

Calling all Scouts Communication Volunteers!

Are you ready to transform the way Scouting is seen in your community? Join us for an exciting face-to-face learning opportunity designed to elevate your communication skills and make a real impact!

Date: Saturday, 29 November 2025

Time: 10:00am - 5pm

Location: Hesley Wood Activity Centre, Sheffield, S35 2YH

What to Expect:

IDENTIFY THE CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Understand the current landscape of Scouting communications.
- Learn what a successful county comms setup looks like.
- Use key events to highlight the Scout Brand and key messages.
- Develop strong links with journalists and aim for two stories a month.

BRUSH UP AND LEARN NEW SKILLS

- Master the art of spotting, packaging, and pitching stories.
- Package stories, identify spokespeople, and maintain an editorial calendar.
- Break into new audiences with effective social media strategies.
- Plan and execute internal communications effectively.

BUILDING THE SUPPORT NETWORK

- Help define what good looks like.
- Shape how UK Scouts can help to support it.
- Find out about the Communicators Community of Interest.
- Engage in further regular calls and webinar.

This day is packed with valuable insights and practical skills to help you boost the local image of Scouting. Whether you're a Regional, County, or District Communicator, this event is for you!

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/events/2025/november-2025/communications-training/>

#ScoutingCommunications #LocalImpact #SkillsDevelopment #JoinUs

JOTA-JOTA

Tees Valley North as usual, are running JOTA-JOTI over the weekend of 18th and 19th October. There are a few spaces available on the Sunday afternoon.

Contact Margaret Elliott to book on to it.



First Aid

Presently there are 5 spaces still available. If you need your 10B validating just drop in at any time and one of the instructors will assess you.

Module 10a & 10b First Response Learning

Topics Covered:

- ✦ Life Support
- ✦ Trauma & Injury
- ✦ Major Illness

Drop-in session for 10b assessments, no need to register

Join Us

Saturday 11th October

09:30am - 3:30 pm

Middlesbrough HQ
Tolesby Road, TS5 7PJ

Packed lunch required

To register Scan QR Code

Scouts Cleveland

County Commissioner's Corner



Operation Escape

As I write this, unfortunately the Operation Escape team have had to make the difficult decision to cancel Operation Escape due to the weather forecast of extremely high winds and heavy rain for the weekend.

These are always tough decisions to make but as the County Lead Volunteer I will always support you in making those decisions. I would rather deal with an upset parent or volunteer for an event cancelled than have to deal with a young person who has sustained injury or harm because we allowed an event to go ahead. As leaders and organisers of events, we must always put safety paramount in our decision making. We'll try again next year with another fantastic Operation Escape!

International Events.

We are planning for next week (11th October) for the selection of our World Scout Jamboree and Haarlem Jamborette attendees. We'll announce the recruits at the end of the month alongside our Unit partners Humberside Scouts. We look forward to a fantastic journey to Poland and Haarlem 2027!

Squirrels

Squirrels county fun day is being held on Saturday 18th October at 1st Norton. If you are a group that do not yet have a Squirrel Drey and would be interested in starting one, why not come along to the open day and see the team in action. You can talk to Squirrel leaders, see what the programme looks like and discuss the logistics of opening and running a new drey. For more information, contact Ian Railton. Lets try and get up to 10 Dreys in the county by 2026!

Andy

The Gang Show

Middlesbrough Gang Show 2026 is at Middlesbrough Theatre from 6th April to 11th April 2026, performing from the 8th.

Audition/registration evenings are at Middlesbrough Scout HQ on Saturday 29th November and Saturday 6th December. 6.00pm - 7.30pm. Come along, bring a friend and have a sing and a dance make new friends and have some fun.

If performing is not your thing but you would like to be involved then please still along. There are a variety of other opportunities to help.

Why not have a look at our new website, which is a work in progress and see what has happened in previous shows?

www.middlesbroughgangshow.co.uk



I look forward to seeing you all in November.



Ian's Bit's & Piece's



Raven Gill at Gilwell

Paul Elliott and I attended the Gilwell Reunion at the end of August to promote Raven Gill. We were one of three campsites there but the only one from the north.

We had a lot of interest and at one point Paul was considering diversifying as a Travel Agent answering questions on airports and railway stations.

Hopefully, the amount of interest shown will result in an increase in numbers over the next couple of years. If you don't want to miss out, get your bookings in to Jane soon.



Communicator Badge

Hi all, I'm Lucy the UK Lead for Scouts.

Myself and a couple of the UK Programme Team Members are giving the Scout Communicator badge a refresh and would love more Scout Troops to get

involved by giving their feedback and ideas for the badge.

