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Contact Information

97 Westfield Road
Dagenham, Essex
0181 - 595 - 0292

Akela's Shout

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Editor: Baggy

Exercise time again!

with Athlete's Badge, Sports Day and 5-a-side competition to test your fitness.

Akela's 'Arf by Akela

Hi everyone, the camping season is upon us and both the cubs and scouts have enjoyed weekends away. The Beavers had a day out at Walton and apart from the weather (it could have been warmer!) they all had a good time.

There are a number of competitions in June so good luck to all the boys taking part. Perhaps we will get some contributions, if not we will have to make it part of our program on the last Tuesday of each month.

You should all know by now that church parade is the 1st Sunday in every month. This Sunday, 6th June, only 1 cub attended. The cost of the hall is £6 per hour for the small hall and £8 per hour for the large hall. Mr. T. and I went to see the vicar about these costs and we have negotiated a fee providing we as a group attended church parade once a month.

See you soon,
Akela

Upcoming Events

Beaver Section

Seven a Side Football
Saturday 12th June
May & Baker's. 9:00 a.m. for a 9:30 start

Cub Section

Athletes Badge
Friday 11th June
Mayesbrook Sports Arena, Mayesbrook Park. 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

5 –a – Side Football
Saturday 12th June
May & Baker's. 9:00 a.m. for a 9:30 start

Sports Day
Saturday 26th June
Mayesbrook Sports Arena, Mayesbrook Park. 12:00 for a 12:30 p.m. start

Scout Section

5 –a – Side Football
Saturday 12th June
May & Baker's. 9:00 a.m. for a 9:30 start

Sports Day
Saturday 26th June
Mayesbrook Sports Arena, Mayesbrook Park. 12:00 for a 12:30 p.m. start

News and Information

Groups In Need

There are two groups close to us that may need our help in looking after their cubs & scouts. Both these groups have girls. I know we have said that we do not want girls in the group but hopefully we will be able to do this for a few months, if it does become necessary.

District Cub Camp

The last weekend in May gave 40 cubs from several groups in the district the opportunity to be 'spies' for the weekend. With a hectic schedule of code cracking, adventuring, games and other activities the cubs actually managed to tire themselves enough that they went to sleep almost instantly!

In particular the Saturday saw a (short?) walk through Brentwood even though they managed to find the energy to descend upon the assault course on their return.

Sunday saw the teams work to 'defuse a bomb' and the usual Scouts Own and Campfire. All in all I believe that the cubs thoroughly enjoyed themselves and managed to gain two activity badges, Communicator and Navigator.

Scout Camp at Thriftwood

The same weekend that the cubs went away, Mr. T. organised a scout camp at Thriftwood. The good thing about this camp was that there were many troops represented, and the scouts mixed in very

well. They set up their own camp and looked after their own cooking, as Scouts do. I know they had several activities during the weekend, perhaps one of those scouts that attended could write us a small piece about the camp.

"It's Only 2 Hours a Week"

by Baggy

"It's only 2 hours a week" is a common introduction to a new leader. This is actually a long-standing joke amongst scout leaders. When you choose to become a scout leader you are offering your services for more than 2 hours a week. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not after a medal or anything. I volunteer to do this job and I enjoy it, as do the other leaders. I just think that sometimes the scout movement and its leaders are taken for granted, occasionally by parents of scouts themselves who tend to look upon the weekly scout meeting as a cheap babysitting service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the leaders, on your behalf, for giving up their time to make the recent camps run so smoothly. Each camp takes a great deal of planning and preparation, and that is aside from the leaders actually giving up their weekend. Any camp takes a great deal of effort and energy to ensure that everything runs as it should and that the kids learn and enjoy themselves.

For instance, the cub and scout camps that took place on the Whitsun weekend have been in preparation for several months. Leaders have met and discussed /arranged the weeks program, and have spent many 'man-hours' arranging the details, collecting items, preparing equipment, filling in forms and so forth.

Even before the camp has began there has been weeks of work done. On the day of the camp itself leaders have taken time off work (unpaid) to set up the camp and take the equipment down to the site. As an example it took four leaders nearly an hour just to load the equipment! That is before it is sorted out, arranged, the tents pitched and the camp generally prepared.

Then the cubs and scouts descend. Speaking of the cub camp, we had 40 cubs (boys and girls) and nine leaders. The leaders are normally arranged into groups, who work on a rota system, Cubs, Cooks and 'Spares'. Being 'Spare' doesn't mean you get to rest though, simply that you are available to help in whatever needs to be done.

Don't forget that being at camp is a 24-hour job for a leader too. Even after a very hectic day you still have to be prepared to deal with problems throughout the night. As an example many of the leaders on the cub camp simply did not get any sleep at all on the Friday night and then worked through a (very) busy Saturday. Even at 3 in the morning you will have cubs ill, homesick or wanting to go on the assault course! I was banging in pegs and pushing sleeping cubs back into tents at 3:30 a.m. on the Saturday, in the middle of a thunderstorm.

Throughout the day you are keeping the cubs occupied, trying to keep to a busy program and keeping them fed and watered. The activities that they do will always involve some element of physical activity as well as academic, social and scouting education.

Sometimes you wonder why you do it all. For myself I know just how much I have gained from my time in Scouting as a youngster and I want to return the favour. Sure you have times when you really wish you were elsewhere but when you see the smile on their face as they come home, or as they say "Thank you" you remember why you wear that uniform.

My Trip to America

by Steven Moore, age 7

In March I went to America. My favourite place was Universal Studios. In Universal I went on Jaws and it was great. We all went on a boat trip on the river and Jaws came out of the river in big flames of fire. It was really scary! Then we went on the ET. ride and we flew across the air on a bike and ET. knew our name. Another favourite ride was Earthquake. We saw someone fall off this very big building. Then we went on this train and our train shook and water fell everywhere and lorries fell all over the place. My favourite show was Beetle Juice. There was lots of smoke and Frankenstein came in the audience and there were lots of songs. We saw lots more and it was a really fun day.

Baggy's Bit

Last months Scout competition was won by Lewis. Baden-Powell saved the town of Mafeking by making mock ups of soldiers using spare helmets and wooden 'weapons'. This fooled the enemy into thinking the town had more defenders. In reality they had few, that is why BP used children as runners and messengers. This laid the foundation for the formation of the Scouting movement on his return to England.

No Beavers have taken up the competition yet. Mums, do you read the relevant sections to you sons?

As usual there will be a small prize for the first correct answer. This month's questions are;

Beaver Section

What is the Beaver Scout Motto?

Cub Section

Give me the dates of the four main 'Saints Days'

Scout Section

To which religion is the *Koran* important?