



Membership Subscriptions 2023/24

18th June 2023

Dear parents & carers

We all know the past year or so has been tough on everyone's finances and our charity is no different. We've seen severe increases in costs associated with running the Group:

- Utility and other costs have spiralled.
- We have seen an increase in the fees we have to pay to the national and county Scout Association, now accounting for £48 of each member's total membership subscription, up from £36 in 2017 (33% increase).
- We have also lost some of the regular users of the centre, who were contributing a significant amount to the Group's running costs. Most of these users have simply outgrown the size of the centre and we wish them well with their continued growth and success; however this has impacted our finances.

Trustees have been proactive in trying to find savings elsewhere, without compromising the resources allocated to running high quality programmes for the young people and still giving leaders what they need to do so. The Board are also passionate in providing the very best facilities both in resources, aesthetics, comfort and safety for our young people. We have the best facility in the District and one of the best facilities in the County and country for a Scout Group and are committed to keeping it that way.

After careful consideration the Trustee Board have made the decision to increase membership subscriptions to £15 per month (£165 per year – excluding August) from the new academic year, starting in September 2023.

Trustees have been able to maintain subs at the current level since 2016, however, we see no alternative without affecting our ability to provide a good Scouting experience. We have no wish to underfund our activities or 'water down' our Scouting offer as we wholeheartedly believe the success of the Group is down to our volunteer team providing good programmes week in and week out and offering value for money. We still feel this is good value for money. With the increase, this works out at £3.75 per week, cheaper than many shorter after school clubs. Trustees are committed to continue funding our programme, and again wish to assert that there will never be an additional charge for a regular weekly meeting activity – even away from the HQ – without a very good reason.

We know that times are hard and we are sorry to have to make this decision at this time. We have no wish to make Scouting inaccessible due to financial reasons and do have access to the limited discretionary Penticost fund. If you would like to discuss this increase or access the fund, please do speak with me or to Craig, our lead volunteer.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Fairfax".

Steve Fairfax
Chair of the Trustee Board
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Ward".

Craig Ward
Group Lead Volunteer
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