



Parental information and Contract

Background

Leander Sea Scouts have a long and proud tradition of providing nautical and water activity skills for young people through a comprehensive range of Scouting activities, with appropriate age related programmes delivered to the different sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts)

Overall purpose

Being a Leander Sea Scout is fun, and it is a place where great friendships are made – and it can take effort and focus too. The Leaders and instructors try hard to provide opportunities for young people to learn activities, and these achievements are recognised with awards and badges. The meetings are planned so that they deliver these objectives; they are not an extension of the school playground, nor is Leander a youth club.

Standards and discipline

As a Royal Navy recognised group we have to meet a very high standard of turnout, demonstrate a range of required nautical skills and exhibit excellent behaviour; the leaders will communicate these expectations in the meetings, and will have no hesitation in asking people to leave the Group if they are unwilling to try their best in meeting those standards.

All new joiners to the Group are required to attend a 3 week trial: this is to ensure that they understand the Leander Group and will enjoy its aims and objects. On successful completion of this trial, the young person will be invited to join Leander as a full member and will then be welcomed as a member of the Group.

Safety on the water

It is important that all Scouts are skilled and safe on the water. Leander wants all Scouts to be highly competent on the water, able to handle a variety of boats, take control of a boat crew and be comfortable with a range of boating and water skills. There is a good reason for this - the River Thames is becoming increasingly busy each year, with more users on the section of the river around Kingston.

What does this mean for parents (or guardians), and their responsibilities?

Following on from the sections above, all parents should make it clear to their son/daughter that they will be expected to learn the required skills, to pay attention and to apply themselves to activities. Like all voluntary organisations, Leander relies on the goodwill of those who put in their time. The Leaders and instructors are all volunteers - they are not paid for the time they give. They have extensive training and many years of experience, but parents' help is still needed to support them in delivering successful programmes. A list of these activities is available on the website.

Fundraising is really important – it helps to keep subscriptions to a minimum (so all can afford) and also covers the considerable costs of equipment and building maintenance. Parents will therefore be expected to be available for / support at least one Leander fund raising activity each year, as may be requested by the Fundraising Coordinator.

Parents are required to assist with 'sectional' activities - this can be done by sharing a personal skill, assisting in a meeting, helping to carry out part of the programme (particularly important in the Beaver and Cub sections) and / or running an instructional session. An individual's skills will be recorded on the parental information sheet that is completed when signing the contract - craft and professional skills will be much appreciated

If a parent commits to become a uniformed leader, their child will have preference over others on the waiting list to join. Parents are particularly welcome to participate in water activities, i.e. kayaking/canoeing, rowing or sailing. For safety reasons, it is important to have the necessary experience and qualifications for personal competence on the water. If a parent wishes to take this further and gain coaching qualifications, Leander will do its best to provide advice on what is required, and provide financial support e.g. for coaching courses.

Checking

All Scout Leaders and those with close involvement with your sons/daughters are checked as part of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS); DBS is a national scheme designed to prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable groups, including children. It replaces the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA).



Leander (Kingston) Sea Scouts is part of The Scout Association (Registration 5969) <http://scouts.org.uk/home/> and Royal Kingston Scout District (<http://rkds.weebly.com/>) and is recognised by The Royal Navy (#30). Leander (Kingston) Sea Scouts is a UK Registered Charity (Charity Commission Number 290029)



Leander extends this procedure to ALL persons who may have contact with your child on a regular basis. All Executive Committee members and those currently working with young people have been DBS checked and any new members will be expected to adhere to this policy.

It is therefore quite usual for parents, guardians or adult volunteers who are asked to help out with group activities (e.g. camps, meetings, helping with transport etc.) to be asked to complete the relevant DBS Disclosure application form. Please be assured that this procedure is far less daunting than it sounds, it is mostly done online and the Section Leader will explain more fully when the time comes.

Subscriptions / payments

The subscriptions are fixed by the Group annually and are payable monthly and are to be paid by Standing Order (the form will be issued on joining). These payments are taken on the 1st day of each month with the young person’s membership number used as the bank reference. The name and address of the payee is needed to allow Leander to recover Gift Aid.

Gift Aid: Is it really worth the effort?

The simple answer is an outstanding YES. If your child’s subscription is £170 per annum, the Group can recover an additional £42.50 by way of Gift Aid to assist with its running costs. Our budget depends on having this additional income and funds improvements to Headquarters, the purchase of new equipment, etc. and therefore reduces the need for additional fund raising. All you have to do is complete the declaration form and return it to the Section Leader.

Photography & media

We like to use photographs and write ups of the events which Leander young people have taken part in for the purposes of our newsletter, Water Rat. In addition, periodically we may wish to put photographs on the HQ noticeboard, or use these on our website or (for Scouts and Explorers only) on the Leander Facebook page. When we do this, we don’t include names, address, ages or any other personal details unless specific permission is requested or granted. Parents who do not wish photographs of their sons/daughters to be used should advise their Section Leader.

Events

Scouts are expected to attend various events as outlined in the Young Person’s Contract and to be available, depending on skill and selection, for other events (e.g. National Sea Scout Regatta and County Night Exercise). Every Scout will have at least 4 nights away per year, through camps and outdoor activities. We expect parents to prioritise these events so that they are well attended. If your son or daughter is unable to make an event, please let the Section Leader know in plenty of time.

Data Protection

The information you supply to the Scout Group on either the attached forms, or any other submissions, will only be used by Leander (Kingston) Sea Scout Group for the purposes of conforming to P.O.R (Policy, Organisation and Rules) of the Scout Association. None of the information will be conveyed to a third party without your express permission. You have the right to access the information held, should you wish to. The information will be kept up to date and only kept for as long as deemed necessary.

Declaration : I have read and understood and accept the terms and conditions in this Parental Information and Contract.

Parent full name..... Son/Daughter name.....

Parent’s signature..... Date.....

