

SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT E-NEWS

Our December 2009 issue

Welcome to the first edition of your Scout Active Support eNews, here to give you active support in your new role. As we begin the challenge of turning our new opportunity into a reality there might be things you'd like to share or suggest to others – please contact the support team at active.support@scouts.org.uk



Scout Active Support in your area

The launch team is currently on tour around the UK, providing workshops which explore how Scout Active Support can work in your area. These workshops are part of the Development, Advice and Support Days. If you have received an invite but haven't already booked onto your day please come along. The dates for next year are:

North West	6 Feb
Scotland	6/7 Feb
Wales	6 March
East of England	27 March

For further information please email: adviceandsupportdays@scout.org.uk

Your questions answered

As Scout Active Support is in its infancy there are understandably a large number of questions arising, from how to manage the transition process through to where the new badge goes.

At the end of this bulletin is a list, with answers, of the most frequently asked questions so far. If your question is not answered please send it to active.support@scouts.org and we will provide you with the answer.

Resources available now!

In order to support Scout Active Support across Counties, Areas, Districts and Groups a wide range of resources are at hand. These include:

Scout Active Support Essentials



Factsheets

Background to Scout Active Support
What is Scout Active Support?
Membership of Scout Active Support
Scout Active Support Service Agreement

Why Change?

Fellowship to Scout Active Support: Your Quick Reference Guide



**Posters
(6 designs)**



PowerPoint template

All these resources are available from www.scouts.org.uk/activesupport or from the Information Centre on 0845 3001818.

Scout Shops has a range of Scout Active Support merchandise including scarves, polo shirts and badges at www.scouts.org.uk/shop

Scouting Plus

Each week, The Scout Association sends out ScoutingPlus, an email news update which includes news stories, important information from headquarters, promotions from Scout Shops and information from key sponsors.

To receive this update please visit www.scouts.org.uk, log into the Membership Services System and view 'Your Details'. Make sure that you have an email address entered, select the mailing tab and check that 'Receive ScoutingPlus' has a 'Yes' next to it. If you have trouble logging into the system the Information Centre will be able to help you by contacting them on 0845 300 1818 or email info.centre@scout.org.uk

InTouch

Following a comprehensive review and six months of trials, InTouch was launched to replace the Home Contact system in November 2009. It will be implemented locally in each District (and County for County based units such as County Scout Active Support Units) between November 2009 and 1st September 2010.

For more information on InTouch go to www.scouts.org.uk/intouch

Contact us

A team is available to support you:

Melissa Green – Head of Adult Support

Email: melissa.green@scout.org.uk

Phone: 020 8433 7139

Laura McManus – Programme and Development Adviser
(Scout Active Support)

Email: laura.mcmanus@scout.org.uk

Phone: 020 8433 7129

Julia Westall – Admin Assistant

Email: julia.westall@scout.org.uk

Phone: 020 8433 7128

The Scout Active Support Launch Team

Email: active.support@scout.org.uk

Online:

www.scouts.org.uk/activesupport

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

POR

As you would expect, with the change to Scout Active Support comes changes to *Policy, Organisation and Rules* (POR) and these changes will be contained in the next edition.

Census – How to record it

It's that time of year again folks! As we are, this year, in a period of transition a combined figure will be taken for members of Scout Active Support and Scout Fellowship. Please note this is recorded on the form as Scout Fellowship or Active Support.

Please fill in the question regarding those members recorded elsewhere. It's purely a statistical question, but is very useful for the Support Team.

Can you build a house?

Scout Food House is a sort of café/restaurant that sells refreshments or light meals to participants and visitors to the Jamboree. Through a variety of Scout Food Houses with a national character, the Jamboree has an international flavour for everyone to enjoy.

We are looking to set up UK themed Food House to offer at the next World Scout Jamboree in Sweden 2011. So, if you're interested and feel up for the challenge go to www.ukcontingent.org.uk/foodhouse for more information!

Your active stories...

We have heard of six Scout Active Support Units starting already across the UK, maybe yours is one of them? We'd be thrilled to hear about your success stories, please send them in to active.support@scouts.org

....and finally

Thanks for reading the eNews, if you know anyone who may be interested in receiving this, just drop us a line and we'll add them to the mailing list. So until the next edition best wishes for the new year of active supporting!



scouts.org.uk/activesupport



... your questions answered

What is a Scout Active Support Unit?

A Scout Active Support Unit is a group of adults who wish to support Scouting. Scout Active Support welcomes men and women over the age of 18 years of age and of all interests and backgrounds. There is no requirement to have been involved in Scouting or Guiding before joining a Scout Active Support Unit. All that is required is a willingness to volunteer and to have some time available to support Scouting.

