Scouts experience in the Troop. Hopefully our records will be accurate, but there will always be some items not credited, or done outside of Scouts that can count towards a badge, so Scouts should double check every so often.

What to Bring Each Troop Night

Once they have been invested, scouts should wear full uniform every Troop night. They should bring along a pair of shorts/t-shirt to change into. We always discourage scouts from pulling each others' shirts during games, but it does happen, so please ensure you don't send your child to scouts with an expensive t-shirt that can be stretched or even torn.

Label Everything

At least one scout loses, or forgets to take home items of clothing or uniform every week. Please make sure all items are marked with your child's name. Especially neckties, woggles, belts, joggers and jackets. **Items with no name marked on them rarely find their owner again.** This also applies to camps where plates, camper mats, torches, jackets, waterproofs and trousers / joggers are the most common items without name labels that go unclaimed and so sent for recycling.

Badges from Cubs

New Scouts who have joined us from the cubs may transfer certain badges from their Cub uniform to the Scout shirt. These are any "Staged Activity Badges" (those round ones on your left sleeve which have a blue background, purple border and a number indicating the stage earned), and your Chief Scout Silver Award.

Parental Support

From time to time we will ask for volunteers to help with transport or other types of assistance.

The 'You Can Help Too' form allows you to volunteer. Why not try the '4 week challenge' to see if taking an actual leader role could be your thing. We always need more leaders from Beavers through to Explorers. If you are considering taking a role in the same section as your child, we would recommend allowing them to settle in on their own for a couple of months before you try it out yourself.

Website

The 85th website is at www.inverkipscouts.org.uk / www.wemyssbayscouts.org.uk. This contains information on badgework, permission forms for activities as well as news and events.

Photographs of Your Child in Press and Social Media

Your privacy is important. We publish photos and articles from our Scouting events on our web page, on our public Facebook and Twitter pages and in local press. We also occasionally share them with organisations that have supported us, for example on their Facebook page. Since our Facebook and Twitter pages are public, general public users are able to use them. We won't use your child's full name on any of these media and won't identify them in any pictures. If you prefer your child's picture not to appear, tell your leader or use the Contact Us form on our website to let us know.

Facebook / Twitter

Less formal, and more accessible ways for us to communicate with Scouts and Parents is via our Facebook page (search for '85th Greenock & District Scout Group') and our Twitter Page (85th G&D Scout Group). To get the latest updates posted direct to your own page, click 'Like' or 'Follow' on our 'Pages'. We encourage both parents and Scouts to 'like' the page and contribute responsibly.

Please note that for Child Protection purposes, our leaders are unable to respond to 'Friend' requests to their personal accounts from Scouts. See also section the above re use of photographs in Press and Social Media.

Contacts

Leaders are available any troop night if you need to discuss anything. You can also contact any of the numbers below.

Andy Yarr
Scout Leader
07747 457 320

Alan Fielding
Scout Leader
07876 645 907

Dawn Kerr
Group Scout Leader
85thgsl@gmail.com

OSM

We manage the day to day dealings of the Scout Group using an online system named 'Online Scout Manager' or 'OSM' for short. The system contains each Scout's personal details including emergency contact information, their badgework progress and we also use it as a booking and payment system for the various events we organise. The system comes with a module that gives parents access to view and maintain their own child's data – that module is called the 'Parent Portal'. You may hear us talk about either OSM or Parent Portal – we're referring to the same system.

As a parent / guardian, you will receive an email to start using OSM within a week or so of joining. The email will contain a link to the Parent Portal that is unique to your child. Since OSM is a web page which is mobile-friendly, you can add it to your mobile phone easily by browsing to it and then saving it as a bookmark on your homescreen. You may also want to give the link to your child so that they can track their badgework progress, but note that the personal medical information that you provide about them is also accessible to them if you do this.

You will need your child's Date of Birth to first access their information. If you are unable to login, it may be that we have the wrong DOB in the system. Please let us know so that we can correct it.

Emergency Information

Once you receive the email with a link to OSM, we ask that you go in and review / update your child's information as soon as possible. Please give as much information as possible and try to give alternate contacts in case we can't get hold of you. If your child has just come up from Cubs, pay particular attention to school, email addresses and phone numbers which may have become old and out of date since your child joined cubs.

We are not able to administer painkillers or elastoplast plasters without your permission. If you would like us to administer these if needed, please answer yes where prompted.

Asthma Inhalers

If your child has an Asthma inhaler, we ask that you **provide the Troop with a spare inhaler** (or inhalers if you have both blue and brown) within a week or two of joining.

Please provide an inhaler with a fresh shelf-life. Doctors will provide a copy prescription on request for organisations such as schools and youth organisations. If you have difficulty getting a prescription please confirm your doctor's name and we will contact them directly.

Please note that it is **mandatory** that Scout Leaders are provided with a spare **copy of your child's inhaler** which we will keep in case it is needed.

- It is not enough that a child carries their own inhaler, we must have a copy.
- If your child has been prescribed an inhaler even without a diagnosis of asthma, or only seasonal asthma, then we still need a copy.
- If your child no longer has Asthma and does not require an inhaler anymore, please update their medical information by setting 'Has Asthma' to 'No' in OSM.

