

# 1<sup>ST</sup> CUDDINGTON AND SANDIWAY



**PARENTS, GUARDIANS & NEW SCOUTS INDUCTION PACK**

**WELCOME TO 1ST  
CUDDINGTON AND SANDIWAY SCOUT TROOP**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Cuddington and Sandiway Scout Troop

The Scout Hut  
Norley Road  
Cuddington

### Useful Info

Meet:	Wednesdays
Start	7:00pm
Finish:	9pm
Section Leader	Andrew Womersley
Contact:	01606 884166
Mail:	bandauk@yahoo.com
Assistant Leaders:	Trevor Isherwood
Young Leaders:	
Group Leader:	Currently vacant

## USEFUL WEB SITES

Information on scouting: <http://www.scouts.org.uk/>

Group website: <http://cuddingtonandsandiwayscoutgroup.org.uk/index.htm>

Shopping for kit: <http://www.scoutshops.com/>

Mid-Cheshire (district): <http://www.midcheshirescouting.org.uk/index.htm>

Cheshire Scouts (county): <http://www.cheshire-scouts.org.uk/>

Scoutbase: <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/index.htm>

World Scouting: <http://www.scout.org/en>

### Group Website

<http://cuddingtonandsandiwayscoutgroup.org.uk/index.htm>

## CUB BADGES

When you come up just wear your cub uniform until you get a scout shirt. You can put your membership award, group name, district and county badge and your Chief Scouts Silver Award (if you gained it) onto your new scout shirt, ready for your investiture.

## COMMANDS

There are a few commands that you need to know at scouts. Don't worry because when you're with everyone else they will help you get the hang of it.

**Troop:** When a leader calls "Troop" you should stop what you are doing and wait quietly for the leader to speak. This is the most important command with 20 odd noisy scouts in the hall!

**Fall in:** This means to stand in lines with your patrol, with the PL at one end and the Assistant PL at the other. The PL will help and show you where to stand.

**At Ease:** This means to stand up straight with your feet shoulder width apart and your hands clasped behind your back.

**Alert:** This is how we stand when we do troop ceremonies like Flag break and investitures. You stand up straight with your feet together and your hands tight by your side.

**Dismiss:** This means the end of the night, you salute and turn to the right (stamping your left foot) then walk forwards.

## LEAVING SCOUTS

The time will come one day to leave scouts...awww...and we hope that you will go to one of the excellent Explorer Scout Units in the area. Scouts usually leave Cuddington and Sandiway between the age of 13½ and 14. We will try and send you up with friends where possible. Once you are an Explorer Scout you also have the chance to come back and help one of the sections as a Young Leader and gain other badges through that.

## ANY QUESTIONS

If you would like to ask any questions then please email Andrew or just ask at the end of the weekly meeting (we're often busy at the start).

# WELCOME TO SCOUTS!

This booklet is designed to give you and your parents/guardians the information that you will need to prepare you for scouting in our troop. We give you this booklet as part of your pre-investiture package, that will help you understand the Scout Group and the Troop you will be joining. We hope this information will help you get the most out of scouting, and make your time in scouting more enjoyable.

You are joining an organisation which is the largest co-educational youth group in the United Kingdom, with around half a million members! Scouts is also a worldwide organisation with over 28 million members - the largest friendship organisation on the planet!

The 1<sup>st</sup> Cuddington and Sandiway Scout Group welcomes both girls and boys into its sections. The group has a Beaver colony, a Cub pack (which you might be just leaving), and this Scout Troop.

Meetings are held at our own headquarters on Norley Road. The building belongs to the Scout Group and is hired to other organisations i.e. Guides

Our Group is administered by what we call our Group Executive Committee (GEC), comprising of three non-uniform members. Our 'Head Scout' if you like, is called a Group Scout Leader (GSL) and they are responsible for overseeing the running of all Beaver, Cub and Scout sections at Cuddington and Sandiway. The GEC exists to support the GSL in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment. The GEC meets approximately once every 3 to 4 months. Parents and Guardians of any Beaver, Cub, Scout or Explorer are welcome to attend any of these meetings.

## LEADERS RESPONSIBILITIES

Adults who run Scout Groups are called Scouters. They are unpaid volunteers who are required to undertake training appropriate to their role. All the leaders have many years experience of working with children and have completed extensive training.

