



Cyberscouts

**1st. Derbyshire Dales
Scout Group**



Introduction to the relaunch of Cyberscouts

Prepared by Tim Polkinghorne

Group Scout Leader

Cyberscouts

December 2007



**Cyberscouts contact: Tim Polkinghorne Group Scout Leader
Nirvana House, 30 Thorpe View, Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 1SY.
Tel 01335 348444 Mobile 0780 301 7061
Email tim@reachnirvana.co.uk
www.cyberscouts.org.uk tba !!**

Introduction

The Cyberscout Group has a very special mission and a very large district to cover.

The 1st Derbyshire Dales District is by far the largest District in Derbyshire and it is the least densely populated. Glossop to Baslow to Brailsford and Leek.

Our core mission is to promote and provide scouting to the children in small villages throughout the Derbyshire Dales District that currently have no convenient access to Scouting.

All sections of the Cyberscout Group, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers will meet up once every six weeks and the weekly programme of Scouting will be downloaded from the Cyberscouts website. The young people can download the weekly programme at school, at their local community internet access facility or at home.

The six weekly meetings will be for full days and or weekends which will include assessing the progress of the young people on the last set of downloaded programme exercises, and preparation and introduction for the next set of downloads.

The meetings will integrate with National, County and District Scouting events and include visits to interesting and adventurous places. There will be the opportunity to train on at least one or two Badges at each weekend meeting for the young people that wish to progress in that activity or skill.

This virtual Scouting approach will be available to the entire County to provide support for any sections/ groups with temporary leader shortages and provide an access to Scouting for any young people in Derbyshire that are unable to attend their local Scout group programme

The Cyberscouting programme events for each section will be available for any other Group in the County to join as guests and they will be able to bring a number of their young people and leaders as visitors/ guests.

Introduction to Scouting

The Scout Association offers everyday adventure and activity to almost 400,000 young people across the UK. The Movement is the largest co-educational youth organisation in the world, with over 28 million Members in 216 countries and territories.



In the UK Scouting is organised through The Scout Association and has a clear purpose:

To help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as Members of their local, national and international communities.

About our work

Even if we can't solve all the problems in the world, we can help to make it a better place. Scouting makes a positive contribution to society by helping young people to develop as active members of the community:

- **who are self reliant**
- **who are caring**
- **who are responsible**
- **who show commitment**

Scouting works well when young people enjoy learning by working in partnership with adults. They do this by:

- **taking part in a variety of activities and new experiences**
- **exploring the outdoors**
- **participating in teams**
- **taking responsibility.**

Our method for giving young people the opportunity to learn by doing is called the **Programme**. The Programme is a continuous progression of training, activities and awards that covers everything that young people do in Scouting from the age of 6 to 25.

Our commitment

In Scouting, our adults have a responsibility to make sure that the Programme is fun and exciting. We must also make sure that it is safe. The Scout Association's policies, rules, code of behaviour, advice on Child Protection and safety policy are there to ensure our young people stay safe while they enjoy themselves and learn.



Who can be a Scout?

Scouting is open to all young people aged 6 to 25 of every faith and background. There are also plenty of opportunities for adults to become involved as Leaders, Assistants or Administrators.

Mission Statement

The aim of the Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Method of achieving the Aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, and guided by adult leadership.

Facts about adults in Scouting

Adults in Scouting are from all walks of life. Yet the one thing they share is the enjoyment of helping young people reach their potential. You may not be aware of the following facts:

- **None of our Leaders are paid – they are all volunteers.**
- **The majority of our Leaders have full time jobs and a family.**
- **44% of our Leaders are female.**
- **Leaders get involved because they want to have fun and make new friends themselves.**
- **Leaders don't have to be 'superheroes' who know everything. They are given training on the job and learn new skills as they go along. The one thing that unites**

