



New Starter Pack

Squirrels

SQUIRRELS

WHO ARE SQUIRRELS?

Squirrels are young people aged 4 to 6 who:

- Master new skills and try new things
- Have fun and go on adventures
- Make friends
- Are curious about the world around them
- Help others and make a difference, in their own communities and beyond

Every weekend we gather in groups called a **Squirrel Drey**. Squirrels take part in lots of interesting and challenging activities – achieving anything they set their minds to and having lots of fun along the way.

WHAT DOES A SQUIRREL DREY LOOK LIKE?

All **Squirrel Scouts** are members of the global Scout family. Closer to home, they're also part of a wider local Scout Group, alongside **Beavers** (aged 6 to 8) and **Cubs** (aged 8 to 10 ½). When they're older, they can join **Scouts** (for 10 ½ - to 14-year-olds) then **Explorers**, 14- 18-year-olds and finally the Scout **Network** (for our young adult members aged 18 to 25).

Each Drey is made up of young people aged 4 to 6, led by an adult Squirrel leader. As well as the **Squirrel** leaders, other adults are on hand to supervise activities, share their skills and keep everyone safe.

JOINING US AT 1ST CLIFTON

Squirrels is open to all, and adjustments can always be made locally to make sure everyone can join in the fun. If you have any questions about accessibility, it's best to chat with your leader as soon as possible. By being upfront about additional needs from the start, parents/carers can work in partnership with local leaders to make sure their young person has the best experience possible. Alternatively, our Group Scout Leader can be contacted at any time.

MEETING INFORMATION

1st Clifton Squirrels meet on a Tuesday 17:15-18:15 at the Pavilion, Clifton Playing Fields, Farnborough Road, Clifton, Nottingham, NG11 8JU.

SQUIRRELS



1ST CLIFTON SCOUTS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CAPITATIONS AND SUBS

Each year we have to pay a substantial fee to the District and the County for your child(ren) to be part of the Scout Association. We have to pay this fee regardless of whether your child(ren) has attended 5 weeks or 25 weeks.

A decision was made at not to go down the route of other groups and charge you the capitation fee directly, but instead, in line with other Scout Groups in the County, regardless of whether your child has attended or not, you will be required to pay subs for every week the group meets. You can choose to do this by either continuing to pay weekly and paying for the missed weeks when your child next attends or if you prefer, paying a lump sum each half term or term.

The subs are £40 per term. Bank Transfer is our preferred method and our details are below. Please put your child's name as reference.

Account Name	1 st Clifton Scout Group
Account Number	20-63-28
Sort Code	13274608

If you have any issues with payment, please don't hesitate to either speak to your section Leader, Laura (Treasurer) or Jon (Group Scout Leader).

YOUNG PERSON INFORMATION FORM/OSM (ONLINE SCOUT MANAGER)/GDPR

As with everything else, we have to abide by GDPR. When joining the group, a New Starter Form will be given to you to fill out. This will then enable us to put your child's data on OSM, you should receive a link to this system. Once you have, please check your child's details as this is essential information to keep your child(ren) safe. We need to ensure that this information is up to date and relevant in case of an emergency situation and this data is only shared with the emergency services. For us to do this, we need an email address to send it to.

As with a lot of Scout Groups, we use OSM to store our data; this is a secure database which enables us to have all the health information in one place and to input program and badge information.

You have the right to request information on what we hold on your child(ren) at any stage, and this will be deleted when you have informed us your child(ren) have officially left the organisation, or after 3 months of your child(ren) not turning up. Additional Health Forms maybe required for subsequent activities or camps.

SQUIRRELS



We also want to try and get rid of paper as the majority of letters get lost by the child(ren). Please ensure there is an up to date email address on the form and let us know if this or any other information changes. However, paper copies will be available upon request.

UNIFORM

We at 1st Clifton always want to look our best and to do this your children will require a Uniform. Uniform can either be ordered online from the Scout Shop, from which you can buy anything Scout related. <https://shop.scouts.org.uk/>

Alternatively, we operate an "Own and Loan" service. This means we will subsidise the original cost of the uniform to £10 and whenever your child(ren) moves to another section and requires a new uniform, you return the old one and for £5 we will swap it for a replacement. With this however, you may be issued with a second hand uniform.

CAMP AND ACTIVITY BANK

There will be the option for you to pay in money to a Camp and Activity Bank. We understand times can be tough for everyone so this means that you can spread the cost of the camps and activities throughout the year when it suits you instead of being lumped with one large sum when an activity is due (unless you choose to; when an activity is coming up, you will be given the option then to pay the amount due or use any of the balance of your child(ren)s Camp and Activity Bank.

FAMILY ROTA/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our Scout Group is growing which means we are able to offer the friendship and adventure of Scouting to more local young people, which is fantastic! This does however, mean that we need more adults to volunteer their time to make a difference in their community. We fully understand that you may not be able to help on a regular basis which is why we have a Parent Rota.

As a helper on the parents rota you will be asked to assist with games and craft activities and support the young people to participate in activities. You will be guided by your section leader and will be a valuable part of the team. You will not be expected to take part in the "running" of the section including first aid.

Below are Parents Responsibilities to give you a better idea of what may be expected of you. If you do have any questions then please come and speak to one of us at the beginning or end of a session or give one of us a call.

We have a Safeguarding policy and there is a "yellow card" which can be given upon request. Please read through the dos and don'ts. I am sure you will understand this policy keeps our young people and adults safe.

