

Setting up a Scout Fellowship



Item Code FS330089 Nov 07 Edition no 1

0845 300 1818

Why set up a Fellowship?

There are two main reasons for starting a new Scout Fellowship:

- No Scout Fellowship currently exists or
- A need has been identified that cannot be covered by the existing Fellowship's remit.

It could be that you already have a group of people who are interested in performing a specific function, for example a County activity team or Gang Show team, or you may have identified an area where support is needed and you are looking to recruit people to provide that support. All adult-only support groups in Scouting should be registered as Fellowships, although they may not run like a 'traditional' Fellowship, and do not have to have the words 'Scout Fellowship' in their name.

Types of Fellowship

Different types of Scout Fellowship operate to provide support at different levels. The majority are organised at District level, since this used to be the only place to organise a Fellowship, however they also exist at Group, Area/County, Regional and National levels. Whilst specialist and activity Fellowships, for example a climbing activities team or a campsite service crew, are usually based at an Area/County level, they can be registered at any level.

Benefits of becoming a Scout Fellowship

The advantage to The Scout Association is that it can better understand who is supporting Scouting and offer a wide range of opportunities

to adult volunteers. It can make sure that groups who were not formerly affiliated become an official part of the Movement.

The advantage to the groups is that they can be better informed of The Scout Association's activities. They will also find it easier to be represented when necessary and receive additional support more easily. As an official member of the Scout Fellowship, those members will also enjoy discounts at a wide variety of camping and outdoor shops (not just our own Camping and Outdoor Shops) and will also be covered by the Association's insurance.

Such groups can join in and mix with the wider Scout Fellowship as much or as little as they wish – the choice is theirs.

Support Structure

Since the Scout Fellowship performs most of its work at a local level, much of the support available begins at that level. Each Fellowship is responsible to those who they are intended to help, for example a District Commissioner is responsible for encouraging the formation of a District Scout Fellowship, and ensuring their success and accountability. Ideally an Assistant District Commissioner for Scout Fellowship – ADC(SF) – will have been appointed to support the various Scout Fellowships in the District. The line of communication and support will then run through the ACC/AAC (SF) to the UK Adviser for Scout Fellowship and his support team. The team is supported by professional staff from the Adult Support Team at Gilwell Park.

The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email info.centre@scout.org.uk www.scoutbase.org.uk

Where to start

Once you have established interest in setting up a Fellowship and identified a group of potential members the next step is to talk to your responsible Commissioner (GSL, ADC, DC, CC, UK Adviser etc.). They will be able to give you advice and support as you go through the process of setting up the Fellowship. The Fellowship's 'remit', describing its role in providing Active Support to Scouting, will also need to be agreed in consultation with this person.

More Information

The resource *Active Support: A Complete Guide to the Scout Fellowship* is essential when setting up a Scout Fellowship since it describes in detail the key stages and processes which are only summarised here. This resource can be downloaded from the Fellowship pages at www.scoutbase.org.uk or purchased from the Scout Information Centre on 0845 300 1818.