



A huge thank you for your efforts in 2023!



As 2023 draws to a close and everyone has a much needed rest over the festive and New Year period, I just want to say again, an enormous thank you for your efforts. It always amazes me the sheer commitment of all of our volunteers and the difference they make on a daily basis.

This time of year also provides the chance to look forward and get ahead for what will be an exciting year ahead.

There's certainly loads to look forward to from a county, whether it be the Big Weekend, activities at Hoveringham or young leader training.

Wishing everyone a lovely Christmas and New Year!

Speak soon

Steven Tupper
County Lead Volunteer

Quick messages

County Office

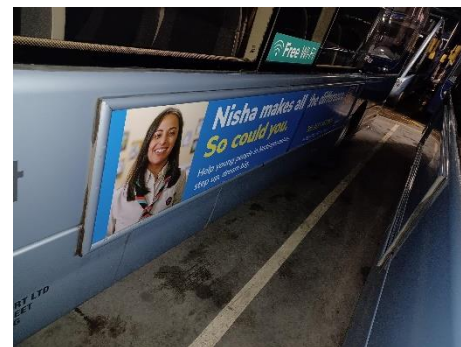
The County Office is currently running at a reduced capacity, please bear with us if you are trying to contact us. We'll be in touch with you as soon as we can.

Transformation

The new membership system is drawing ever nearer. Please make sure that you have completed all outstanding mandatory training before the move and have checked your e-mail address and phone number are correct on Compass.

External advertising for adults

The recruitment of new volunteers is always best done locally, however we're trialling some localised bus advertising and tracking to see if we see an increase in new recruits. Make sure you look out for our buses!



New yellow cards

It's essential that we keep everyone safe in Scouting. Our safeguarding yellow card has been updated and your Group or District will be arranging for the new one to be issued to you. The important change is that from 1 January 2024, anyone can report a safeguarding concern direct to the national safeguarding team rather than going through their manager. Please make sure you follow the new approach.

Census

Everyone who needs the annual census codes should now have received them. If you haven't please can you let District Lead Volunteer (previously known as District Commissioner) know?

There are 3 things that we are specifically asking you to focus on this year when you complete your returns.

1, Diversity data and 'prefer not to say'

Each year, we're keen to understand more about how Scouting reflects the makeup of your local area. Data around ethnicity, religion and disability helps us to identify areas for growth and development within our programme, and the support we can put in place to become more inclusive. It also helps us identify and celebrate success from where we do work with diverse communities, as well as strengthening our appeal for external support from funders and Government.

Whilst 'prefer not to say' will remain as an option on the census, we would ask that you provide any diversity data if you're aware. Conversations around diversity can be tricky, but explaining the reasons why the data is important for us to know and how it is being used may be a useful starting point.

Please expect to have your census return challenged if there are significant numbers of 'prefer not to say' reported.

2, Recording young people moving between sections

It's really important that young people moving between sections, for example Beavers to Cubs are still captured on your census return. They are still members of the Scout Association. Please use your best judgement to decide which section they should be reported in.

3, Correctly recording young leaders

We now have hundreds of young leaders supporting our sections across Nottinghamshire. It's important that we record them correctly on the census. Follow these simple steps to make sure you do it right.

- If they are also in a Explorer Unit they should be recorded on their Unit's return and membership will be paid for by them. They should also appear on the section return where they are volunteering for statistical purposes only.
- If they aren't an Explorer but volunteering as part of their DofE etc then they should be recorded on the section return for statistical purposes only.
- If they are volunteering but not in an Explorer Unit and not volunteering through another organisation they should be recorded in the District Explorer return and groups will be charged membership.

Development

In 2024 there will be a push to better understand the development needs of our sections across the County. The census will be the key piece of information used for this with the county development plan being set using the data.

Your input is key though! What we fully recognise is that development works best where sections already see the need and are up for giving it go. It certainly doesn't work well when it is forced. Development doesn't also have to be about new sections, it could be about developing your trustee board or recruiting new volunteers.

Please let your District Lead Volunteer know if you have an aspiration for a development project in your section. We can then try to put in place the support you need to realise your development goals.



Young leaders are our leaders of tomorrow

Across Nottinghamshire we have over 370 young leaders working alongside adult leadership teams in Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Well done to all our young leaders for all the hard work you have done towards your Young Leader Award and for everything you do in your sections.

Ed Hewes has led a small team of adults to set up and run a highly successful training offering for young leaders across the County. As Ed moves onto a new role we are looking for a sub team lead to lead a small team. I am sure all the young leaders would want to thank Ed for the huge impact he has had, especially for 'Story time with Ed'.

As part of the Volunteer Development Team we are looking for Sub Team Lead to lead and grow the small team of adult volunteers to deliver the 11 training modules (mostly done by zoom), provide support for the missions and to create opportunities for our young leaders to develop skills and knowledge.

Young leader training makes a real difference and enables them to gain their top awards. If you think you can lead a team, enthuse others, develop learning opportunities and make difference, for more details or to apply please contact christine.sheard@notts-scouts.org.uk.

We need you to help develop our young leaders to be leaders of tomorrow.



Training update

Wood badges 2023

A huge Congratulations to the 115 leaders who have gained their wood badge this year.



Thank you also to all the Training Advisers, District Local Training managers and Mike Cooley, our County Training Administrator for their hard work supporting leaders across the County to achieve their wood badge.

With Transformation, training is changing if you would like to achieve your wood badge please talk to either your Training Adviser or Local Training Manager about validating any learning you have already done.

First Response

This year we have had over 250 leaders complete their first response training. The guidelines for who requires a first response certificate (as a minimum) will change over the coming months if you are currently a section leader, assistant leader or sectional assistant and you do not hold an up to date first response qualification please look out for opportunities on training.notts-scouts.org.uk in the new year.

Advance Warning – Nights away training

We are hoping to run a weekends training for Nights away permit training which covers Module 16 and 37 in April. Several leaders have already shown an interest and places will be limited so please keep your eye on the county social media and training website for when bookings are open.

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year

Christine

County Volunteer Development Lead