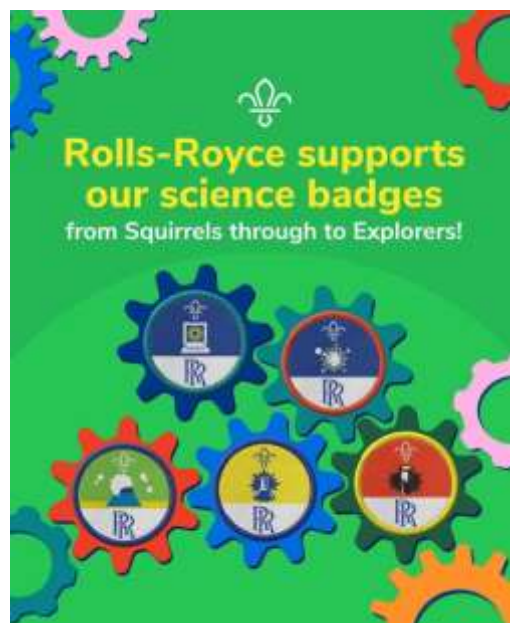
If your Troop has some time over the next month or so, email us at programme@scouts.org.uk and we'll send you all the info, including a session plan.

And, if you're interested in sharing your thoughts as a leader / volunteer, let us know here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/4UKZ4kHUYM>

Thanks

Lucy





Ian's Bit's & Piece's



International Scouting

Opportunity Alert: 2nd Africa Scout Moot 2026

We're excited to share that expressions of interest are open to attend the 2nd Africa Scout Moot in 2026!

The Africa Scout Moot is a unique international experience for Rover Scouts and young adults, bringing together Scouts from across the African Region, and the world. This event will provide adventure, learning, and cultural exchange. It's a fantastic opportunity to experience global Scouting in action.

Participants are aged 18 -25.5years and IST are aged 26+. You would be attending as individual therefore required to source your own travel.

Sign up with the organisers as an individual here:

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=aIWIDwF3iUSQFSXcN2CA9CCO3dMJnNlpe6BT_XlvSdUQjiSRlo2MkRUM1MzODZKRkIXR1hYMDIURS4u&fbclid=IwY2xjawM7eNhleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETFraWowdDNXZ3RUajd3YUFvAR4uthPP4nVtS64xWW1j9c49-H5N_FPKF-u5fuy2zSIFXT7mmcAAa8LeLgdDgg_aem_gVwslWp_pgcuJP_YG9lw&route=shorturl

Please note: there will not be a formal UK Contingent attending this event. We are encouraging participants to register as individuals. However, the UK Contingent Team will provide some support where needed, including the issuing of an International Commissioner's Recommendation.

Request IC Recommendation here:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/e63f549e6de44d5fb78080bf86625a7b>

Further information on the Moot: <https://www.scouts.org.za/2africascoutmoot>

Don't miss this chance to be part of an inspiring international Scouting adventure!

1st Ingleby Barwick

Former 1st Ingleby Barwick Scout
in the news again! Congratulations!



Ian's Bit's & Piece's

Who Still Does Tracking ?

Long Grass								
Pebbles								
Stones								
Sticks								
Message	Start Trail or Keep Going	Turn Right	Turn Left	This Way	Wrong Way	Danger or Warning	Message # of Steps This Way	Gone Home or Finished

LEAVE *NO* TRACE



The Scouts

We're super excited to announce the launch of our filmmaking competition in partnership with **Into Film**, the UK's leading charity for film in education. The competition is open to all Scouts and Explorers and the winning entry will have their film made with the help of a professional crew. Check out our website for more information on how to enter and create your own adventure! <https://bit.ly/3VevcO7>

Scouts, Camera, Action!



Calling all aspiring filmmakers. Develop a film idea, and storyboard it for a **chance to win!**

The competition prize?
The winning idea will be turned into an awesome short film with help from a professional crew.

INTO FILM

The theme of your film is **Adventure!**

Big or small, real or imagined, your story just needs adventure **at its heart.**



Top Tip:
Why not show how Scout values help your characters along the way!

How do you **Enter?**

Develop an idea on the theme of adventure, **storyboard it and submit.** It's as simple as that!



For more information sign up to Into Film to receive the entry pack and guidelines on how to enter.

INTO FILM

Remember the **Key dates**

Competition is **now open!**



Closing date: 31st Jan 2026
Winner announced: March 2026
Good luck!

Around the County

1st Saltburn

1st Saltburn's camp looks good!

All Scouts got dropped off at the designated drop off point, and had to walk to the campsite, along the way they had to identify 'what am i' to gain stars.

