

Facts and figures about Scouting



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0845 300 1818

1. Scouting is the UK's biggest co-educational youth movement. Each week a total of 450,418 people in the UK are involved in Scouting activities. It offers young people aged 6 to 25 and adult volunteers the experience of a lifetime. Call 0845 300 1818 to find out how to join or volunteer some time to Scouting!
2. The Aim of Scouting is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.
3. Scouting provides activities and development opportunities for young people, regardless of religion, race, social or economic background. Outdoor activities such as camping, hiking expeditions, water activities and adventure are still very much at the heart of Scouting.
4. In 2007, Scouting is looking forward to celebrating its centenary in style with events and activities around the world!
5. Worldwide, 28 million members are involved in 216 countries and territories. Over two-thirds of worldwide membership operate in developing countries.
6. Total youth membership in the UK is 360,863. This includes 98,370 Beaver Scouts, 137,612 Cub Scouts, 97,863 Scouts, 25,136 Explorer Scouts and 1,882 Scout Network members.
7. In 2004, the adult membership numbers 89,623. This includes Leaders, Instructors, Commissioners and Administrators.
8. There are a total of 24,179 Section units operating: 6874 Beaver Scout Colonies, 8,413 Cub Scout Packs and 6,789 Scout Troops. At District level, there are 1,861 Explorer Scout Units with 242 Scout Networks at County level. All figures sourced from Census 2004
9. The Scout Association's main training programmes cover the 6 to 25 year age range in five Sections. In 1991 Scouting became fully co-educational; girls have been part of the older Sections since 1976.
10. The youngest Members of the Movement are the 6-8 year-old Beaver Scouts.
11. Cub Scouts are 8-10½ year olds, who belong to a Cub Scout Pack under the guidance of their Cub Scout Leader or 'Akela'. Scouts are aged 10½-14 years, and belong to a Troop under the guidance of a Scout Leader.

The Scout Information Centre

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12. Explorer Scouts are aged 14-18 years, and belong to District Units. Scout Network is for 18 to 25-year-olds.
13. Sea Scout and Air Scout Branches of the Movement cater for Scouts and Explorer Scouts especially interested in water and aviation activities.
14. The Scout Movement has a Law and a Promise at its foundation, which applies to every country, with appropriate modifications to meet the requirements of religion, faith or consideration. Open to all faiths, Scouting takes account of the different religious obligations of its Members while upholding the essential spirit of the Promise. Alternative wordings are available to accommodate all.
15. Scouting is a truly international Movement. Every year around 20,000 UK Scouts travel abroad to countries such as El Salvador, Romania, Thailand and Zambia. Scouts take part in a wide range of challenging and community-based projects such as building clinics, providing basic education - and climbing mountains!
16. International Jamborees, usually held every four years, involve as many as 35,000 Scouts from around the world, who all camp together!
17. The summer of 2005 in the UK will be marked by Eurojam with 20,000 Scouts aged 11-18 camping, living and learning from each other. Many will form international friendships that will last a lifetime.
18. In 2007 Scouting celebrate its 100th anniversary. The UK will be hosting a World Jamboree at Hylands Park, Chelmsford in Essex with 40,000 Scouts from around the globe.
19. Robert Baden-Powell (1857-1941), an unconventional but highly decorated soldier, began The Scout Movement in 1907 following an experimental camp for 20 boys on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour on the south coast of England. He later became Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Chief Scout of the World.
20. The subsequent publication of 'Scouting for Boys' by Baden-Powell early in 1908, attracted intense interest from boys ... and girls, who gained their own Movement, the Girl Guides, in 1910. It is now known as Girlguiding UK.
21. The Queen's Scout Award is the premier training attainment for UK Scouts. Formerly the King's Scout Award, it was introduced in 1909. Since then at least 100,000 have been awarded, to those who have achieved its exacting requirements.
22. Gilwell Park, on the north-eastern outskirts of London, is the UK Headquarters of The Scout Association. Apart from its Programme and Training Team, it accommodates a small team of people that provides professional services to the Movement such as Finance, Legal, International liaison, Development, Public Relations, Human Resources and Secretarial.
23. Baden-Powell House in London provides hostel accommodation for up to 180 visitors from around the globe.