- our Leaders is the energy and enthusiasm they have for giving young people the adventure of Scouting**
- **Whilst all our volunteers are passionate about what they do, many help out on a flexible basis due to other commitments. Some may help out once a week or fortnight whereas others help once a term or at summer camp.**
 - **27% of volunteers help out in Scouting as they are a parent of a current Member. Many were not Scouts when they were young but have learnt new skills and made new friends through Scouting.**
 - **Not all volunteers have to wear uniform.**
 - **Many of our adult volunteers say they are more confident in their everyday lives as a result of their involvement with Scouting.**
 - **Not all adults who volunteer for Scouting work with young people. There are a variety of other jobs that need to be done such as gardening and general DIY, organising events, doing the accounts and writing press releases. This means that adult Leaders who do work directly with young people do not have to spend all their time doing paperwork.**
 - **All our Leaders are covered by a comprehensive insurance policy while taking part in Scouting.**
 - **New Leaders in Scouting go through a criminal records check to ensure they are fit to work with young people.**

Everyone has something to give

You may feel that you have no skills to offer Scouting - but everyone has something to give. Doing things such as making squash and organising games means the Leader has more time to spend with the young people. Do you have any hobbies and interests that you could share? For example, are you a qualified First Aider who could run an interactive session or do you have an interest in nature and could take a Group on a fun walk through the local woods? If you don't have time in the evenings when Groups meet could you use your work skills to help out a few hours a month to suit you? Are you a gardener, an accountant or work in Public Relations for example or could you take a Group to your place of work such as a police station or garden centre?

What you can get out of volunteering

Volunteering in Scouting is fun and rewarding. You will have the chance to learn new skills, rediscover adventure, make new friends, spend more time with your child if they are a Scout and give something back to your community.

There are many ways for you to help in Cyberscouting. The table below details some of the roles available:

Leader

Assistant Leader

Section Assistant

Occasional Helper/ Parent

Young Leader

Chairman

Treasurer

Secretary

Leader

Every Section (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Network) has a Leader. The Leader has overall responsibility for the running of the Section. This means planning and delivering the Balanced Programme with the help of Assistant Leaders and Section Assistants.

Section Leaders can choose to lead one of the following Sections:

- **Beavers (aged 6-8)**
- **Cubs (aged 8-10½)**
- **Scouts (aged 10½-14)**
- **Explorers (aged 14-18)**
- **Network (aged 18-25)**

Leaders are responsible for the young people in the Section and for any adults helping to deliver the Programme.

Assistant Leader

Assistant Leaders support the Section Leader in delivering the Balanced Programme. This can mean anything from helping to plan and run games or activities, or helping to keep records up to date.

The responsibilities of an Assistant Leader will depend on their own interests and on what they agree with the Leader.

Assistant Leaders are supported by Section Assistants, as well as by other Assistant Leaders.

Section Assistant

All our Sections need helpers. Outdoor activities and nights away require a certain number of adults in relation to the number of young people. So by helping out whenever they can, Section Assistants could be enabling an extra 6 (in the case of Beavers) or 12 (in the case of Scouts) young people to participate in Scouting.

More importantly, Section Assistants provide invaluable support to Leaders and Assistant Leaders. Regularly attending meetings to collect subs (fees) or to make refreshments means that the Leaders have more time to deliver the programme to young people

Occasional Helper/Parent

Parents and family members are encouraged, where possible, to help out a Section in some way. Some Sections will organise rotas where support can be given once or twice a term by all the parents in the Section. This should be used as an opportunity to get involved in what the young people are doing.

Adults who have a specific skill or interest can also choose to run a particular activity or event. Such skills are invaluable to Scout Groups and can usually assist young people in gaining, or working towards, a particular badge.

Young Leader (14-18)

The Young Leaders' Scheme is designed for those aged 14-18 who are primarily interested in helping out in one of the younger Sections (Beavers, Cubs or Scouts).

Young Leaders will be members of the Explorer Scout Section, which means that they can take part in all the activities and opportunities that Scouting in the Explorer Unit or District has to offer.

Chairman

The Chairman of a Committee will manage meetings and will work with the County Commissioner or Group Scout Leader to ensure the

Scout Group operates in accordance with the *Policy, Organisation and Rules* of the Association.

This is the ideal role for adults who do not necessarily wish to work directly with young people, but who are committed to the purpose, aims and development of Scouting.

Chairmen are responsible for members of the Committee, including the Treasurer and Secretary.

Treasurer

Treasurers assist the Chairman in the effective administration of the Scout Group by providing financial support. This could mean setting the annual budget or completing annual accounts.