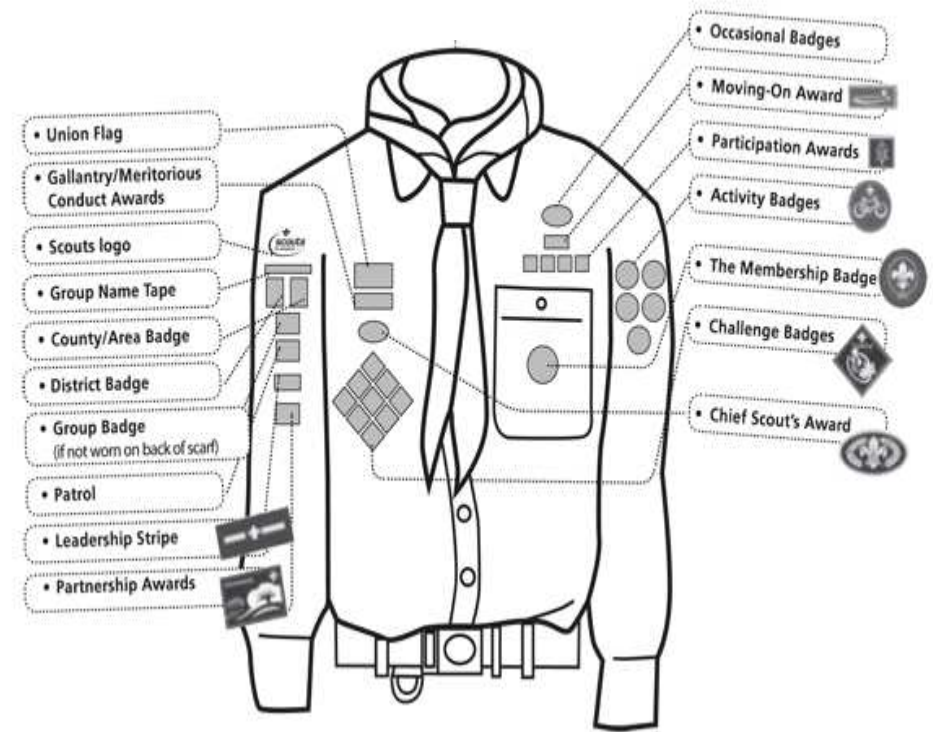
Note for parents - All adults must operate responsibly in accordance with the Scout Association's policies on Child Protection, Equal Opportunities and Safety In Scouting. The Scout Association applies stringent vetting procedures, including criminal records checks.

## YOUR LEADER

Your warranted Scout Leader in charge or Section Leader is Andrew Womersley - He is overall in charge of the Scout Troop. (A "warrant" is the document awarded by the Scout Association to fully qualified Scout Leaders, as all Leaders must undergo considerable training before they are allowed to run a Troop). Scout Leaders are helped by Section Assistants and Helpers.

## YOUR PATROL

When you become a full member (once invested) you will be allocated a Patrol to join. Each Patrol is led by a Patrol Leader (PL) and assisted by an Assistant Patrol Leader (APL), usually chosen from among the older Scouts. There are normally about 5 or 6 Scouts in each Patrol, and sometimes these Patrols may have more. Most activities involving groups and teams, will take place with you and your Patrol. Sometimes Patrols are combined if we need larger teams, and sometimes your Patrol could be split up. However, it is up to you to help and support your Patrol as much as possible. Your Patrol Leader should be able to help you if you get stuck with anything that you might not have tried before. Your PL and APL will also occasionally take part in a "Patrol Leaders meeting", which is a meeting they hold with the Scout Leader, to discuss general progress and present some ideas for future directions and activities. You should respect your PL and APL at all times, and if they ask you to do something, they will expect it to be carried out.



## PHOTO PERMISSION

We often take photos at troop activities and share them on the website, or in newsletters so that you can all see what we do. We ask parents to fill out the appropriate section on the General Admission form to give us permission to do this. All photos will be treated carefully and according to youth protection laws and guidelines.

## MOVING UP FROM CUBS

When you get to the right age and the cub leader asks you to move on, it can be daunting to be the youngest in the troop, We will try and help you as much as we can. Just remember...scouts get to do the cool stuff and the other scouts will help you out. We'll also try and move you up at the same time as some friends.

