



## 1st MERTON PARK SCOUT GROUP ADMISSION POLICY

1st Merton Park Scout Group is very popular and there is unfortunately not room for all children that wish to become members of the Group. This policy sets out how prospective members are given priority. The policy applies only to 1st Merton Park Scout Group. Other groups within the Wimbledon and Wandle District will have different policies.

We accept and encourage diversity, and accept males and females of any race, colour and religion. Children must be between 6 and 17 years of age. Adults can range from 18 upwards, but must have a valid Scout Association Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check before joining.

When prospective members become eligible they will be offered a place within the relevant section, provided there is a strong likelihood that there is sufficient space in subsequent sections for all members of the group. For example a prospective child of Beavers age will be offered a place in Beavers if it is expected that there will be space for them in Cubs and Scouts when they are due to move up. In offering a place in a section it will be expected that the prospective member will be able to spend a full scouting year in that section.

If there is insufficient space, prospective members will be placed on the waiting list, provided they are above 3 years of age. The group as a whole maintains only one waiting list and prospective members will join the appropriate section for their age when a space becomes available.

New members are selected from the waiting list when places become available, according to the following priorities:

1. Children of the uniformed Scouting leadership teams
2. Children who are moving up from lower sections (Beavers or Cubs or Scouts) due to age.
3. Children of the current Executive Committee and children whose parents take on one or more duties from a list specified by the Executive (please enquire for details of available roles)
4. Siblings of current Members of 1st Merton Park Scout Group providing that young person has been on the waiting list for 6 months.
5. The length of time the prospective member has been on the waiting list.
6. Children transferring from other Scout Groups.

Children of the uniformed Scouting leadership teams have the highest priority due to the critical lack of uniformed leaders in Scouting generally and 1st Merton Park in particular.

Children will generally move up to the next section at the end of term following their reaching the age when they would expect to leave the section (8 for moving from Beavers to Cubs, 10 for moving from Cubs to Scouts) in order to free up places for qualifying children on the waiting list or wishing to move up from the previous section. If there is not space in the next section, or their current section is not full they may move up a term later at the uniformed leaders' discretion.

Exceptions to these rules to cater for siblings or other considerations may be made after consultation with the Executive Committee and Group Scout Leader. We reserve the right to ask for withdrawal of a member from the Group.

On joining the Group Beavers / Cubs / Scouts and Explorer Scouts are expected to attend as part of their membership of the group the following or any other event as deemed by the Group Executive;

- 1) Remembrance Sunday
- 2) St Georges Day Parade
- 3) Mothering Sunday
- 4) A Section Camp / Sleepover

Absence from these events is only permitted following written request to the relevant Section Leader and approval being obtained.

In addition persistent unexplained absence from section meetings will deem the member of the group to have decided to leave the group and accordingly their place will be offered to another young person at the beginning of the new term.

Should a parent or guardian wish to appeal against a decision they can contact the Group Scout Leader whose decision will be final.



**LIFE CHANGING ADVENTURE**