This role is ideal for someone who does not necessarily want to work directly with young people, but who is comfortable working with figures and budgets.

Secretary

Secretaries assist the Chairman in the effective administration of the Scout Group by providing sound administrative support. This could mean ensuring the completion of the annual census or maintaining records of members of the Group.

This is the ideal role for someone who does not necessarily want to work directly with young people, but who is organised and enjoys administrative work.

Group Scout Leader

The Group Scout Leader (GSL) ensures the effective operation of the Scout Group. The Scout Group consists of the three younger Sections – Beavers (aged 6-8), Cubs (aged 8-10½) and Scouts (aged 10½-14).

The Group Scout Leader is responsible for ensuring that the Group has a team of 'fit and proper' adults who are well inducted and supported, and that a Balanced Programme is being delivered to all young people in the Group.

A Group Scout Leader is responsible for all Leaders and Assistant Leaders in the Scout Group. This means that it is the ideal role for someone who is interested in working with both adults and young people.

Training Adviser

Training Advisers work with other adults, making sure that they have the knowledge and skills to be effective in their roles. They act to support adults in their training by explaining how the Scout Association's Adult Training Scheme works by validating the relevant modules and by keeping records of their progress.

Local Training Manager

Local Training Managers are in charge of Training Advisers. They are responsible for making sure that all adults new to Scouting are assigned a Training Adviser. They also assist the County Training Manager in the provision of training in their particular area.

Media Development Manager

For adults who are interested in the media, this would be the ideal role. A Media Development Manager is responsible for improving the public image of Scouting. This means developing and maintaining a list of local media contacts and identifying good stories in local Scouting, which can then be promoted to the local media.

Fundraiser

Fundraisers provide Scouting with necessary funds. They may be in charge of raising funds for a new headquarters, for new equipment or even to send a Section or Group on an activity or camp. Fundraisers are responsible for organising the way in which money can be raised, be it through a sponsored walk, a lottery grant or public collections.

Fellowship

If you are over 18 you can join a Scout Fellowship. Scout Fellowships are a large part of the "backbone" of the Scout Movement – supporting young people and voluntary leaders wherever help is needed. All Fellowships provide 'active support', whether it is physical, mental, geared to a particular technical skill or general support. It could be as a badge examiner, a Training Adviser to new leaders, catering for courses, running pioneering courses, assisting with hill walking, rock climbing or anything else that would support Scouting. We all have something to offer as far as supporting Scouting is concerned whatever our age or ability.

Current vacancies for The Cyberscout Group

Beaver colony

Beaver Leader
Beaver Assistant Leader
Beaver Assistant/ Helper
Beaver Young Leader

Cub pack

Cub Leader
Cub Assistant Leader
Cub Assistant/ Helper
Cub Young Leader



Scout Troop

Scout Leader
Scout Assistant Leader
Scout Assistant/ Helper
Scout Young Leader

Explorers

Explorer Leader
Explorer Assistant Leader
Explorer Assistant/ Helper

Training Adviser

Local Training Manager

Fundraisers

Media Development Manager

Skills Leaders for activities:

- **Rock Climbing**
- **Canoeing/ Kayaking**
- **Sailing**
- **Hiking/ Trekking**
- **Orienteering**
- **Knotting**
- **Pot Holing**
- **Abseiling**
- **Gliding**
- **Camping**

The Cyberscout sections:

Beaver Scouts

Beaver Scouts are the youngest section in The Scout Association and are aged 6 –8 years old. The Beaver Scouts meet in Colonies of between 12 -24.

Beaver Scouts have lots of fun doing different activities which include making things, going on visits, making friends, doing badges and going away for a night on a sleepover

What is Beaver Scouting?

Beaver Scouts are young people usually aged between six and eight years old. They belong to the first and youngest Section in the Scouting family. Young people can join Beaver Scouts in the three months leading up to their sixth birthday. They can move to the next Section, Cub Scouts, between eight and eight years six months.



Easily recognised by their distinctive turquoise sweatshirts, Beaver Scouts enjoy making friends, playing games, going on visits and helping others. Cyberscout Beavers will download a weekly programme from the website and meet up for extended periods once every six weeks at weekends and we will also organise Sleepovers. These are often the first time a young person spends a night away from home. They take place in suitable buildings, often Scout centres.



