

March 2011

Scout Active Support eNews

Welcome to the first 2011 edition of Scout Active Support eNews, here to provide active support at your fingertips.

Contact us

A team is available to support you:

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For general Adult Support issues
adult.support@scout.org.uk

How can we support you?

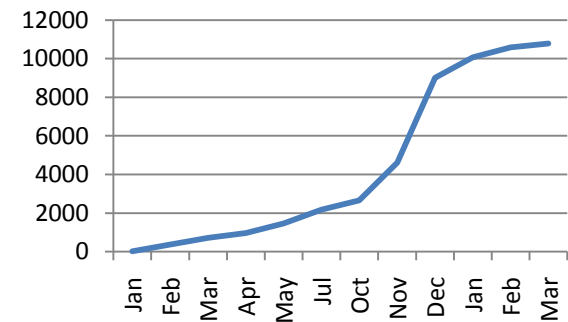
We can see from the graph to the right, Scout Active Support Units are starting across the UK. Starting a Unit from scratch is one thing, but developing the Unit is quite another. If there are any areas you would like support in to develop your Unit, please contact active.support@scouts.org.uk

Resources, resources, resources

All resources to support Scout Active Support are available from www.scouts.org.uk/activesupport or from the Scout Information Centre on 0845 3001818. Scout Shops have a range of optional merchandise including scarves, polo shirts badges and flags.

Scout Active Support on the increase.

Scout Active Support Managers, Coordinators and Members recorded on the membership system, show a month on month increase.



There are now almost 11,000 Scout Active Support Coordinators, Managers and Members right across the UK.

No experience necessary

Across the UK 975 adults have joined Scout Active Support as their first role in Scouting. This means that this new approach to volunteering is appealing to adults who have not held an adult role in Scouting before. If you have a story about how you have recruited adults with no Scouting experience, please let us know at: active.support@scouts.org.uk



Magazine Supplements

The Focus supplement is aimed at Scouting Managers including Group Scout Leaders, District Commissioners and County Commissioners. Scout Active Support Managers may also find it useful.

If you think of anything that you would like to see in Focus, that would be useful for other Scouting Managers, please email focus@scouts.org.uk

Does your Unit support the youth Sections? Have you thought about the most appropriate supplement to receive? Could different people within your Unit receive different ones to cover the 5 Sections?

If you would like change the supplement you receive with your Scouting Magazine, simply log into your member record at www.scouts.org.uk and change your magazine options.

Brand Guidelines

Guidelines on the use of the Scout Active Support logo and brand are now available through www.scouts.org.uk/brand and also on the Scout Active Support publications pages.

Is your Unit having a Big Adventure?

Any camp or event taking place between May and September can be part of The Big Adventure simply by inviting parents and other adults to help out.

It is a great way for Scout Groups to work together to get young people off joining lists and into Scouting.

Show potential volunteers what they can do for Scouting, what we can do for them, and inspire them to get involved.

Register now

If you are planning on running a Big Adventure, or are interested in finding out more, please [register here](#) or visit www.scouts.org.uk/thebigadventure

You will receive regular updates, including case studies, practical ideas and competitions with amazing prizes such as:

- Publicity for your Big Adventure.
- Discounts on resources.
- A high-profile figure attending your event

Is your Unit supporting a Group, or holding its own Big Adventure, let us know at adult.support@scouts.org.uk

Local Points of Interest

District Scout Active Support Manager Paul Dockley from Enfield, Greater London North tells us how their Unit supports Scouting.

In Enfield we hold regular section Seminars (weekends away free of charge) a different section each year and GSL seminars annually. This year it's the turn of the Cubs. One of the things we always push is how important parents are to the success of the Group. So often parents are left collecting their children knowing little about the group other than – that's Akela!!!!

Our seminars lead on how to interact with parents, how to engage at AGM's and other group activities, including the Executive. Use the parents' skills and abilities to the best assist your Group.

