



Welcome to the 9th Barking & Dagenham Scouts



Index

- General Information
- What is Scouting?
- Promise & Law
- Uniform
- Patrols
- Badges & Awards
- Troop Night Programme
- Running a Scout Section
- The Groups Leaders
- Behaviour & Discipline
- A Scout's Obligations
- Parental Support – We Need You!
- Financial Matters
- Camps & Trips
- Activities & Supervision
- Group Newsletter – Akela's Shout
- Other Sections
- District & Special Events
- Equipment and Personal Gear
- Questions & Answers
- Contact Details & Websites
- Please Complete This Slip

General Information

This information pack has been compiled as an introduction for Parents containing information about Scouting and the 9th Barking & Dagenham Scout Troop.

The 9th Barking & Dagenham Scouts meet every Tuesday Evening from 8:00 – 10:00 p.m. at St. Elisabeth's Church Hall, Wood Lane, Dagenham (nr. Martins Corner).

Please take the time to read the information in this pack as it is there for your information and contains some important points to note.

When you have read all of this pack please complete the slip at the end and return it to a leader.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact any of the leaders.

What is Scouting?

Scouting is an international, uniformed, youth movement. It is divided into several main sections

- Beaver Scouts 6-8 years of age.
- Scouts 8-10½ years of age.
- Scouts 10½-14 years of age.
- Explorer Scouts 14-18 years of age
- Scout Network 18-25 years of age

The aims of scouting are clearly stated but can be basically surmised as providing an opportunity for young people to develop, to learn and to enjoy themselves. Scouting can offer a wide range of skills and services and is open to any young person, of any creed or colour, mental or physical capabilities and of any sex. (The 9th Barking & Dagenham accepts girls as well as boys).

All Scout sections rely upon a balanced programme. There are Challenge badges that complement the balanced programme. These have been developed to extend Scouts' skills and experience. The Challenges are optional and continue throughout the Sections providing continuity from 6 to 25. There are 70 Activity badges specially designed for the Scout section, along with the four Staged badges. Additionally there are three awards to be completed in association with other sections of the Group. The Chief Scout's Gold Award is the highest award in the Scout section.

Scouting is not just about schemes, awards and badges. The 'games' and adventurous activities are very important to scouting, not just because they are enjoyable, but because they are also important in the young persons development. If you still have any doubts or questions about Scouting, please speak to one of the leaders or take a look at one of the websites.

Promise & Law

The important underlying values of Scouting are surmised in the Scout Promise and Law. Each member 'agrees' to these values when they are 'Invested'.

The Scout Promise - I promise that I will do my best
to do my duty to my God and to The Queen
to help other people and to obey the Scout Law

The Scout Law - A Scout is to be trusted.
A Scout is loyal.
A Scout is friendly and considerate.
A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.
A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
A Scout has self-respect and respect for others..

Uniform

Scouting is a uniformed organisation. All Scouts are expected (indeed are required) 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 after the uniform and to look smart. Scouts are not expected to wear a uniform until they have been 'invested' (officially joined the troop). The uniform is available from many local stores, and from the group itself. If you want any details on prices or where to obtain the uniform, please ask one of the leaders.

Scout Uniform consists of :

- Teal Green Scout Shirt (& optional Group T-Shirt)
- Group Maroon Scarf
- Woggle
- Black Trousers (school style)
- Black Shoes
- Pen/Pencil, Paper, 2 Handkerchiefs & Folder
- Scout Belt
- Scout Record Book
- Scout Matrix (available from the group at £10)

Optional items include a 9th Barking & Dagenham Group T-Shirt, blue Scout activity trousers and a group cap. All uniform and related items are available through the group, please speak to a leader for more details.

Patrols

The Scouts meet in a group called a Troop. The leader of the Scout section is often called 'Skip' or 'Skipper' although currently the same leaders who run the Cub section run our Scout section. This means you may hear the Scouts calling the leaders such strange names as 'Akela', 'Mr T' or 'Baggy'!

At the beginning and end of each Troop meeting the Scouts hold a Flagbreak and Flagdown.

