

2nd Onchan Scout Group

PHOENIX TROOP



JOINING THE SCOUT TROOP

This booklet has been put together as a reference for Scouts and their parents. It contains information about a host of relevant things about the Scouts, and about 2nd Onchan Scouts Phoenix Troop in particular. It isn't really intended to be read from cover to cover, instead, to be dipped into when required.

What is Scouting?

Scouting is a world-wide uniformed movement with the aim of developing young people into responsible citizens. This is carried out through fun, challenging and adventurous activities. A Scout Group can consist of up to four sections:

- Beaver Scouts (for boys & girls aged 6 to 8 years of age).
- Cub Scouts (for boys & girls aged 8 to 10½).
- Scouts (for boys & girls aged 10½ to 14½).
- Explorer Scouts (for young men and women aged 14 to 18).

Membership in the 2nd Onchan Scout Group is open to both boys and girls.

The Group owns its own Headquarters in School Road, Onchan and also Leases a Bunkhouse, Watertrough Cottage, in South Barrule Plantation.



Promise and Law

The underlying values of Scouting are written in the Promise and Law. Scouts are asked to accept this as a list of values before they are invested as members of the Troop.

The Scout Promise:

On my honour, 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 Scout Law.

The Scout Law:

- 1) A Scout is to be trusted.
- 2) A Scout is loyal.
- 3) A Scout is friendly and considerate.
- 4) A Scout belongs to the world-wide family of Scouts.
- 5) A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
- 6) A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
- 7) A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

Membership of the Troop

The Scout Section is open to boys aged between 10½ and 14½ years of age. 2nd Onchan is an open Group; this means that it is not sponsored by any church or school and membership is open to any boy or girl of the appropriate age. In reality, the intake to the Troop is limited by the overall number of boys & girls already in the Troop. The Troop is maintained at between 22 - 30 members.

- When places become available, they are offered to boys & girls following these criteria:
- Cub Scouts from both 2nd Onchan Cub Packs

when they reach 10½ years.

- Boys & girls who move into the area who are already Scouts in a different Troop.
- Boys & girls whose parents are Leaders/Helpers in the Scout Group, or whose parents take an active role on the Group Executive Committee.
- Younger brothers or sisters of Scouts.
- Any other boys or girls of the appropriate age, in order of date of their entry to the waiting list.

The Group's Leaders

Almost all adults in Scouting, including uniformed Leaders, are volunteers - that is, they give their time for free. The Scout Leader has overall responsibility for the Scout Troop, and the activities which members take part in. The services of others are often sought for instruction in particular activities such as climbing and canoeing. The Scout Leader delegates responsibilities to Assistant Leaders and to Scouts themselves when appropriate.

Each Section (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) has its own team of Leaders and they are run independently, although links do exist between all the parts of the Group. The Group Scout Leader, Julian Ashcroft, provides support for all the Sections and is charged with the task of developing Scouting throughout the Group. In addition to the uniformed Leaders, there is a dedicated team of adults who are responsible for keeping the Group running through such activities as fund raising and maintaining the Group's

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equipment and buildings. The efforts of these people are co-ordinated by the Group Chairman.

Behaviour and Discipline

One of the ingredients of a good Scout Troop is underlying discipline. All members are expected to behave well and appropriately. This is essential and inappropriate behaviour will not be accepted. Generally, minor incidents will be dealt with by a telling off. More serious examples, such as bullying, will result in the child's parents being contacted, and the Scout possibly being asked not to attend Scouts for a period of time. These measures may seem obvious, but we feel it important that all Scouts are aware of what is expected of them. Patrol Leaders and other older Scouts in particular will be asked to set a good example to the younger members of the Troop.



Informing You

Scouts and parents are automatically sent copies of letters about camps and trips when the information becomes available. This is usually distributed at Scout Meetings, but sometimes sent by post. Please encourage your child to always give his letters to you to read with him. As well as the information about Scout Camps and Trips. We also hope to use email as a way of keeping Scouts informed of relevant Scouting Information.