EPI Pens

The same requirements that apply for Asthma Inhalers also apply to those who have Epi Pens.

If your child has an Epi Pen, we ask that you **provide the Troop with a spare pen** within a week or two of joining.

Please provide one with a fresh shelf-life. Doctors will provide a copy prescription on request for organisations such as schools and youth organisations. If you have difficulty getting a prescription please confirm your doctor's name and we will contact them directly.

Please note that it is mandatory that Scout Leaders are provided with a spare copy of your child's Epi Pen which we will keep in case it is needed.

It is not enough that a child carries their own, we must have a copy.

If your child is no longer allergic and does not require an Epi Pen anymore, please update their medical information by setting 'Has Epi Pen' to 'No' in My.Scout.

Uniform



Scouts are a uniformed organisation. Once a scout has been invested, they must wear full uniform at each weekly meeting. Occasionally due to activities, we will have a uniform free day. These will be notified in advance.

Below is a list of the uniform required. A rough price is given, however this varies year to year and depending on where you buy it.

Item	Comment	Rough cost
Scout Shirt	Green	£21.00
Neckie	Light blue / Orange.	This is supplied by troop at no cost to the scout.
Scout Woggle		£3.00
Lanyard		£2.75
Scout Belt		£18.00
Kilt	Hunting Stewart tartan	This is rented to you by the troop for a one-off fee of £35. When your child has outgrown it, we will replace it. The kilt remains the property of the Scout Group and you must return it in good condition when your child leaves the Group. If you have already paid your fee when your child started in the Cubs, there is no need to pay a further fee. Damaged kilts will incur up to £35 replacement fee.
Sporran	Boys Only	£20. Please note sporrans often need repair. Where a sporran has been provided by the Troop, since we provide these at cost price, we do not accept returns.
Kilt Socks	Green	£9.99
Sock Flashes	Green	£5.95
School Shoes		
Badges		These are supplied by the troop at no cost to the scout.

Uniform is available from various places as listed below, however leaders visit the Scout Shop in Glasgow most weeks and so we keep a stock of most items. **It is normally faster and easier buy from the Scout Leader.** An order form is included on the next page if you prefer this method. We do not charge for this service and make no money from it.

Glasgow Scout Shop

21 Elmbank St

Glasgow

G2 4PB

Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9.00am - 5.30pm

Thursday 9.00am - 6.00pm

Saturday - 9.00am - 5.00pm

Tel. 0141 248 5941

Online Shop: <http://www.glasgowscoutshop.com>

Smiths of Greenock

36 West Blackhall St

Greenock

PA15 1UU

Tel. 01475 888 555

Online Shop:

<http://www.smithsofgreenock.com>

Scout Uniform Order Form



Name of Scout: _____

Please provide the following items:

Scout Shirt (£21 - we'll choose the best size)

Woggle (£3.00)

Lanyard (£2.55)

Green Kilt Socks (£9.99) **Shoe Size:** _____

Sock Flashes (£5.95)

Sporrans (£20)

Please note sporrans very often need repair. Since we provide these at cost price, **we do not accept returns.**

Belt (£18)

Waist: _____

Kilt (£35 rental)

As per previous page, kilts are rented for the time your child is in the Scout Group. They can take several weeks to arrive. Kilts remain the property of the Scout Group.

Signed:

Please provide payment when ordering. We take card payments.

Kilts are often ordered to size and so can take several weeks to arrive.

Badge Positions



You Can Help Too

If you feel you might be in a position to help Inverkip Scouts at meetings and/or events please indicate using this form:

I can occasionally help with: Transport Activities Camps Other

OR

I am interested in becoming a leader

(Please give me more information on the

4 week challenge to try out a leader role):

Beavers Cubs Scouts Explorers

I can share the following skills, interests and resources:

Full Name:

Contact Details:

The Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003

The Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 places legal obligations on The Scout Association to check adults volunteering / offering to work in a child care role against the Disqualified from Working with Children List. In order to comply, all adults that wish to help in Scouting on a regular basis, as Warranted Leaders or Certificated Section Assistants, will be subject to an enhanced level criminal record check by way of Disclosure Scotland.

The requirement to check occasional parent helpers against the List is dependent on the roles and responsibilities they may offer to take on. The section leader will discuss this further with you. Whilst an enhanced level criminal record check may not be required for every parent helper, we nevertheless seek your cooperation by completing the self-declaration statement below, confirming that you are not included on any List that disqualifies you from working with children.

All information is treated in strictest confidence in accordance with a defined code of practice. The Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 makes it a criminal offence for an individual to apply for, offer to do, accept, or do any work in a child care position, if they are already disqualified from working with children. A person is disqualified from working with children if they are included in any of the lists detailed as follows:

- The Disqualified from Working with Children List established under Section 1 (1) of the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003
- List kept under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act (1999)
- On List 99 (Prohibition from Teaching)
- Subject to a Disqualification order. (Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000)

I _____ confirm that I am not included on any of the above lists and am not subject to any

disqualifications set out in the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003. I understand that deliberately giving false information can result in prosecution.

Signed: _____ Date: _____