The Scouts in the Troop are organised into Patrols. Each patrol has their own name and a badge on their arm to identify their patrol (e.g. Wolves and Cheetahs). Each patrol will contain approximately six Scouts of a range of ages. New Scouts will usually be put into a patrol where they know at least one other Scout.

Each patrol has a 'Patrol Leader' who is 'in charge' of the patrol. He/She is helped by an 'Assistant Patrol Leader'. A Scout is not usually made up to a PL or APL unless they have shown their competence and good behaviour.

If your child is unhappy with any aspect of their patrol, or if they have a problem with any other members of the Troop, please let one of the leaders know.

Badges & Awards

Scouts will work towards many badges during their time in the Troop. The Scout Matrix and Record Book have detailed information about these badges and their requirements. A Scout may begin working towards badges as soon as they first come to the Troop. Badges will not be worn until they are invested, and then they will be worn on the uniform. The various badges will involve work at the Troop meeting, sometimes work at special events or camps, and also a certain amount of work to be completed at home. If your child wishes to undertake any of the badgework, please discuss it with a leader.

Troop Night Programme

The Scout Section works to a loose program each night.

8:00 p.m.	Inspection/Subs.
8:05 p.m.	Award Work
8:35 p.m.	Flag
8:40 p.m.	Game
9:00 p.m.	Drink
9:10 p.m.	Proficiency Badge Work
9:35 p.m.	Game
9:50 p.m.	Patrols/Notices/Flag Down/Dismiss

Come in and see what happens if you want to know more!

The Scouts will be inspected each week for their uniform and general appearance. These scores are totalled monthly and yearly, with a trophy and prize going to the highest scoring Scout each time. The words 'Games' and 'Work' are used loosely as all of the nights activities are presented in a fun and interesting way. Often the Scouts will be playing a 'Game' whilst learning some important scouting skills, or they may be doing some really enjoyable 'Work' without realising it. If you have any questions regarding the Troop night programme please come and ask one of the leaders, perhaps you could even ask to stay for a night to see what they get up to!

Running a Scout Section

The Scout section runs on a patrol system. The Scouts themselves are given responsibility for planning and executing much of the day to day running of the Troop nights and certain events. Patrol Leaders play an important part in this role and are expected to maintain the standards of the Troop. The Patrol Leaders meet with the leaders to plan the programme every few months and to help plan events, trips and camps. All events and each Troop night is ably supervised by the Scout leaders with the leaders aiming to help the Scouts to take responsibility and develop their own skills.

The Groups Leaders

(Almost) all adults in Scouting, including Uniformed Leaders are volunteers. They give their time for free, they do not get paid. The leaders at the 9th Barking & Dagenham are all experienced leaders and have been in the Scouting movement for, oooh, far too long! All of the leaders are committed to the enjoyment and teaching of the kids and give up a great deal of their spare time, effort and money in order to achieve this.

A uniformed leader, and indeed any form of 'helper' or leader at the group, has to complete a form which is sent to the local District Commissioner where checks are made to ascertain the individuals suitability for working with young people. Uniformed leaders have to attend an appointments committee meeting before being awarded their 'Warrant'. They also have to attend a series of training courses before they gain their 'Wood Badge'.

The Scout Leader (**Akela – Rosemary Oakwell**) has overall responsibility for the Scout Troop and the activities which members take part in. The services of others may be sought for instruction in particular activities such as First Aid, Climbing etc. The Scout leader delegates responsibilities to Assistant Leaders (**Bagheera – Darren Dowling, Shere Khan – Steve Martin**) and helpers. Older Scouts may be asked to help at times as well.

Each section (Beavers, Scouts or Scouts) has its own team of leaders and they are run independently, although there are close links with all the sections in the Group. The Group Scout Leader (**Mr. T. - Ken Thompson**) 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 (**see We Need You!**) who are responsible for keeping the Group running through such activities as fund-raising and maintaining the Group's equipment. The efforts of all these people are co-ordinated by the Group's Chairman.

Note: Currently the 9th does not have a dedicated Scout leader (and has not had one for many years!). The Scout section is run by Akela (who is the Cub Scout Leader of the 9th but also a Scout Leader of a different troop in Romford), Bagheera (who is the Assistant Cub Scout Leader of the 9th but also District Scout Leader for Barking & Dagenham) with the assistance of Steve Martin and Mr T. So although we do not have a dedicated Scout leader the Scout section and the group does not suffer in any way.