## YOUR UNIFORM

You'll be expected to wear your uniform to all Scout meetings and events unless told otherwise. You'll be inspected on your uniforms completeness and tidiness at each meeting. It is a requirement of the Scout Association that, for insurance purposes, uniforms must be worn by any Scout while travelling to and from a Scout event taking place away from his or her "home base". It also helps Leaders to locate Scouts within a crowd of "civilians".

This is how your uniform should be seen -

**Shirt** clean and (ideally) ironed; all badges sewn on correctly; buttons all present and fastened; shirt-tails tucked into trousers all around (not rolled up!)

**Scarves** clean and ironed; neatly rolled; symmetrical around neck (both ends the same length); woggle correctly in place.

**Trousers** clean and (ideally) ironed.

## SCRUFF KIT

We recommend scouts to wear a t-shirt under their uniform so that after the opening flag ceremony they can change out of their uniform for activities.

Before the closing flag ceremony we ask scouts to change back into their uniform for flag down.

## UNIFORM BADGES

As you progress through scouts, you will hopefully gain many activity, challenge and staged badges. These badges are sewn onto your uniform shirt to show everyone, especially other scouts, how you are progressing in your scouting career. Wear each badge with pride. On the next page is a diagram showing where your badges should be positioned. This information is also available on the Scout section of our group website.

## YOUNG LEADERS

These are Explorer Scouts who are between the age of 14 and 18 who are training to become adult leaders once they have reached the minimum age of 18.

## ATTENDANCE

Being a scout means making a commitment to the troop. Obviously we realise that it is rare that a scout will attend every single scout meeting or event. Scouting is voluntary for all scouts. However, we would like you to be aware that there are waiting lists for all our scouting sections (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts). If a scout is absent from scout meetings for three weeks in a term without having first informed us, we will deem that scout to have left the Troop and his/her place will be offered to the next person on the waiting list. It is also our policy to encourage scouts (and their parents) not to take part in the practice of "cherry picking" the events/meetings that you choose to attend. Certain events themselves might have more appeal than others, but it is also the turning up and joining in with your scout friends and colleagues at each meeting which is important.

## EMAILS AND LETTERS

All of our communication with parents is done through email. Please give us one or more email addresses that you would like us to use. It's usually a good idea to check your email a couple of hours before meetings just in case of any last minute changes. If you don't have access to email then please let us know when you join and we'll think of something!

## WHAT WE DO - OUR PROGRAMME

What exactly do we do on a Wednesday evening?

Well, we do a wide variety of different & exciting activities, some of which you'll already have taken part in, but they're all designed to follow a plan which the Scout Association calls "The Balanced Programme" (or just "Programme" for short). The "Programme" is, basically, everything you do as a scout. All Scout Troops follow the aims of the Programme but that does not mean all Troops do the same activities. The Leaders put together a weekly timetable of events based on six "Programme Zones" - each Zone represents a different area of Scouting. These "Programme Zones" are:

- Scout craft & Adventure
- Global
- Community
- Fit For Life
- Creative Expression
- Beliefs & Attitudes

To achieve the Programme we work through a number of "Scout Challenges", at the end of the successful completion of these you are awarded the appropriate Challenge Badge. These Challenge Badges are awarded after you complete a number of tasks and/or projects and can include activities which cover several of the Programme Zones listed above. Confused?? Don't be. You concentrate on the Challenges below (the fun bits) and the Leaders make sure that the activities fit in with the Programme Zones above. The Challenges are:

- Outdoor
- Outdoor Plus
- Adventure
- Expedition
- Fitness
- Creative
- Global
- Community
- Promise

## MEETINGS

**The Start:** We start at 7pm when we fall in to patrols and start the meeting.

You should aim to arrive before 7:00 so that you don't miss flag-break. **The**

**Middle:** The meetings are all different with activities from serious learning, fun games, challenges and visits and visitors.

**The End:** Parents should not come into the hall until 9pm, we have a small entranceway and usually are doing a quiet flag down.

**What should you bring:** Check your email before each meeting so see if there is anything particular you need. Mobile phones should not be brought to scout meetings or any scout activities. Also, don't bring food to meetings unless asked to do so. The Leaders or the Scout Association cannot be held responsible for losses of any personal property, on or off scout premises.

