

# Be a Scout leader

4<sup>th</sup> Epping Forest South (Bancroft's) Sea Scout Group

[www.4thefsscouts.org.uk](http://www.4thefsscouts.org.uk)

RN Sea scouts are entitled to wear the special recognition badge and to fly the RN sea scout pennant



## Background

### A brief History

The 4th EFS group was founded in 1909, a year after Lt. Gen. Baden Powell's second experimental camp in the New Forest, which was attended by one of the Bancroft's students. The first patrol was started by Bancroft's boarders with assistance from Mr P.G. Blyth, a teacher at the time. The group later converted to a Sea Scout group, primarily to allow the scouts to go sailing on the Norfolk Broads. The 4th EFS became the 5th group to gain special RN recognition (one of only 104 groups that hold this special status), making it one of the longest established sea scout troops in the UK.

All of our cubs and scouts are Bancroft's students as we are a closed group linked to the school. The group is self funded and is also able to financially aid young people undertaking advanced training and qualifications as well as assist equal access. Bancrofts provide our weekly meeting place and substantial storage and we own, operate and maintain our own equipment: Two 22 foot sailing gigs, 20+ kayaks, various trailers, and other heavy duty camping and large-scale catering equipment.

### Adventurous activities

Our weekly programme operates during the school terms. We operate entirely on water in the summer term and run various overnight stays and camps throughout the year:

- Overnight stay in December in unique locations for approximately 50 scouts and cubs
- Weekend indoor camp in February for approximately 50 scouts and cubs
- Week long RN scout operated camp in April for 10-15 scouts at HMS Excellent in Portsmouth, gaining sailing, paddling and power boating qualifications.
- Gold Chief Scout award scout-led 2 day hike and camp. This award is completed a year ahead of the equivalent Bronze DofE award
- A week long summer camp under canvas at various campsites in the UK catering this year for around 30 young people in Norfolk
- Every other year we camp with around 60 scouts and cubs at our District-led activity weekend

### Weekly programme

Our programmes are designed with three simple aims:

1. Most importantly, to have fun. Even the leaders have to have fun
2. Guided by the scout badge system to learn practical and life skills, develop understanding and respect for global and local community. We operate a 3 year programme to allow scouts to achieve their Gold award in the period if they complete their personal goals.
3. To expose the scouts to new challenges, to build skills and experiences that they often do not encounter outside of scouting and allow them to undertake more adventurous activities in a safe environment under the guidance of trained leaders, coaches.

Some of the activities and skills that the scouts have undertaken in the last year include:

- Sailing, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, diving, laser quest, outdoor wide games in the dark, video blogging, cooking, fire-fighting, camping, axes-work, sawing, fire-lighting, navigating, power boating, geocaching, grass-sledding, handicapped obstacle courses, silhouette theatre, rowing (fixed and moving seat), pioneering, tying knots, field gun racing, first aid, gigantic internet safety snakes and ladders, giant battleships, pasta building, Morse code, semaphore, climbing, shooting, archery, chess, giant catapult building and a whole host more.

Some of the issues we have tackled through our games and activities:

- Smoking, drug abuse, attitudes to disability, international issues, diet, sleep, teamwork, internet and social media, equality

### The Scout troop today

- The group today, between the cubs and scout sections, provides adventurous activities and practical skills throughout the academic year to around 80 Bancroft's students, 45 of which are scouts in year 3 to the upper 4th. To put this in context, most scout troops operate with around 25 young people regularly. We are now the largest scout group in our district.
- This summer term we will have 50+ scouts on the water each Thursday evening and the section is projected to reach 65 in the 2019 Autumn term.
- The group, like all scout groups, is operated entirely by adult volunteers which include members of the Bancroft's support staff. The scout section currently has 4 permanent leaders, 2 regular volunteers with other adult volunteers who assist with overnight stays and camps. We are also supported by a small number of young leaders in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> forms

### Need for growth

- Between cubs and scouts we have the potential to cater to a current demand of 120 students but are limited today by adult leaders. Without additional adult leaders, we will not have sufficient capacity for any new scouts in the 2019 Autumn term.
- In order to take the Autumn intake this year and operate with 60+ scouts, we need to split the scout section into two and run two meetings a week, both operating from the same programme, planning and using the same kit but each requiring a full complement of adult leaders. We need another 2-3 permanent leaders to allow this to happen.
- We have to plan the new timeslot in conjunction with Bancrofts and leader availability but are considering options for a second evening (we currently operate on a Thursday) or a second session on the same day.
- We will use existing leaders to lead each session, allowing new leaders to come up to speed and subsequently take as much responsibility as they feel comfortable.