Uniform

Scouts is a uniformed organisation. All Scouts are expected to wear uniform for Troop Meetings, when arriving and departing from events and for Parades. Scouts should take pride in their uniform and do their best to look smart. Uniform consists of:

- Teal Green Scout Shirt
- Black Scarf with yellow border
- Leather Woggle
- Scout Activity Trousers
- Leather Scout Belt
- Black or brown leather shoes

Uniform is available from the Island Scout Headquarters at Cunningham House, which is located on Murrays Road, Douglas. The Scout Shop is open Saturdays (10:00 - 12:00 & 14:00 - 16:00) and Tuesdays (17:30 - 19:30).

On normal Scout Meeting Nights, we do however allow Scouts to wear trainers rather than shoes.

Commitment and Obligations

Members of 2nd Onchan Scouts Phoenix Troop are expected to take an active role in the activities of the Troop. The following should be considered the minimum commitment from a Scout:

- Attend all Scout Meetings unless ill or away.
- Take part in at least one overnight event each term.
- Take part in St George's Day Parade in April.
- Attend the Civic Sunday Parade in May.

- Attend the Remembrance Day Service in November.

A large number of events are organised for the Scouts in the Troop. It is hoped that Scouts will want to take advantage of the activities on offer to them. If Scouts have to miss meetings due to schoolwork or sports commitments, they should talk to the Scout Leader. Scouts that miss three meetings in any month may forfeit their place in the Troop unless they contact the Scout Leader.

Parental Responsibilities

It is hoped that parents of Scouts will want to support their son's Scout Group. There are many ways in which this support can be given:

Transport for your child to venues for camps & meetings.
In payment for trips and subscriptions.
By buying uniform.
By supporting the Group's fund raising activities.
Attending the Group's A.G.M.

The Patrol System

The Scouts in the Troop are organised into Patrols, named after animals. Each Patrol contains between 5 and 8 Scouts. New entrants to the Troop choose an existing Patrol to join. Each Patrol has a Patrol Leader who is chosen by the Patrol Leaders Forum in conjunction with the Scout Leader. The Patrol Leader works with the adult Leaders to plan the activities for the Troop. In addition, older Scouts help to train the younger members of the Troop. At camp, Patrols work as a unit, camping together and usually taking part in the activities on offer as a Patrol. If, for any reason, your

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child is unhappy in their Patrol please contact the Scout Leader.

Scout Meetings

The Scout Troop meets on a Tuesday night. Meetings start at 19:00 and finish at 21:00, unless otherwise informed. Scouts are asked to arrive by 18:55, so that Flag Break can take place at 19:00.

Some Meetings may take place at venues other than at the Scout Headquarters in School Road and parents are asked to make their own transport arrangements if possible. If this proves difficult then the Scout Leader can usually help find a lift. All Troop members are expected to attend regularly.

Financial Matters

Scouting costs money. The Leaders do their best to offer quality Scouting for the lowest possible cost.

Subscriptions

The main source of income for the Group is the Membership Subscription paid by all members. Subs are currently paid on a Term basis and are £22.00 per Term, for the first child and £17.00 for any other children from the same family which are also in the Group. Subscription Forms are sent out at the first Meeting of each Term, we would ask that they are paid as promptly as possible.

Sometimes, we ask for a contribution towards activities undertaken over and above the 'normal' Troop night events. This can be a fee for a term or for a particular event. We hope parents appreciate the need for us to ask for a little extra on occasions to help pay for the

extensive range of activities undertaken.

Uniform

Scouts are asked to own a complete uniform. Sometimes, second hand uniform is available. Please ask for help if required.

Camps and Trips

Payment for camps usually consists of a deposit when a Scout signs up for a trip and then a balance closer to the event. Deposits are NOT refundable. They are often used to pay for buildings and transport many months in advance. It is sometimes possible to refund the balance for a camp if a child falls ill, however, this depends on the nature of the trip and the number of participants. Without a deposit being paid, unless arrangements have been made with the Scout Leader, a place will not be reserved on ANY activity.