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26/01/2025
<http://www.1stcliftonscoutgroup.co.uk>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1stclifton/>

SQUIRRELS

- Listen to the young people and encourage them to participate in the activities.
- Interact with the young people helping them with activities and generally encouraging them to try their best. Encourage them to find the solutions to tasks themselves by working in a team.
- Encourage young people to join in the games and help to referee and ensure fair play!
- Try to avoid staying close to your own child – encourage them to work away from you, both of you will have more fun!

If you are unable to do a date you have selected please swap with another parent and please let us know.

Younger children may accompany you on your rota evening but they remain your responsibility at all times.

Any questions, please get in touch.

We are always in need for volunteers, whether it is as a leader, an occasional helper, or a member of our committee.

If you are interested please let me know.

FUNDRAISING

Being a charitable organisation, we require fundraising to sustain the group and keep costs low. Each year, this becomes more difficult to accomplish with more and more people applying for grants and running fayres/fetes etc.

As a result, I'm looking for volunteers to form a new Fundraising Committee to meet bi-monthly and help come up with, plan and undertake fundraising for the group. If you are interested, please let Jon know.

WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

We have revamped our digital platforms and the links can be found on the letter below. There is also a closed Facebook group which requires approval so don't be offended if we reject your application as we're not sure who you are.

There is also a public facing "page" set up that we would be grateful if you could share around to get as much publicity as possible.

Pictures for anything public would never be paired with a name or location.

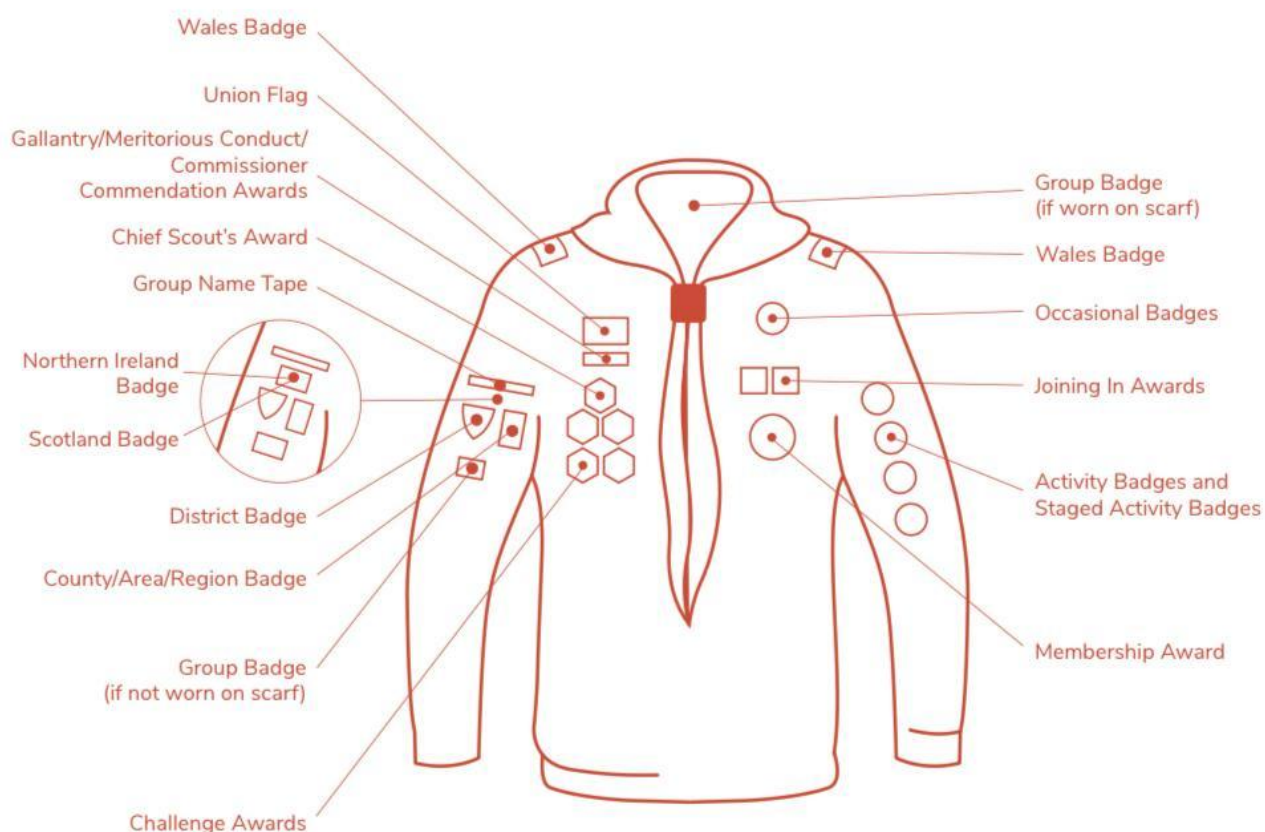
SQUIRRELS

BADGES

In your children's time in Squirrels, they will get the opportunity to earn some incredible badges a total of **4 Challenge Badges**, **12 Activity Badges** and the chance to earn the highest Squirrel Award which is the **Chief Scout Acorn Award we want to see every person achieve this.**

A guide to badge location can be found below:

OUR SQUIRREL PROMISE



After four weeks within our Squirrel Drey we the leaders will ask your children to make their Squirrel Scout promise. Welcoming a new Squirrel Scout to our drey/group and the worldwide family of Scout family is an exciting time for both the young people and the adults they will be part of something called an **Investiture**.

SQUIRRELS



SQUIRREL LEADERS

Squirrel Team Leader:	Kate Peel
Squirrel Team Member:	Katherine Ellis

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

Group Scout Leader:	Tamara Booth
Group Chairman:	Stewart Powell

All our leaders are volunteers and if you want to join our Leadership Team do not hesitate to ask us.