

What is a Scout Fellowship?



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A Scout Fellowship is a group of adults who have one thing in common – a wish to support Scouting. A Scout Fellowship welcomes men and women of all ages, interests and backgrounds. There is no need to have been involved in Scouting or Guiding before. All that is required is a willingness to give some of your time to Scouting. In return you will make friends and be able to join with others doing whatever you decide. Each Scout Fellowship has its own social and activity programme.

The aim of the Scout Fellowship is to **provide Active Support**, particularly to the youth programme and at all levels of the Association from the local Scout Group to national initiatives.

What do Fellowships do?

The key to Fellowship is flexibility – Active Support covers a multitude of different activities, including physical, mental, technical skills or general support. For example members could act as badge examiners, mentors to new Leaders, provide catering, run pioneering courses, assist with hill walking or rock climbing, provide service to a campsite or a large event etc. Individual members within a Fellowship should have the opportunity to use their skills to support Scouting in whatever way is appropriate.

Depending on local needs and interests a Scout Fellowship may be based around a Scout Group,

District, Area/County or a particular task, like canoeing, caving or Gang Show. All adult-only support groups are Fellowships, although a group does not have to have the words 'Scout Fellowship' in their name.

Who belongs?

Any adult aged 18+ can be a member of the Scout Fellowship. Members could be: existing and former Leaders and Administrators; parents of Members and former Members, members of the Scout Network, friends who have come along and enjoyed themselves, in fact just about anyone!

Many people join Fellowship because they want to stay in contact with, and provide support to, Scouting, but are not able to fulfil a regular commitment.

Members of the Scout Fellowship may be Associate Members, or they may make the Scout Promise and become Full Members of the Movement. Fellowship Members can wear the Fellowship necker and badge if they wish. Many Fellowships have their own 'informal' uniform.

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

The benefits of being a member

A Scout Fellowship:

- Can provide an adult with the opportunity to become connected to Scouting.
- Can help an individual find their own place in Scouting by providing links and introductions within the Group, District or County/Area.
- Meets regularly but members can join in any way that suits them.
- Can provide Active Support to Scouting either through regular commitments or through responding to calls for help on specific issues.
- Enables members to keep in touch with friends they have made in Scouting, and make new ones.

Finding out more

If you are interested in finding out more about your local Fellowship you can get in touch with them through the 'Join the Adventure' pages at www.scouts.org.uk/join

To find more details on the Scout Fellowship see the resource *Active Support: A Complete Guide to the Scout Fellowship* (available at www.scouts.org.uk/fellowship) or contact the Information Centre on 0845 300 1818.