Behaviour & Discipline

All Scouts are expected to behave well and appropriately. Inappropriate behaviour will not be accepted. Generally speaking, minor incidents will be dealt with by the leaders or appropriate Patrol Leader (e.g. A simple 'telling off', sitting out the game, extra work). More serious examples, in particular bullying and fighting, will result in the Scout's parents being contacted and, depending upon the circumstances, suspension for a number of weeks. Older Scouts, and in particular PL's and APL's, will be expected to set a good example to younger members of the Troop.

Occasionally we will have members in the Troop with special needs. If your child requires any additional help with any activity, or has any particular needs please speak to one of the leaders.

A Scout's Obligations

Members of the 9th Dagenham Scout 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 Church Parade
- Take part in St. George's Day Parade in April
- Take part in Founders Day service in February
- Attend at least two Scouting events during the year

If a Scout has to miss meetings due to any other commitments, they should talk to one of the leaders.

A large number of other events are organised for the Scouts throughout the year, and it is hoped that Scouts will attend most, if not all of these events in order to take advantage of the wide range of opportunities available. (see **District Events** at the end of this Troop and the upcoming events in the newsletter, **Akela's Shout**).

Parental Support – We Need You!

Help is need in many areas and your support is essential if the group is to continue running as it should. The weight of responsibility should not fall on the heads of a few volunteers, and your child will also benefit from a demonstration of your commitment to the Troop as well as their own.

Parents are asked to help in any manner they can. This means the small details at the very least, like ensuring that their child arrives in time for the Troop meetings, helping out on a Troop night by setting up the tables or perhaps helping to clear up for a week or two. Ideally we would like your help in many other areas. If you wish to help out at a Troop night or special event, please speak to one of the leaders as you may have to complete a clearance form for the Scout Association to ensure the safety of all members of the Troop.

All parents are invited (and expected to attend) the Annual General Meeting, the exact times and dates of which will be circulated in advance. This is extremely important as it is when the Committee is elected and the Fund Raising committee is organised. Important details on what is happening in the group are discussed and it gives you the chance to air your views and put forward your suggestions.

Fund Raising is a very important part of 'Behind-the-scenes' scouting and unfortunately often falls upon the shoulders of the same few parents (and often just the leaders!) who are willing to give a little time and effort to keep the group running. All parents are encouraged to come forward with ideas and offers of help regarding fund raising. The group has its own minibus and a great deal of camping and scouting equipment that cost a sizeable sum of money to maintain, in addition to the nominal amount to keep each section running. If you have any questions or suggestions please speak to one of the leaders.

All Parents are asked to be vigilant in bringing their children directly into the building and ensuring a leader knows they have arrived, and also to collect them promptly from within the hall.

Financial Matters

Our Scout Group is administered and run by the Group Council, or parent committee, which is made up of the parents of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The main task that faces the committee is that of fund-raising. As a parent of a Group member, you are automatically a member of the Group Council and at our Group AGM, usually held during May each year, you have the right to elect members to serve on the Group Council Executive Committee, which is the workhorse of the Group Council.

We are a voluntary organisation, which receives no financial support from local or central Government. We must raise all funds ourselves, which is sometimes a very daunting task. We have to rely heavily on the support of parents in all our fund-raising efforts. As a parent of a Scout we shall be looking for your support, not only in fund-raising, but also as a member of the Group Council, we would be looking to you to serve on the Executive Committee sometime in the future.

The Leaders do their best to offer quality scouting for the lowest possible cost. The main source of income is the membership subscriptions paid by all members. This is currently taking in the form of weekly 'Subs' of £2 per week for Scouts. This subscription not only covers the basic costs of the sections but a sizeable chunk of this goes to the Scout Association to pay for the S.A. 'Insurance' for each member of the group. This will cover each member at any scouting event.

Camps and some special events will also require a certain cost to be covered. Costs vary and details will be circulated in the Group Newsletter, Akela's Shout well in advance of the date. For camps we run a 'Camp Bank' whereby the cost can be spread out in small payments over a number of weeks. Please ask for details.

