



Admissions Policy

The intention of this policy is to ensure that the admission of members into the 1st Upton St Leonards Scout Group and the management of its waiting list conforms with the Policy Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association (POR) and is seen to be fair to all concerned.

Equal Opportunities

Membership of the Scout Group is open to all young people in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Policy of the Scout Association.

Section Membership Numbers

The maximum number of members in each section shall be set by the Group Scout Leader in consultation with the section leaders and respecting the recommended sizes prescribed in POR (Squirrel and Beaver Scouts – 24 young people; Cub Scouts – 36 young people).

The Scout Group is a popular and successful one, and it is normal for the Squirrel Drey, each of the Beaver Scout Colonies and the Cub Scout Packs within the Group to run at full capacity. As a result, entry to all sections must be managed to ensure an even spread of age groups within each section, and to avoid creating surges in Colony, Pack or Troop numbers later.

The Scout Group is run entirely by volunteers; therefore, it is our expectation that members' families should fully engage in supporting the leadership team with the organisation and delivery of activities and fundraising events.

It is Scout Association policy that someone who has joined the Scout Group in one section is entitled to progress to the next once they are old enough to do so. Therefore, admissions from the waiting list into sections will only be taken after consideration is given to ensure that places will remain available to accommodate existing sections' members when they are old enough to move up from other more junior sections.

Admissions to the sections will normally occur at the beginning of each school term. Exceptions can be made by arrangement with the section leader.

The Group Scout Leader maintains a single waiting list for the Group on OSM. No other lists or records will be kept by other leaders or be referred to in the admission of new members.

When the number of young people on the waiting list who are old enough to join the relevant section exceeds the number of places available, places will be offered in accordance with the following criteria (in the following order) when vacancies arise: -

1. The child of an adult member of the Scout Group, i.e., a uniformed leader/Executive Committee member of the Group. At the discretion of the Group Scout Leader, this may also be applied in the case of a parent who commits to be a regular section Helper. The Group's priority is to provide enthusiastic adult leadership in each section enabling it to run a balanced and exciting programme for all its young people. It always needs to recruit more leaders and committee members and will therefore offer priority to the children of such leaders and committee members.
2. Siblings of Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs or Scouts currently belonging to the Scout Group.
3. Anyone else on the waiting list. Waiting list applicants will be offered a place, based on the date they joined the waiting list. Priority will be given to young people who live closest to Upton St Leonards Village Hall (measured as the crow flies). Children who do not receive a place in the Squirrel Drey will remain on the waiting list until they are old enough to join Beavers. Young people who do not receive a place in the Colony or Pack they have applied to join will be offered a place in the other Colony or Pack if one is available. If none is available or it is not acceptable to the young person or their parents, they will be offered a place in either of the Cub Packs or the Scout Troop (as applicable) once they are old enough to join as soon as there are spaces available.

NB: Young people who move into the area customarily served by the Group who are already members of the Scout movement in another area will be offered a place as soon as a space becomes available in the relevant section.

Handling of Membership Enquires

All enquiries concerning membership should be made via the Group website (www.uptonscouts.org.uk/join). All such enquiries will be handled by the Group Scout Leader who will liaise with the relevant section leader before offering a place to the young person.

Parents should be aware that casual conversations with leaders, or even seemingly formal agreements, regarding putting children onto the Group waiting list are not relevant or valid. The only way to place a child's name on the waiting list is to contact the Group Scout Leader via the Group website.

Appeal

If a parent wishes to appeal any decision made under this policy, they are invited to make a written representation and put their case to the Group Executive Committee whose decision will be final.

Paul D. Trott
Group Scout Leader
15 March 2023