## SCOUT SIGN

The Scout sign shows you are a Scout. Give it each time you recite the Scout Law and Promise. When a Scout or leader raises the Scout sign, all Scouts should make the sign too, and come to silent attention. To give the Scout sign, cover the nail of the little finger of your right hand with your right thumb, then raise your right arm, bent in a 90-degree angle, and hold the three middle fingers of your hand upward. Those fingers stand for the three parts of the Scout Promise. Your thumb and little finger touch to represent the bond that unites Scouts throughout the world.



## SCOUT SALUTE

The Scout salute shows respect. Use it to salute the flag at the opening ceremony. You may also salute a Scout Leader or another Scout. Give the Scout salute by forming the scout sign with your right hand, and then bringing that hand upwards until your forefinger touches the arch of your right eyebrow.

## SCOUT HANDSHAKE

Scouts greet each other in a special way. They always shake hands with their left hand. The origins of this custom came from when Baden-Powell was a soldier in Africa. He saw lots of tribal chiefs who carried spears and shields. He noticed that it was a sign of great trust to offer your left hand when shaking hands. This is because if you shake with your left hand you will have to put down your shield while the other person still has a spear in their hand!

## THE RULES OF THE TROOP

There are only a few rules at scouts

Absolutely No Bullying

No Profanities (Swearing)

Listen to the Leaders & PLs and act on their instructions

No physical contact outside of organised games

Use peoples real names, not nicknames that people don't like

Follow the troop code of conduct

## PRE-INVESTITURE - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

On the night of your investiture you need to be smartly dressed in your uniform. Don't forget to invite your parents (and friends if you want to) to the ceremony. Remember to bring a camera to record this occasion. You'll be asked by the Scout Leader to step forward from your patrol, and asked to repeat the Scout Promise in front of the whole Troop.

Please don't be worried at the "what you need to know" about scouts before you join our troop. It's all very easy and you will get all the help you need from the leaders. To gain your membership badge at your investiture, you will need to know the following:

### The background of Scouting

Look on the internet, and find out as much as you can about our founder, Lord Baden Powell and how Scouting actually began.

### The Scout Promise:

"On My Honour, I promise that I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and to the Queen,  
To help other people  
And to keep the Scout Law"

### The Scout Motto:

"BE PREPARED"

### The Scout Law:

1. A Scout is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate.
4. A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

## SCOUT BADGES

During your scout "career" (until you're about 14!) - you'll be working towards the highest award you can receive as a Scout - the Chief Scout's Gold Award.

To get this very prestigious award, you will need to complete:

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| The Promise Challenge | The Community Challenge |
| The Fitness Challenge | The Creative Challenge  |
| The Global Challenge  | The Outdoor Challenge   |

and two of the following:

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| The Outdoor Plus Challenge | The Adventure Challenge |
| The Expedition Challenge   |                         |

Additional badges you may want to earn are called Activity Badges - There are over 70 of these. There are too many to list in this booklet, but if you want to know more and how to earn them, visit the Scouts page of our group website and click on the badges link.

## BEHAVIOUR

We run adventurous activities that people don't get to do elsewhere. To help us run these activities safely, we have to keep rules. While we're all keen to have fun and a good time, we do not tolerate bad behaviour at scout meetings. We have a disciplinary system in place where you will be given several "warnings". If your behaviour continues to be disruptive or dangerous, then you will be banned from our scout meeting the following week. Two bans in a term you will be asked to leave the troop. We have NEVER had to ask someone to leave and we hope to keep this great record.

We can only do these great activities with well behaved scouts.

## BULLYING

Bullying has no place in scouting and the leaders will act immediately, positively, sensitively and confidentially if they detect it is taking place. Serious bullying will result in the immediate warning of dismissal to the bully. All reports of bullying will be taken seriously. If you are being bullied - either physically like being hit, punched or pushed, or if it's name-calling and teasing - then please come and tell one of the leaders immediately. Parents - if you suspect your son or daughter is being bullied at scouts, then please come and talk to the leaders at the earliest opportunity. We will act in confidence.

## CAMPING AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

At Cuddington and Sandiway Scouts we like to do outside activities. We have ideal weekend camping and sleepover facilities in Cheshire, and we also like to camp elsewhere. On average, we would normally run at least two camps per year, and every two years we go to an international camp (thousands of scouts from all over the world!). Your Troop expects you to take an active part in our camping and outdoor programme. We hate to be blunt but if you don't take part in some of our camps, then there's very little point in you being a scout. So come along, get dirty, have a great time with the many friends you will make, and get away from that screen for a while and earn some more badges.