If you have any difficulty with payment or have any questions about what happens to the money you pay in to the group, please feel free to ask one of the leaders for a discrete and private talk.

Camps & Trips

Throughout the year there will normally be many opportunities for the Scouts to enjoy a camp or a special 'trip' out. Over the last few years the 9th Scouts have been camping regularly. Last year they had the chance to attend no less than 9 camps (including two week camps) and a similar number will be available in the next year.

Each camp requires a form to be completed and signed (a copy of which is available from the leaders) and all other single events and day trips will require a second permission form.

Payment for camps usually consists of a deposit when a Scout signs up and then a balance closer to the event. Deposits are not refundable and no discounts can be offered if the Scout cannot attend all days of a particular camp. The deposits are often used to pay for buildings and transport months in advance.

Cheques should be made payable to : 9th Barking & Dagenham Scout Group

Activities & Supervision

An important part of the appeal of Scouting is the provision of adventurous activities. The Scout Association has strict rules regulating these activities and, when appropriate, trained instructors are used for these activities. Adventurous activities or trips are often organised throughout the year as part of the Scouts programme and there will occasionally be an extra charge for certain events. When camping, full details and a full kit list will be issued prior to the event.

Leaders have to follow and abide by the rules and guidelines laid down in the Scout Association publication 'Policy, Organisation & Rules.'

If you wish to see a copy of P.O.R., or a copy of the Pack night programme, or if you wish to know more about this subject please feel free to ask one of the leaders.

Group Newsletter – Akela’s Shout

The Group publishes its own newsletter which is distributed to parents of members of all the sections. The newsletter contains a wide variety of information, from regular details on upcoming events, to reports and follow ups on past events. The members of the group contribute to the newsletter themselves and it often contains some excellent articles from the youngsters themselves.

Anyone is free to offer contributions, and all sensible contributions will be put into the newsletter. If you wish to make a contribution or if you have any questions please speak to Baggy (Bagheera).

It is vital that you read the newsletter each month.

Other Sections

When a Scout approaches the age of 14 they will begin to look towards moving up to the next section, Explorer Scouts. Initially they will be asked to participate in a 6-week transition period where they attend both Scouts and Explorer Scouts. Explorer Scouts are run by the District (Barking & Dagenham Scouts) and provide a programme to challenge and develop young adults. More information is available from the Scout Leader.

District & Special Events

Throughout the year there is a wide programme of activities and events available to Scouts. These will often be District Events where they involve Scouts from all the groups in Barking & Dagenham. Details of the dates and activities are published in advance in the Group Newsletter, and a yearly diary will be distributed when the dates have been finalised. Below is a summary of the common events that Scouts have the chance to enjoy:

Handcraft Competition	Mark Sutton Competition	Fire-lighting
Badge Afternoon	Camping Competition	Cooking
Craft Rally weekend	Survival Weekend	Canoeing
District Camp	Scout Rally	First Aid
5-A-Side Football Competition	Chess Competition	Tracking
Sports Day	Carol Service	Compass
Troop Camp	Abseiling	Mapping
Incident Hike	Archery	Hiking
Swimming Gala	Canoeing Cork Guns	Orienteering
Founders Day	Camping	Survival Camp
St. George's Day Parade	Pioneering	Activity Day

+ Days out/trips to more or less everywhere
+ LOADS MORE!

Equipment and Personal Gear

All your personal gear, including clothing, should be marked so that you can identify them. It is surprising how easily everything gets mixed up at camp!

The type of equipment that is required for Scouting can be quite expensive. It pays in the long run to buy good quality gear rather than the cheaper end of the market. Equipment can be built up over the years and most of it makes ideal birthday or Christmas presents. A typical list may eventually include:

- Sleeping bag (2 to 3 season type) & Karrimat or similar foam sleeping mat
- Survival bag (500 gauge orange plastic bag (2'x6')
- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Rucksack (55-65 litre capacity recommended for most camps)
- Hill walking boots (leather with Vibram soles)
- Folding Swiss Army-type penknife (for safety reasons, sheath knives are not permitted)
- Torch with spare bulb and batteries
- Cutlery, unbreakable plate, bowl, and mug
- Woollen gloves, scarf and hat

The leaders are always available to give advice on purchasing gear, and usually have a supply of current camping and outdoor catalogues for you to look through before you buy.