Financial Help

Scouting is for all children, regardless of their background. Financial help is available to allow Scouts to attend camps who would otherwise be unable to take part. Please contact a leader in the strictest of confidence if we can offer help in any way.

Cheques should be made payable to: *2nd Onchan Scout Group*.

Activities and Supervision

Part of the appeal of Scouting is the provision of adventurous activities whether they be canoeing, climbing or a walk around a campsite in the dark. The Scout Association has strict rules regulating these activities and when appropriate trained instructors are used for

activities. As children get older, they are encouraged to take a leadership role in the Scout Troop. This is always done under the overall supervision of the Scout Leader, again following nationally set guidelines. Generally, camps and events run for the whole Troop are organised with the other Scouts in liaison with the Leaders, whereas smaller Patrol events are organised more by the Scouts. In the documentation circulated to parents about particular events, the level of supervision will always be made clear. From time to time, training will be arranged in some outdoor sports, such as canoeing, to allow children to gain their own qualifications. On all Scout events, a first aid kit is carried and most Leaders are trained in first aid.

Equipment for Camping

Most expensive camping equipment, such as tents and stoves, are owned by the Scout Group. However, Scouts are asked to own some items of camping equipment which we are unable to provide for every Scout. A full kit list is issued for camps and trips. The equipment listed below has been split into 3 categories.

Essential items:

- Sleeping bag.
- Strong boots or shoes.
- A set of lightweight waterproofs (jacket & trousers).
- Plastic mug/plate/bowl.
- Knife/fork/spoon.
- Warm jumpers.

Desirable items:

- Foam sleeping mat .
- Good quality torch.
- Small day rucksack.

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Nice to have but not too important:

- A good penknife.
- Warm sleeping bag (2/3 season).

Equipment for Hiking

One of the most popular activities in Scouts is hiking and mountaineering. The following list provides details of the kind of equipment Scouts should own or have access to for taking part in these activities. The equipment listed should be considered the minimum; there are other things which are useful which Scouts will learn about with experience.

For all hikes

- Hiking boots.
- Waterproof jacket & trousers.
- Small day rucksack.
- Strong 1 litre water bottle.
- Whistle.
- Thick socks (2 pairs).

For lightweight camping when tents are carried:

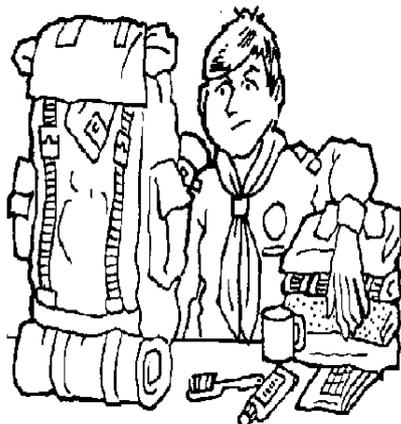
- Larger rucksack, around 40-60 litres capacity.
- Fairly small sleeping bag.

For winter hiking:

- Unbreakable thermos flask.

Also nice, but not essential:

- Silva type compass.
- Fleece jacket.
- Gaiters.



Badges Available

Scouts work towards many badges during their time in Scouts.

Moving On Award

If a boy or girl joins the Troop from the Cub Scouts the first badge they will go for is the Moving On Award, which is the link badge between the sections in the Group. This is usually awarded when they are invested as a Scout.

Challenge Awards

The main badges worked for are the Challenge Awards, which consist of the Outdoor Challenge, Outdoor Plus Challenge, Community Challenge, Creative Challenge, Fitness Challenge, Adventure Challenge, Global Challenge and the Expedition Challenge. These badges are usually done in small groups of Scouts and we aim to offer a choice of three different Challenge Badges, for the Scouts to complete one of, each term.

