

Waiting list policy

Updated: 19 January 2017

Scouting in our area is very popular, and we have a substantial waiting list, which means we can't always offer a place to potential members. Further, our sections leaders provide experiences that the children enjoy and so very few children leave the group before they are 14 years old when they move on to a District Explorer Unit

To try to be transparent and open, we have defined the criteria of how we offer places to children.

We operate within the equal opportunities policy of the Scout Association and welcome all children, aged from 6 to 14 years, subject to spaces being available and the section having sufficient adults to run. The safety and well-being of all children is of utmost importance and if a member has special needs then their membership will be dependent the support which they need in order to enjoy Scouting fully and to be safe being provided.

Definitions

The Group - A Scout Group has three age related sections: Beavers (6 to 8 years), Cubs (8 to 10.5 years) and Scouts (10.5 to 14 years.) This group has two of each section

The District – A Scout District is a geographical area encompassing all the groups in that area. Our group is part of Hallam District which extends from the Sheaf to the Don

Getting onto the waiting list:

To be added to our list, please send a message via our website.

You may also want to consider submitting your name to the national website. This will ensure other local groups are notified too.

Single waiting list

We operate a single waiting list for the Group.

Minimum and maximum ages

We accept requests for places in our Group on behalf of children who have reached their fourth birthday but do not normally accept requests for children who are over 13 years old.

Selection criteria

When selecting children from our waiting list, we consider the following:

1. Children with a parent who is a leader in the group:

Ultimately the Group would not exist without volunteers. Children whose parents are already leaders in the group are guaranteed a place.

2. Existing members of Fulwood Scout Group:

Children who are already a member of the Group, moving up to the next section, i.e. Beavers to Cubs, Cubs to Scouts.

3. Time on waiting list.

We use the time that a child's name has been on our waiting list in conjunction with the other criteria.

4. Local area:

We don't have a fixed area, but generally we think it's fairest on everyone if we give priority to new members who live in the surrounding area of the Group's base on Fulwood Road or attend the local schools.

5. People moving into Fulwood:

Moving in to the area

We do accept transfer requests from people who have been members outside the District. However, we do not guarantee places but we will make reasonable efforts to accommodate newcomers.

Transfer requests from local Scout Groups:

We will not normally accept requests for transfer as our waiting list is already extensive. In exceptional circumstances and in consultation with the District Commissioner, who 'looks after' all groups in the area, we may add the child to our waiting list.

6. Other circumstances

There may be exceptional circumstances that mean a child should be offered a place. In such circumstances, the GSL will exercise discretion as whether to offer a place

Offer of a place

The Group welcomes new members at the start of each school term. Most new members join the Beaver Section in September after their sixth birthday if their birthday falls between April and August, in January if their sixth birthday is between September and January and in April if their birthday falls between January and March.

We will contact **by eMail** the named parent on the waiting list with an offer of a place in the half term before the place becomes available. We will allocate a place in the appropriate section and will not normally accede to specific requests.

If a place declined or the offer not acknowledged within two weeks, the place will be offered to another child on the waiting list

We will inform the named parent that we do not a place for their child once we have received responses from those offered places.

Parents' responsibilities

Parents are responsible for keeping us informed of changes to contact details, especially eMail.

Second opinion

If you feel your application has not been treated fairly, you are welcome to send us a message, addressed to the Group Scout Leader who will make the ultimate decision about Group Membership.