

Bringing Everyone Back Together Safely

For those that could not make the All members' meeting last Wednesday, 24th June or need a refresher, please find a link below where you can now download a copy of the Slide Deck or watch the recording.

https://www.scouts.org.uk/events/all-members-online-meeting/?dm_i=31ME,11RRB,6HN11L,407N7,1

All face-to-face Scout meetings, activities and events are still suspended. This suspension applies to young people and adults and will be until further notice.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/scouts-at-home/getting-everyone-back-together-safely/>

You can now view a framework that outlines the Scout Association's overall approach, and a range of guidance documents that offer practical support on how face-to-face activities could take place safely.

Whilst the readiness level remains at Red (all face-to-face activity remains suspended), we expect this to change in the coming weeks and want to be ready for when it does.

This means that we can:

- Read the Framework and Guidance documents (links below) and feedback on elements of the guidance that you think can be improved or clarified.

<https://prep-cms.scouts.org.uk/media/7124/getting-back-together-safely-a-framework.pdf>

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/scouts-at-home/getting-everyone-back-together-safely/guidance-for-leaders-developing-your-risk-assessments-for-face-to-face-activity/>

- Work to complete written risk assessments for each Section, in consultation with parents and young people.
- For any face-to-face activity to start, written risk assessments will need to be completed and approved locally. There is a standard Scouts' risk assessment template available and as a help with starting you off, has some common risks which all groups are likely to face when restarting face-to-face activities. Please make sure you review these fully and add all additional risks relevant to your setting and circumstances. The guidance documents will help you identify the hazards. If you need support or advice, please contact your line manager, County Safety Coordinator, or someone with a professional background in risk assessment or health and safety.
- Once you have approval to restart you will need to make sure that you consult and communicate with all involved (including parents/carers, young people and young leaders) to ensure that everyone understands how things are going to be running, as this will be different to how things were before the lockdown. Young people's parents or carers will need to give explicit consent to Section Leaders to allow their children to return.

Please, if you can, [Join the webinar on Thursday 2 July at 7pm](#), explaining how the approvals system will work via an online tool.

Getting back together safely: The COVID Code

1. A COVID-safe risk assessment has been completed and we have communicated control measures to volunteers, young people, and parents and all are encouraged to raise concerns.
2. Additional hygiene measures are in place.
3. Social Distancing will be observed (check current distance determined by your Government).
4. Maximum group sizes will be limited and determined by [scouts.org.uk](https://www.scouts.org.uk) and members will be consistent where possible.
5. Make adjustments for young people and adults vulnerable or affected by COVID and consult to make sure return plans are accessible and inclusive.

Census

Census will now be moving to 15th October 2020 to allow for better budget planning for the following financial year. It will be a lighter-touch census, with not as much information required but essential information remaining. Payments will remain in April.

Leader should be looking at checking numbers and contacting the young people via their parents/carers to establish whether they will be staying in Scouting and if so, they will need to be included within the data.

Membership Fee

The National Council will vote on 23rd July whether to proceed with either a £6 increase or a £7.50 increase with £1.50 ringfenced for hardship funding for Groups. If a £6 increase were made, it would mean 11.5p extra per week. I know that some groups will struggle with this increase and we will all do what we can to reduce this impact on the Groups and parents.

In preparation for a return to face-to-face activities, we will be processing disclosure applications again from Monday 6 July 2020. We will be in contact if your DBS is due.

Please continue to review [scouts.org.uk/coronavirus](https://www.scouts.org.uk/coronavirus) page for updates.

Please make sure that your Safety & Safeguarding training is up to date as it must be in place before return to face-to-face activities.

The safety of everyone involved in Scouts, both young people and adults, is our number one priority. That is always at the heart of our decision making and when preparing this framework and guidance for bringing everyone back together.

Thank You.

Graham Smith
District Commissioner