



1st Cholsey Scouts Waiting List Policy - 2017

1.0 Aim:

- 1.1 We aim to maximise the numbers of young people that can participate in Scouting in 1st Cholsey Scouts by our management of the waiting list and the movement between Sections within the Group. We aim to be transparent about our reasons for allocation of places, subject to the restrictions of confidentiality and we take great care to ensure that the administration of membership places is done fairly.
- 1.2 The number of young people in each section is limited by the number of Leaders and by the space available in the Scout Hut. We aim to ensure that there is a broad spread of ages within each section as this allows each young person to have steady progress through the sections and to develop through the Leadership roles available within each section e.g Sixer and Seconder in Cubs. This is not possible where there are a considerable number of young people of the same age in one section. This supports the aim of Scouting, 'to promote the development of young people in achieving their full potential'.

2.0 How to apply for a place in Beavers, Cubs or Scouts:

- 2.1 Applications for a young person to become a member of the group must be made by the young person's parent or guardian via the 1st Cholsey Scout Group website www.cholseyscouts.org by clicking on the tab 'Joining 1st Cholsey' (on the Home Page of the website). Alternatively, an application must be made in writing and sent by email to gsl@cholseyscouts.org or given to the Group Scout Leader with the young person's name, date of birth, address, their parent/guardian's contact phone number and contact email and what group they are interested in joining.
- 2.2 It is the responsibility of the Group Scout Leader (GSL) to make decisions about membership of the Group. Generally, the GSL delegates responsibility for decisions about allocation of membership from the waiting list to the Membership Secretary (MS). The MS will consult with Section Leaders about the space they have in their Sections and about when to admit new members and how to admit new members that move between Sections. In certain cases, the MS may consult with the GSL about admissions. The GSL may decide about admissions in certain cases. Only the MS and GSL are responsible for allocation of spaces. If a Section Leader wants to admit a Young Person to the Group, they must consult with the MS and GSL to ensure that there is adequate space for that Young Person at that time.
- 2.3 Priority for Places will be given to:
 - Children in the Cholsey and Moulsoford Villages only.
 - Leaders Children (i.e. Leaders that attend regularly and have commenced their training).
 - Children registered on the waiting list.
 - Those that may be identified as likely to receive exceptional benefits from Scouting as they are disadvantaged in other ways.
 - Young people who are currently part of the Group (ie Beavers moving up to Cubs and Cubs moving up to Scouts) (however see clause 2.9).
- 2.4 Young person's details are listed chronologically on the waiting list and places will generally be allocated per this order once they meet the minimum age of 6 years for Beavers, 8 years for Cubs and 11 years for Scouts.

- 2.5 The waiting list will be managed proactively to anticipate when there will be challenges for each Section. There may be the need to protect spaces to ensure children can progress within the group.
- 2.6 The allocation of spaces will ensure that there is a balanced age range in each section and this may mean that numbers of each group are restricted.
- 2.7 Young persons will usually be admitted at the beginning of each term ie in September, January or April/May and the age ranges admitted will be considered using the same periods of time.
- 2.8 Swaps to another evening (Monday to Thursday – or vice versa for Beavers, Tuesday to Wednesday – or vice versa for Cubs, Wednesday to Thursday – or vice versa for Scouts) will only occur in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the GSL and MS. To ensure that data on the OSM remain up to date, Section Leaders must inform GSL or MS if the need for a swap arises.
- 2.9 Progression from section to section will not be guaranteed if you move out or are already living outside of Cholsey or Moulsoford. The progression of a non-resident between sections will be at the discretion of GSL and their retention will depend on whether there is space in the group closest to where they live.

3.0 Moving On:

- 3.1 The age of the child will be broadly 8 years old for going to Cubs, after 11th birthday for Scouts and 14th for Explorer Scouts. NB: admission to Explorers is administered through the Thames Chiltern Scout District. The point at which a member moves on will vary due to the capacity within each section and waiting list demands.
- 3.2 The MS will advise Leaders after the half term holiday of the members due to progress to the next section at the start of the following term and after discussion with the Leaders, the likely Section the individual will be allocated to. The MS will advise the Parents/Guardians of prospective Beavers. The Leaders will advise members' parents/guardians due to move on within the group and tell the MS as soon as they have confirmation from the members parent/guardian.
- 3.3 The Leaders will pass contact details to the next Section and updated OSM accordingly. It is expected that members will move to the allocated section and only in exceptional circumstances will changes to the allocation be made. It may not be possible to comply with a request for a place in a particular section and should the member not want to move to the allocated slot, we expect them to leave if their space is needed.

4.0 Group Numbers:

In 2017, the maximum numbers per night are as follows:

Beavers – 24; Cubs – 36; Scouts – 24

These numbers may change if we do not have sufficient volunteers to run the section or as numbers fluctuate within the group.

In 2017:

GSL is Neil Moroney

MS is Sarah Venners

Leaders: Lisa Johnston (for Monday Beavers); James Shaw (for Thursday Beavers); Ali Crotch Harvey (for Cubs); Michelle Jackson (for Scouts).