## WEEKEND CAMPS

These are close-ish to home and usually run from Friday night until Sunday lunch. Weekend camps are pretty active with wide-games, campfires, more games, challenges and adventures. We usually ask parents to help by driving the scout to and from the campsite (parents often car-pool). This helps keep the cost down as we don't have to hire minibuses.

## ONE NIGHT CAMPS

Sometimes we do 1 night camps. These are short and sharp and usually have a purpose (ie hike training, camping skills practice) and you really need to bring very, very little kit for these.

## AT CAMP

You will share a tent with other scouts. We usually have at least 3 in a tent (or a pod if it is one of the bigger tents). You have to be able to keep your kit tidy so that you don't annoy the other scouts.

This data is deleted once you either leave scouts or you move on up into the Explorer Unit. Every time we plan an external event like a camp we will also give you a specific Permission Form (sometimes called a "Permission to Camp Form") to take home and fill in, which will give permission for their children to take part in events and activities. Again, it's important that you bring this form back as soon as possible, or by the date requested.

## EMAIL

The troop uses e-mail as the main form of contact between the Section Leader, Parents and Scouts. Please give us your e-mail address and ensure it is correct, valid and if it changes, notify the section leader. E-mail allows the Scout Leader to "pass on" last minute information.

## HOLIDAYS

We generally follow the same pattern as our local schools.

## COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Should you have any complaints about any aspect of your child's involvement with our Scout Group, you should first contact your son's/daughter's Section Leader. Should you feel that this is not possible then please speak to the Group Scout Leader.

## YOUR INVESTITURE

The Investiture is when you officially become a Cuddington and Sandiway scout. Before an investiture can take place, there are a few things scouts, parents & guardians will need to know. Firstly, you will need to buy a Scout Shirt. These are long sleeved and dark green in colour and cost about £17 from <http://www.scoutshops.com>, or you can purchase it from the Warrington Scout Shop (ask your leader for details).

If 'moving on' from our cub section, you can use the existing scarf. If new to our group, there is a nominal "membership fee" which covers the cost of the neckerchief and all badges at your investiture. Unfortunately, if you lose these items we will ask you to buy replacements.

On a normal scout night, we are happy for you to wear any sort of trousers, jeans or shorts, unless we tell you otherwise.

## FUNDING

When you join our Troop you will have to pay a subscription ("subs") at the start of each term, currently standing at £36 per term. This money is used to pay our annual fees to the Scout Association which also includes scout insurance cover. The subs also include money to help cover the costs involved keeping Cuddington and Sandiway Scout Hut running. The subscription does not cover expenses to fund troop activities such as camps and external events. For these we will charge a nominal, "cost price" fee. We never make a profit and all money goes directly to the scouts and activities. For example, weekend camps currently cost about £15 to £25, to cover food and activities. Should the subscription cost prevent you from letting your son or daughter join the scouts, please speak to the Scout Leader or Group Chairman at your earliest opportunity. This will of course, be in strict confidence. Leaders and members of the GEC volunteer their time to scouting, and none are paid to undertake their duties.

## HOW TO PAY

We have a Subscriptions Secretary whose responsibility it is to ensure that the group have received your subs. The group collects subs in two ways:

- Standing order (ask the Scout Leader for a form)
- Cheque or cash (given to the Subscription Secretary) - please write the scouts name on the back of the cheque and envelope.

## GROUP FUNDRAISING

Group fundraising is organised by our GEC. They organise various events including the very successful twice a year jumble sales at the Scout Hut.

## TROOP RECORDS

Once a young person starts attending our meetings, he/she will be given a blank General Admission form, which is required to be filled in by a parent or guardian and returned to the Scout Leader. This form contains areas of personal information that the leaders will need to know, i.e. home address, contact numbers, doctor, medical history etc. It is important that we get this form back fully completed as soon as possible. At the beginning of each subsequent year this form may be re-issued, where you can take it home and make sure any new information is forwarded to us. To comply with the Data Protection Act, parents and guardians can request at any time, to view the information we currently hold on your child.