What does 'active' mean?

Active means actively supporting Scouting, not just in the physical sense such as water activities or pioneering but as Training Advisors, organising a fundraising event or providing refreshments at an AGM. Anything that supports Scouting is active support.

How is Scout Active Support different from Scout Fellowship?

Scout Active Support has an appointed manager to support members and to manage the provision rather than an elected Committee. This mirrors the structure of the leadership for the youth sections and will consequently make Scout Active Support feel more a part of The Scout Association.

How will the Fellowship run better without a Chairperson?

Without a Chairperson and a management committee there is the opportunity for a Scout Active Support Unit to be managed by one person. The Scout Active Support Manager will fulfil the roles of the Chairman, Secretary and the Treasurer. The Manager role is appointed by the Group Scout Leader, District Commissioner or County Commissioner and these two roles work in partnership to benefit Scouting. Without the need to elect a committee, there is no need for a formal AGM.

I don't have a Scout Fellowship in my County/District, I would like a Scout Active Support Unit, and how do I go about it?

If you are a Group Scout Leader, District Commissioner or County Commissioner then you need to identify a need for a Scout Active Support Unit to exist, this could be something from your Development Plan. You then need to identify someone to fulfil the role of Scout Active Support Manager.

If you are not a GSL or Commissioner, talk to your relevant line manager, County Commissioner, District Commissioner or Group Scout Leader.

Scout Fellowship is working well, why are you changing it?

Scout Active Support uses the aspects of Scout Fellowship that work well and aims to be a more effective resource for local managers of Scouting to assist with the realisation of their Development Plans.

Is this a way to get rid of Scout Fellowship Members?

Scout Active Support creates an ideal arena for existing members of Scout Fellowship with experience of Scouting and of traditional Scouting skills to pass them on to new members of Scout Active Support to ensure their experience is kept within Scouting. Scout Active Support is raising the profile of this group of adults with the Group Scout Leader, District Commissioner or County Commissioner, so they can provide the most effective support to Scouting.

What if I don't have a specific skill – I just enjoy the social aspect of Fellowship?

Scout Active Support Units exist to provide support to local Scouting managers, social activities will still play an important role in the Unit.

It is the Unit as a whole that will need to carry out the service agreement. Who in the Unit carries out the service agreement is for each Unit to organise. However Scout Active Support offers members the opportunities to partake in training to develop or improve upon skills they already have or would like to learn. There's always the chance to learn new skills.

Can I be a member of more than one Scout Active Support Unit?

Yes, as each Scout Active Support Unit will need different skills it may well be that a particular skill may be very useful to more than one Unit.

If I join two Units do I have to pay twice?

You won't have to pay the membership fee twice, however you may be asked to pay a local capitation, this is up to the relevant County, District or Group.

Can I be a member of Scout Network as well as Scout Active Support?

Yes, however just like any member with more than one appointment, the primary appointment, in this case Scout Network, should take precedence over Scout Active Support.

Does a County Unit have to encompass District Units?

No, District and County Units are separate working independently of each other.

Can the Scout Active Support Manager attend Executive Meetings?

The Scout Active Support Manager does not have right of attendance at Executive Meetings. They must be invited before they can attend.

What is a Service Agreement?

A Scout Active Support Unit should support local Scouting, and are an ideal resource to help meet the goals of the Group, District or County development plan. A Service Agreement is the working document that details exactly how the Scout Active Support Unit will support local Scouting.

Is there a maximum number of Coordinators we can have?

There is no maximum number, although as this is an appointment, a Coordinator should fulfil a role which is likely to last for longer than six months as a guide.

Do I have to take the Fellowship badge off my uniform?

Scout Fellowship will not exist after 31 December 2010 and the badge will not be valid from this date.

I don't like the Scout Active Support badge. Do I have to wear it?

The Scout Active Support badge is an optional item to be worn on uniform. See POR for full details.

Why change the branding? (name, shirt, scarf)

In the review, it became apparent that many adult only Groups, although they are officially Scout Fellowships, avoid the name. The new branding brings Scout Active Support back in line with Scouting. The new name Scout Active Support reflects exactly what this group of adults do: support Scouting. The new merchandise is optional rather than compulsory, so uniform remains flexible.

How will Scout Active Support Units be able to comply with the requirements of associated national governing bodies?

Be flexible in your approach. It is likely that the new structure will still align to the requirements on the national governing bodies, albeit in a slightly different way.