We also offer career mentoring which is a little ad hoc but if we know someone is interested in a particular career path and we have a Leader, friend or colleague who can offer some direction we introduce them. I retired as a Senior Police officer and have at least a twenty plus ex Scouts from my Group and District who have successfully joined Police services all over the Country. It can help -it doesn't always work, however the voice of experience can ensure young people decide if that's the career they really want.

Grant Mitchell, Group Active Support Manager, 1st Disley in Greater Manchester East also lets us know what their Unit gets up to.



We are a small Group Active Support Unit. Because of our size we are unable to provide too much support at the moment (we hope to grow to be able to do more) but what we do falls into three categories:

1. Occasional support when regular section meetings / camps need additional help for a particular activity or when short of regular leaders
2. Assistance in planning major Group events - eg Group Family Camp, St. George's Day Parade
3. Help with some administration - particularly valuable at the moment as the Group currently has vacancies for both GSL and Group Chairman, but the Support Unit is able to fill part of the gap.

Lynn How, Scout Active Support Manager in Essex introduces Essex Scouts Mountain Activities Team.

We get involved in taking members walking and climbing as well as training and assessment for permits. See our website:

<http://www.esmat.org.uk/> for more details.

Pat Brown is the Scout Active Support Manager for The Axejammers, a Unit supporting Axe District in Avon County in the South West.

We were formed in September of last year so we are relatively new. Some members of the Fellowship transferred over to form a Unit of 16 members and are we are currently actively recruiting from a list of people who have had to resign from leadership due to work or family commitments in the last couple of years. We then plan to widen our net by offering membership to parents and other interested members of the community.

To date some of our members have acted as marshals at a local athletic event, walked with Cubs on a 'night hike', provided refreshments at a District Beaver event, and helped with a local District Scouting Awards ceremony.

Future plans are to help with St Georges Day Parade, the local Gang Show in April, the County Jamboree in May, and the District Beaver event in June, and act as marshals in the Weston Super Mare Carnival in November. The 'outside' events

we support always make a donation to the unit and we plan to use this money to support the District.

John Hall, Scout Active Support Manager in Greater London North tell us about the event their Unit runs.

We support the organisation and running of the 'Southern 50 Challenge' which is a walking event sponsored by Greater London North. All Scout Active Support members are also members of the organising committee and we had no previous 'life' as a Scout Fellowship.

The Southern 50 has been going since 1980 and all the organisers (i.e. committee members) then, as they are now, are either actively involved in Scouting in another capacity or were involved in the past. We have therefore used the Scout Active Support as a convenient 'vehicle' to bring into membership those on the committee that currently do not have an existing role in Scouting.

The event itself involves about 130 helpers mainly engaged on checkpoints, catering duties, and admin work.

What is your Unit doing?

With Scout Active Support Units popping up all over the UK, it would be really interesting to hear the variety to support that they provide, you might even make it into the next issue of eNews.

- Does your Unit provide support in an unusual way?
- Is your Unit the sixth emergency service to Section Meetings who are missing a Leader?
- How do you communicate amongst members?
- Do you engage parents or former members?
- Do you use adults with management skills to support the GSL, DC or CC?
- Does the Unit support the County Training Manager with delivering training sessions?

A picture tells a thousand words

It is great to hear what you are doing, but a picture tells a thousand words.



Do you have any photos of your Unit actively supporting Scouting? It could be climbing your nearest mountain with some Scouts, catering for the County AGM or coordinating car parking for a District fireworks display.

Whatever your Scout Active Support Unit gets up to, it would be great to have a photograph that could be used to publicise Scout Active Support.

. . . . and finally

We would be hearing your views on Scout Active Support eNews. Do you find any areas particularly interesting, would you like more support or more information about something? Please let us know by emailing active.support@scouts.org.uk

Thanks for reading the eNews, if you know anyone who may be interested in receiving this just email active.support@scouts.org.uk and we'll add them to the mailing list.

