

Dear Parents / Carers

### **Safely resuming face-to-face Scouts outdoors**

I'm pleased to be able to let you know that we're now able to restart running outdoor face-to-face activities at Scouts from 21 September 2020. Given the fact that we're still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, there'll be some restrictions on what we do and how we do it. This will not be 'normal scouting' but it will be 'scouting'.

This letter will let you know the steps we've taken to make sure we keep everyone safe.

Firstly, anyone with COVID-19 symptoms shouldn't come to any face-to-face activities, and should follow government guidelines on self-isolation and testing.

Secondly, young people who are shielding or are in another vulnerable group might not be able to return to face-to-face activities at this stage. If your child's shielding or in another vulnerable group, please contact me directly so we can discuss the options.

We're also aware some young people, including young people with additional needs, might need new or different reasonable adjustments putting in place to support a return to face-to-face Scouts – again, I'm happy to discuss this with you.

I'd also like to let you know some of the updates to our arrangements for making sure our outdoor activities will be COVID-19 safe.

#### **Arrival and departure arrangements**

- Under the regulations we are limited to a group size of 20 (including leaders). Therefore we will be splitting the Troop into two groups so that each scout will meet every-other-week. On the 'off-week' there will be Zoom meetings or challenges to complete. The group will be split in an age appropriate way.
- Arrival and departure times at the hall will remain the same i.e. 7pm – 9pm. Zoom meetings will be shorter (7pm - 8pm).
- On arrival at the hall there will be a line of cones – the drop off line. We would be grateful if no parent / carer crosses this line without agreement from myself or the leader in charge.

#### **Hand sanitisation, hygiene and personal protective equipment**

- Alcohol based gel will be available and we will be ensuring it is used regularly, along with handwashing. Importantly anyone crossing the drop-off line must sanitise their hands and hands must be washed after using the toilet facilities.

#### **Social distancing**

- All scouts should keep 2m away from other scouts where possible and 2m away from leaders at all times.

#### **Other measures in place**

- Currently we are only able to meet at East Goscote Scout Hall. We are working on ways we can safely visit other locations and will update you when this is possible.
- Currently scouts are only allowed into the building to use the toilet facilities or if they have to be isolated in the isolation room. We will have gazebos erected outside to use as our central base. We are not currently allowed to put the sides onto the gazebos so all scouts should come dressed in weather appropriate clothing for the evening. Uniforms should not be worn. Weather permitting East Goscote t-shirts should be worn.
- All equipment will be used, disinfected and quarantined in accordance with government recommendations.
- All leaders are trained in basic first-aid. There will be first-aid kits present with PPE in them and we will have an isolation room available should any scout or leader develop COVID-19 symptoms whilst at scouts.
- All scouts must bring a full water bottle for use during the evening. We will not supply drinks. These bottles should be named and must not be shared.
- All scouts should bring a camp / deck chair for use during the evening. Again these should not be shared.
- We strongly encourage scouts not to car share with anyone outside of their household / bubble whilst travelling to and from a Troop meeting.

#### **Permission to attend**

- You need to confirm that you understand the new measures in place and are happy for your child to resume coming to outdoor meetings before they can attend.
- This approval should be via OSM. If you have any problems with this please contact me. We will also be re-starting subs collection from October.

Finally, we're required to keep a register of those attending to help with the track and trace process. This is in addition to our normal attendance records.

We're all looking forward to getting outdoor activities back up and running again, so we can gain more skills and have more fun together. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns. We also plan to chat with the young people themselves about this too, and will be available to answer questions during the evenings.

A copy of our full risk assessment for restarting is available on our new website: <https://www.eastgoscotescouts.org.uk/>

Look forward to seeing you soon!

Best wishes,

Phil

Phillip Bott  
Scout Section Leader