Then after they set their beds up, they had to make their tea....Rice & Beans as a staple or upgrade for stars to Hotdogs ... weirdly they all chose to stick with Rice & Beans (wonder if they are expecting a gourmet Sunday dinner.

Then after making a box for their stars .. we had our first bush tucker trial.



1st Guisborough

As we approach the end of September, we'll be taking a look into the highlights from each of our sections for this month.

First up is our Cub section who have tonight just completed their Money Skills badge! 💰

Over the first few weeks, the Cubs have been learning about different currencies around the world, priority purchasing, budgeting, cyber security, and Saving vs Spending!

Well done to all our Cubs, keep up the good work! 🌟



8th Billingham

Beavers making tents out of chocolate fingers! I wonder how many got built before they ran out of fingers?



East Cleveland

Last night we held our first Young Leader event of the year which was bowling! 🎳

Thank you to all of those who attended and those who helped organise it. We hope everyone who came had a great time and we can't wait to see you at the next event! 🌟



Applications are now OPEN for NSGSO and NSGCB 2026!!

Have you come across us during our anniversary celebrations and news appearances this summer and fancy joining our next event? Seen us perform at an event and have been waiting your turn to join us on stage?

Or you've already experienced the magic of an NSGSO and NSGCB summer course and are counting down the days until next year?

You're all welcome to apply for our next course, taking place in Stourbridge on Sunday 26th July - Sunday 2nd August 2026

Applications are open on all orchestral and concert band instruments for members of Scouts and Girlguiding aged 12-25, for a complete list please visit our website

Applications this year will close at 9am on Sunday 30th November

For full details and to apply, visit nsgso-nsgcb.com



Around the County

1st Skelton

Our Cubs continued their work on the communicator badge tonight! Our highlight was learning how to finger spell our names. The children worked so hard on this, and impressed our leaders with their empathy and understanding around the importance of learning about other ways we can communicate



Next week we're going to learn some Makaton 🧐



1st Loftus

Last week the Cubs were sorted into new sixes. Working towards their artist badge, they decorated letters promoting cub scouts ready to go on our notice board



43rd Middlesbrough

Great night creating Ballistas from garden canes and elastic bands. The pack put their ideas into practice, tested them, then made modifications to improve their design. BRAVO to Blue Six who fired their golf ball the furthest.

Oh, and thanks for everyone who came in and offered to stay!

Synthonia Scout Group

Tonight at scouts we did a few tik tok challenges. Boil water with a tin of tuna, cook cookie dough over a fire, make a bucket from duct tape and draw a picture of an animal as a team using a pen and string. We then finished off the night with some games and tested the buckets. Also a well done to Aiden and James who were promoted to APL's



**Aim to be good
enough, rather than
perfect**



Around the County

1st Norton-on-Tees

Scouts enjoyed their pioneering challenge tonight, working in teams to lash poles together to make and race charriots.



1st Salburn

Last night the Scouts were adding to their Emergency Aid knowledge, learning about Dr ABC (ask them if you don't know 😊) they also learned about recognising the symptoms of various issues and how to react or treat them. Followed by some amazing acting skills to test out their knowledge 🤖



Stockton, Thornaby & District Communications Team

The team spent yesterday providing full PA and event control for Redcar Running Festival. We worked closely with the organisers, traffic management and First Aid proving a central hub to aid with the smooth running of the event.

There was a range of distances on offer: 3km, 10km and a half marathon. As always it was great to see the event busy with lots of people taking part.



1st Loftus



Last night 1st loftus scouts worked towards their world challenge award by cleaning the beach at Saltburn.

Thank you all who attended and a huge thank you to Dan from plastic free Saltburn.

This group does amazing work cleaning the beach and surrounding areas.

Please follow their page and volunteer a hour of your time. It makes a huge difference to the environment onshore and offshore.

Around the County

Who's This ?

He's a District Lead Volunteer



18th Hartlepool

One of our Beaver Scouts, Henry Dawson-Bell (aged 6), recently told the Leaders that he is in training for the Junior & Mini Great North Run. Henry will be running 1.5K on Saturday 6th September and is raising money for Hartlepool and District Hospice.

When Phil Holbrook, founder of [#TeamHolbrook](#), heard about Henry's efforts, he was more than happy to meet him. Phil, who is running the 13 mile Great North Run on Sunday, chatted with Henry about their training and looking the same in their race numbers.

To support Henry, our Beaver Colony will be working towards the Community Impact Badge. We'll be learning more about the hospice, discovering how we can support their work and spread the word of the amazing services they provide. We'll also be improving our own fitness along the way.



6th Redcar

Well done to Lauren G from 6th Redcar for receiving her Award for Merit on Monday at Explorers 🌟