## CAMPING EQUIPMENT

With loads of camps coming up through years of scouts (and maybe explorers) please think about camping kit early in your scouting career. When you come on a camping trip with us you will need some extra personal gear. We will supply the tents, cooking equipment and activity equipment, but you will need to provide your own personal gear. If you have space on your Christmas list you might like to think about:

- A good 60+ litre rucksack with a sleeping bag bit at the bottom. This will protect your kit and last until well after university! With lots of compartments the scouts can learn what goes in each one and how to keep their kit tidy and secure
- A full and proper waterproof jacket designed for all-day out in the rain use, normal, street jackets eventually let the rain in. There is a big difference between "waterproof" and "showerproof". Gore-Tex, eVent and others are good. Walking around the streets is one thing, climbing a mountain is something else and a good jacket is important.
- Waterproof Trousers - same as for Jackets,
- Torch - head torches work well at camp when you need both hands to do things. Ones with a red setting are handy for night hikes.
- A cheap roll-up camping mat that can attach neatly to the outside of your rucksack with bungees and be dried easily if it gets wet. Self-inflating foam filled ones are a bit more expensive than the "closed-cell" type but are more comfortable and pack-up to a smaller size. Inflatable "Li-Lo" types should not be used as they are heavy and have very poor insulation against heat loss, plus they take up quite a lot of tent space.
- A compact sleeping bag that squashes up small but keeps you warm and has a head-cover with ties. Most sleeping bags have a bit to squash in either a blow-up pillow or spare clothes to make a pillow - you don't need to bring a pillow to camp. Synthetic materials are fine. Natural materials like goose down-fill are excellent (they are lighter) but are more expensive. It is very important to keep warm at night, the temperature overnight will drop dramatically.
- A compression bag if your sleeping bag doesn't come with one so that you can squash it up

Boots are a funny one as feet grow quickly and the rest of the kit above will last for years, but cheap boots are better than wet, cold feet. Boots are required for hiking and camps.

All the leaders are happy to advise on kit, also you can also ask the Patrol Leaders about what they use and what is good for them. I can recommend Go Outdoors in Stockport as the cheapest place around with the benefit that you can try things before you buy. Scout shops Online have good quality kit too. A full check-list of equipment required for specific camping events will always be emailed out before every event.

## PACKING YOUR KIT

Scouts regularly bring too much kit to camp, especially for short camps and usually because their mums pack for them! Scouts should always take the minimum possible kit to camp and make sure it is packed well. We'll send out a kit list before every camp, please read it carefully and pack light. For this reason we have a few standing rules. These are designed to help train scouts for future activities and to make sure they are warm and comfy at night. When you pack your kit:

- Scouts should pack their own kit, then they know what they have and where to find it, and what is theirs (especially socks)
- All scouts must carry their own kit, parents are not supposed to help. This is a simple test as, if the kit is awkward for the scout to carry then you probably have too much or it is badly packed. Very often when we arrive at camp we have a walk to the actual campsite or do overnight trips carrying kit so this is in the best interest of the scout.
- Bin bags should never be used to carry things. Bin bags rip easily and things in them get wet, meaning a nasty night in the tent which is not fair for the scouts.
- Sleeping bags should be neatly packed inside a rucksack so that they are protected. Most rucksacks have a special sleeping bag compartment in the bottom. You have to keep your sleeping bag protected!
- Don't let your mum pack your kit!
- Don't let your dad carry your kit!

## HEALTH INFORMATION

When you join (and once a year after) we will ask parents to complete a General Admission form. This is to ensure that we look after the Scouts. Should there be any changes during the year then we need you to let us know ASAP. Thanks. Please give us a full list of allergies and conditions or anything we might need to know. This, like all the information we collect, is kept confidential.

## HEALTH AND MEDICINES

We have different rules for local troop meetings than at camps or activities far from home.

- Parents are responsible for any medication needed at normal troop meetings. We are close enough to home that in an emergency we will contact the parents first and medicines should not be brought unless they are for immediate use, e.g. inhalers or adrenalin pens, etc. If a scout needs to carry one then it is the parents responsibility to make sure they have what they need and are responsible in its use. Parents need to ensure that the leaders are aware of the medical condition and its treatment.
- Leaders are responsible for medication at camp. When we go to camp, all medicines should be handed in to the leaders before we go and then administered by the leader. For medicines such as asthma inhalers, or adrenalin pens we ask the parents to make a judgement call. Most parents give one inhaler to the scout to keep on them and one extra to the leaders as a spare. However, to do this the parents need to be comfortable that the scout is responsible enough to treat themselves and inform the leaders of this.