## What is required to be a scout leader ?

#### Mandatory:

- A desire to inspire, develop and challenge our young people and to learn and pass on new skills in an environment which favours physical and hands on activities for all
- Available during the academic autumn and spring term weeks on one evening a week - approximately 20 evening sessions in the year – as many as possible so that the scouts get to know you and you get to know them.
- Our evening sessions require us to be at the school for about 2 hours, depending on the preparation required for that evening's activities.
- Ability to undertake 3-4 day Saturday/Sunday training sessions, spread over a period of one year.
- All adult helpers are required to hold a current scout DBS (which we will apply for on your behalf)
- All our leaders are also registered Bancroft's volunteers and hold a Bancrofts DBS which we will also help manage

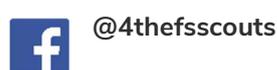
#### Optional:

- Participation in programme, activity and camp planning and equipment preparation for new activities
- Attending any or all of the camps and overnight sessions, building camps, fires, cooking, leading activities
- Helping to look after our tents, equipment, boats and the kit we use during the week

#### Training:

- We cover the cost of all training undertaken by our adult and young leaders.
- All leaders are first aid trained
- All of our leaders and volunteers undertake various scouting training enabling them to work with and to protect the young people in our care, to allow them to safely undertake activities and to help scouts different faiths, cultures, genders and uncertainties work together and support each other.
- Many leaders participate in water and land based training which provide the skills to participate in, supervise and coach and to hold the relevant public and scout permits. (Between the existing leaders we hold various permits for paddling, sailing, power boat, safety boat, marine radios, tomahawk throwing, fixed seat pulling, working with axes, knives, saws, overnight camping, fire lighting etc)

For more information, find us at [www.4thefsscouts.org.uk](http://www.4thefsscouts.org.uk) or email us at [scoutleaders@4thefsscouts.org.uk](mailto:scoutleaders@4thefsscouts.org.uk)



## What is a 4<sup>th</sup> EFS scout leader ?

Each scout group is different. We are water based for a third of our activities and try to be active and innovative in our activities and camps which means lots of kit that needs looking after and organising. Some of the typical things that we do and that we can use help for, even if you can't do them all:



We run typically 10 sessions a term in the Autumn and Spring terms. In the summer term we have the help of further instructors for our sessions at Fairlop for our water sessions.



Plan and organise evening activities and the programme which involves discussions, producing instructions sheets, making props and prepping for each session. We have built up a large amount of reusable activities and associated kits for them that we re-use on a 3 year cycle but we adapt and add to this according to the programme



We keep a track of and maintain our camping kit. This involves ensuring everything is labelled, stored, clean and in good repair. After camps we usually have work to do to get things back in order for their next use. Periodically we look at key bits of kits such as our camp cookers that we replaced last year. Our patrol tents and marquee were replaced prior to that. We are currently reviewing all our aging 2 and 3 man tents which need sorting, repair or replacement. That's an evening activity, taking each item, checking it over and re-packing it ready to go, repairing it or marking it for spares or disposal.



There is quite a lot of communication to parents, most of which is via our email system. We communicate with parents and scout about camps, outings, competitions and prep nights for things like camp, new scouts joining etc and we handle responses, questions and so on and try to make sure everyone knows what is going on.



We have two 22 foot home counties scout gigs that we operate on the water during the summer terms and are trying to get back under sail. We spend a small number of days sanding, painting, repairing these boats to ensure they are in state to go on the water.



We try to maintain an active social media presence and our website as a resource for information and visibility into what our young people are doing. This year the scouts have also made a video to share with other international groups and this takes time to plan for and edit (with scout involvement throughout)



Our camps and outings are planned at least a year ahead. Currently we have bookings for overnight stays into 2021 as competition for facilities is so high. Planning a summer camp takes around a year, starting with a programme and planning food, activities, transport (there and back as well as at camp), location, permits, risk assessments, budgets etc.