If you want to take part in the fun of Beaver Scouting, either as a Beaver Scout, or as an Adult Leader or helper please contact the Cyberscout GSL

The Beaver Scout Promise

The Beaver Scout Promise is:
 I promise to do my best
 To be kind and helpful
 And to love God.



The Beaver Scout Motto

The Beaver Scout Motto is:
 Be Prepared

Typical activities for a Beaver Colony might look like this:

Activity	Programme Zone
Stamps	Discovering Creativity and Practical Skills
Heartbeats	Learning about Yourself
Stars	Exploring the World Around Us
Circus Skills	Discovering Creativity and Practical Skills
No cook cooking	Discovering Creativity and Practical Skills
Founder's Day	Discovering Beliefs and Attitudes
Police Station visit	Getting to Know Other People
Commonwealth Day	Getting to Know Other People

Foods from other countries	Exploring the World Around Us
Campfire	Getting to Know Other People
Walk in local woods	Learning About Yourself

Cub Scouts

Cub Scouts are Boys and Girls aged 8 to 10. They meet in a Cub Pack and have lots of fun. At Cubs you can try lots of fun activities like Camping, going on trips and making things. If you like having lots of fun and adventure with your friends join the Cyberscout Cub Pack

Typical activities for a Cub Pack might look like this:

Activity	Programme Zone
Tent pitching	Outdoor Scouting
Computer poster design	Creative
Swimming	Fitness
Communicator badge	Discovering the World Around You
Fire station visit	Caring and Community
Backwards cooking	Creative
Caring challenge badge	Caring and Community
Air rifle shooting	Fitness
Endangered and extinct animals	Beliefs and Attitudes
Indoor climbing	Fitness
Christmas around the world	Global

Scouts

The Scout Section is for young people, usually aged between 10½ and 14 years. A young person can come in to the Troop at 10 and may stay until they are 15 years old. The



Scout Troop is the third and final Section in the Scout Group.

As a Scout you can take part in a wide range of activities as part of your programme. This could be anything from Abseiling to Zorbing, and there are a number of Challenge Awards and Activity Badges to earn along the way. Scouts is all about finding out about the world we live in, knowing your own abilities, keeping fit for life and developing creative talents. It's also important to explore your own values and personal attitudes.

Being outdoors is important and there are many opportunities to learn the traditional Scouting skills, such as camping, survival and cooking as well as the wide range of adventurous activities, anything from abseiling to yachting.

The international aspect gives Scouting a special appeal and many Scouts now travel abroad during their time in the Section. In 2002/3 25,000 Scouts from around the World attended the World Jamboree in Thailand. Even more attended the World Jamboree in The United Kingdom in 2007. In 2005 the European Jamboree, Eurojam, happened in Chelmsford, Essex, and over 2000 UK Scouts made contact with Scouts from around the world, to share a unique experience.

Scouting is about being with friends, as part of a team, participating fully in the adventure and opportunities of life.

Typical activities for a Scout Troop might look like this:

Activity	Programme Zone
Origami boat race	Scoutcraft and Adventure
Landmine challenge	Global
Bird boxes	Community
Dinghy sailing	Fit for Life
Circus skills	Creative Expression
Visit to a synagogue	Exploring Beliefs and Attitudes
Foods around Europe	Global
Road safety	Community
Hike in woods	Fit for Life
Scout Grand Prix	Scoutcraft and Adventure
Code breaking	Creative Expression

Explorer Scouts

As a Cyberscout Explorer Scout, you will be able to decide, along with the rest of the Unit, what you want to do - whether it is powerboating, socialising, hiking or enjoying a trip abroad. Some Units hold their meetings in a hall, or at someone's house, or even up a mountain!



You will be able to gain badges such as the Chief Scout's Diamond and Platinum Awards. The highest award you can earn is the Queen's Scout Award. This is recognised by many employers as the sign of someone that is enthusiastic, dedicated and reliable.

Cyberscout Network

What do Cyberscout Network do exactly?