Those who feel that financial assistance would be of benefit when obtaining equipment are encouraged to approach the Scout Leader, who will discuss the situation with you and suggest ways for you to get equipment, with assistance from the Troop. Complete confidentiality is, of course, guaranteed.

Questions & Answers

Q. Are there Troop Meetings all the year round?

A. The Tuesday Troop Meetings are normally held throughout the year, school holidays included. The only Tuesdays we don't meet are over a couple of weeks over the Christmas break. In addition we cannot use the hall during August and so we normally hold trips out and camps instead of the regular Troop nights.

Q. Is it necessary for my child to go to every Troop Meeting?

A. The meetings are designed so that skills learnt one week are built on in subsequent weeks. So if they miss too many Meetings they will start to feel left out of things.

Q. What if my child decides they do not want to be a Scout anymore?

A. It's a voluntary organization for them, as well as for the Leaders, so they are entitled to make that decision. And children's interests do change as they grow up. But we would appreciate being told if they are not going to come anymore. So that their Patrol don't have to live with a gap in their ranks, for one thing! And we would like to know the reason, in case there's a problem in the Troop that we need to tackle.

Q. You say I will be notified of activities, changes for future Meetings, and so on. How?

A. Usually by means of a note given to the Scouts at the end of a Meeting and via the groups newsletter, Akela's Shout. In addition there is a notice board at the front entrance of the main hall with posters detailing most of the upcoming events.

Q. What happens if my child loses their Group Scarf, Record Book, woggle or anything else they have been given?

A. They need a Scarf, woggle and Record Book and if they lose them, or the dog eats them, we will replace them. But we will ask you to pay the cost, so that the Troop funds don't suffer.

Q. Where can we get the equipment/books/scarfs etc?

A. Uniform, record and hand books, folders and other equipment can either be purchased through the group or we can recommend a reputable store or website. Please speak to a leader for more information and up to date prices.

Q. What if I have any concerns?

A. Your child has an absolute right to be comfortable at Troop Meetings and Activities. If anything happens that makes them, or you, concerned or worried or if the behaviour of a Leader is in any way inappropriate then you must let us know.

You should speak about your concern in the first place to the Scout Leaders, Rosemary Oakwell and Darren Dowling. If you prefer, or if they are the cause of your concern, you can speak to the Group Scout Leader, Ken Thompson. Or the District Commissioner for Barking & Dagenham, Jill May.

Contact details can be found on the last page.

Contact Details & Websites

These details are printed each month in the newsletter. Each event will clearly state which leader is in charge.

Mr T. (Group Scout Leader)

Ken Thompson
48 Brittain Road
Dagenham
Tel: 020 8595 5459

Akela (Cub/Scout Leader)

Rosemary Oakwell
97 Westfield Road
Dagenham
Home Tel: 020 8595 0292

Bagheera (ACSL / DSL)

Darren Dowling
112 Halbutt Street
Dagenham
Mobile: 07881650524
baggy@scoutingresources.org.uk

District Commissioner for Barking & Dagenham – Jill May - 020 8491 3614

The following websites contain a wealth of information on Scouting. Of particular interest to members of the group will be the District website which contains local information and Scouting Resources which contains general help and information on Scouting activities.

Scouts – www.scouts.org.uk
Scoutbase - www.scoutbase.org.uk

District - www.barking-dagenham-scouts.org.uk
County – www.gln-scouts.org.uk

Scouting Resources – www.scoutingresources.org.uk

Please Complete This Slip

Please take the time to complete this slip and return it to a leader as soon as possible.

I (full Name, Title & relation to Scout)

have read the 'Welcome to the 9th Barking & Dagenham Scout Information Pack.

I found the information pack to be

.....

.....

(please complete this section with your views on the information pack)

I have some questions/suggestions

.....

.....

(please feel free to detail any question/suggestion on any topic covered by this pack)

Signed: Date: