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Welcome to the adventure

As a parent of a young person in Scouting, we would like to welcome you to the Scouting family. We know that you play a big part in your child's involvement in Scouting, through both practical help and encouragement. We would therefore like to say a big THANK YOU for all you do and hope that the following information is useful to you.

Whether your child is new to Scouting, or has been a Member for some time, you will find information here to help you make their experience an enjoyable one. You will also find out ways in which you can get involved with Scouting.

One of 28 million!

Your child is now one of a family of 28 million young people in 216 countries and territories who join in the fun and adventure of Scouting every week. The experiences your son or daughter has as a Scout are likely to stay with them for the rest of their lives.

What is Scouting?

Scouting offers challenge and adventure to 400,000 young people aged 6-25 in the UK. We believe in helping our Members fulfil their potential by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves. We're working to make Scouting available to all and we're passionate about what we do.

Through the adventure of Scouting, young people get to take risks in a safe environment, and have their first taste of responsibility. We give young people experiences they'll never forget.

The sort of adventure Scouting offers is the chance to experience something different and the opportunity to challenge yourself. When a Beaver Scout wakes up the morning after a sleepover, or a Cub Scout has just got over her fear of heights by completing her first abseil - that's adventure.

In Scouting, we provide over 200 activities from abseiling to zorbing ('that's falling out of the sky in a foam ball in case you were wondering). If we don't have an instructor who can help we can normally find someone who can. But Scouting isn't just about activities for their own sake. We encourage our young people to feel the buzz of the challenge and then reflect on what that means. Did they have fun? Do they feel more confident? Would they do it again?

All this is made possible by the efforts of 100,000 voluntary adult leaders. With award winning training and one-to-one support, we make sure that each one of our volunteers gets to make the best use of their skills and talents. It's something different from the norm,



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and that why a lot of people like it.' In fact, it's what's made us the largest co-educational youth Movement in the country.

Adult leaders – the myth-busting truth!

The many benefits that Scouting offers your child are mostly down to the time and commitment given by our adult Leaders. How much do you know about the people who look after your child every week? You may not be aware of the following facts:

- None of our Leaders are paid – they are all volunteers.
- The majority of our Leaders have full time jobs and a family.
- 44% of our Leaders are female.
- Leaders get involved because they want to have fun and make new friends themselves.
- Leaders don't have to be 'superheroes' who know everything. They are given training on the job and learn new skills as they go along. The one thing that unites our Leaders is the energy and enthusiasm they have for giving young people the adventure of Scouting.
- Whilst all our volunteers are passionate about what they do, many help out on a flexible basis due to other commitments. Some may help out once a week or fortnight whereas others help once a term or at summer camp.
- 27% of volunteers help out in Scouting as they are a parent of a current Member. Many were not Scouts when they were young but have learnt new skills and made new friends through Scouting.
- Not all volunteers have to wear uniform.
- Many of our adult volunteers say they are more confident in their everyday lives as a result of their involvement with Scouting.
- Not all adults who volunteer for Scouting work directly with young people. There are a variety of other jobs that need to be done such as gardening and general DIY, organising events, doing the accounts and writing press releases. This means that adult Leaders who do work directly with young people do not have to spend all their time doing paperwork.
- All our Leaders are covered by a comprehensive insurance policy while taking part in Scouting.
- All our adults in Scouting go through an enhanced criminal records check to ensure they are fit to work with young people.