Put simply, anything they want! Networks are involved in activities as wide ranging as kayaking, rock climbing, water skiing, international projects in places as inspiring as Chile, Libya and Italy, work with young people and help within the local community... the list of activities, projects and events is almost endless. You can also take part in the Duke of Edinburgh as well as Scout Awards. By joining Scout Network a whole world of opportunity opens up to you. What you and your Network do is up to you.

Can I be a member of Network?

If you are aged between 18-25 then yes, of course you can! Some Cyberscout Network members will also be Leaders, Assistants or part of their local Scout Fellowship. Others will never have been involved in Scouting before – now is the time to start. Once you become a Network member, you can take part in pretty much any activity or event arranged by the 237 Networks there are across the UK.

Your child and Scouting

Do you know what your child gets up to at their meetings? If not, read on to be enlightened!

Whilst the activities they take part in will depend on their age, each Section gives young people the opportunity to learn by doing. Each Section has between five and



seven Programme Zones. Programme Zones divide the whole Programme into manageable areas. Each zone represents a different development area in a young person's life. Scout Leaders are trained to deliver this programme, ensuring our young people stay safe while they enjoy themselves and learn.

Real stories of parents supporting Scouting

It's easy for parents to get involved in Scouting. Here are some different experiences of parents who have enjoyed helping out.

Ian - Group Scout Leader

'I was a Cub Scout and then a Scout until I was 12 years old, but then had little involvement with the Movement until my son joined Beavers. There was no Scout Section in the Group as the previous Leader had left five years ago, so when the time came for my son to move into Scouts, he faced the prospect of joining the waiting list for another Group. By co-incidence, the Group's Beaver Scout Leader was planning to open a Scout Section, and he gathered some parents together to ask them if they would become a warranted Leader. My primary concern was the amount of time that would have to be given over to running the Troop. We were all concerned about work pressures interfering with programme events and letting down the Scouts by not attending. The solution was to establish a 'co-operative Leadership'. This ensured that there were adequate Leaders when work commitments prevented some from attending.



Initially the Scout Leadership team consisted of four dads. We all took on the role of Assistant Scout Leaders with no one person in overall control. Despite concerns over work commitments I think over the last year not one of us have missed more than two Troop nights! I initially worked as the Troop Secretary, but I have just taken on the role of Group Scout Leader.

Volunteering as a Scout Leader gives me an opportunity to make a difference to children's lives in the community. I've found it fun and fulfilling. The training, which seemed daunting at first, was not only essential when running a Troop night, but also teaches you many skills that are used regularly in the workplace. By volunteering as a parent leader, many mums and dads already know me, communication with them is easier, and recruitment of Scouts is easier as you are in contact with many of your children's friends.

We recently recruited four new Beaver Leaders using the same 'co-operative leadership' strategy.'

Christine – Section Assistant

'I was involved with Scouting when I was younger, but had to give up due to study and work commitments. When two of my sons were old enough, they joined the village Scout Group. I realised that there was a lack of local adult support for the Group, and it felt like the right time to get involved again. I've always believed in the Scout Movement, and wanted to be part of and contribute to an organisation I hold in such high esteem. I spoke to the Cub Scout Leader about volunteering again, and I am now a Section Assistant. As I work part-time and have three children, I job-share the role with another adult, and we cover alternate weeks.

Since starting the role, I've had so many opportunities to try activities that I wouldn't have done otherwise, such as rock climbing and going to Gilwell Park for an open day, which was a fantastic inspiration to me as a new volunteer. This summer I also spent several days helping out at a local Jamboree. It was great to meet so many people from all over the UK and abroad committed to one cause. I believe my enthusiasm and commitment have been an asset to the Group, and have enabled the adults and young people to enjoy Scouting and grow. You get out of Scouting what you put in, for me it's something to be proud of.'



Tina – Beaver Colony Administrator

'I first got involved with Scouting through my daughter. When she joined Beavers, I got chatting to the Chairman of the District at an event. I mentioned that I work in administration, and she said that the District was looking for someone to help with administration for the monthly newsletter. I felt this was something I could do easily, and without committing too much time, so I asked her to tell me a bit more about what it would entail. I now send out the newsletter once it has been written and printed by other volunteers. I like being able to help my daughter's Group in a way that suits my skills and availability. There's no pressure and everyone works to their own schedule.'