



2nd Nene Scout Group - Apollo Scout Troop

Monday 7th September 2009

To Scouts, Leaders, Parents, Carers, Helpers and Supporters

Dear Friends

Welcome back to the start of another Scouting year.

Programme

We have a full programme this autumn term and events planned through to next summer, see details below. This coming term, in preparation for adventurous activities, we hope to get the whole troop to the highest stage that each Scout can achieve in the Emergency Aid badge. The first major activity of the term will be the Autumn Camp on 10th 11th October when we will be hiking through the Northamptonshire countryside and camping in shelters at Fineshades. A separate notice will be issued for this and is available on the troop website.

Apollo Troop Membership

We are very pleased that the success of the troop has been reflected in the number of Scouts staying with us from Cubs through to Explorers and the many new members who have recently joined. We are starting this Scouting term with 39 Scouts but will soon lose 3 to Explorers as they reach 14 taking us down to a manageable 6 patrols of 6.

Having analysed the projected leavers over the next year and the lists of Cubs that are due to come up over the same period we have found that we could have a troop of 50 this coming winter which would be impractical and potentially dangerous for troop meetings. Even with a group of Scouts going up to Explorers in April the troop would remain in the 40s for the rest of the year.

Consequently we will not be in a position to accommodate new members who turn up to a troop meeting unannounced. The transfer of Cubs into the troop will be coordinated with the Cub Scout Leaders. Others wishing to join the troop are asked to supply us with: Full Name; Date of Birth; Address; Current Scouting / Guiding unit and position; Previous Scouting / Guiding units and positions, so that they can be invited when there is room.

Swine Flu

In order to minimise the risk of infection to Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Leaders, Helpers, and their families will those with Swine Flu symptoms, or those who have been in contact with someone who has Swine Flu, please keep away from Scouting events and meetings at the HQ.

Please do not attend any Scouting events or meetings until at least seven days after you, or those infected that you have been in contact with, have recovered.

Leadership Team

Matt Belcher returns to University this autumn to finish his Degree in Business Studies and Andrew Titman is returning to University to start his Masters Degree in Clinical Microbiology. Both have made a great contribution to the troop and will be greatly missed, although we hope to see them both again during their holiday breaks. We wish them both well in their continuing studies. Consequently our leadership team will soon be reduced in numbers. To address this issue we would like to start a rota of parent helpers to attend troop meetings to provide "an extra pair of eyes" and join in with the programme where they feel comfortable. We are a friendly team and have fun working together to put on the troop programme so if you have a few hours to spare on an occasional Monday night we would love to have you along. Please speak to Phil, Glynis or Greg and supply your name, contact details, details of availability, and any details of specialist skills

CRB clearance

Please note that all over 18's taking part in Scout activities involving under 18's (more frequently than once every 28 days) must be CRB cleared by the Scout Association. Please advise CRB clearance status when offering to help. Parents and supporters who would like to be CRB cleared for future activities please speak to one of the leaders or contact the Assistant Group Scout Leader (Tim Burgess, 9 Whitewater, Orton Wistow, tel: 01733 708796 or e-mail tim.burgess100@ntlworld.com)

SCOUTS Start of Term Letter 2009-09 FINALWEB



Patrols

In preparation for older Scouts moving up to Explorers we are in the process of reorganising patrols and appointing new PLs and APLs. When the new patrols are finalised Scouts are asked to make sure that the names and contact details of the other members of their patrol are in their record book.

Troop Meetings

Just as a reminder Scouts are asked to:

- Arrive for troop meeting in time to register and pay subscriptions before opening parade, inspection and flag break at 7:15pm.
- Notify their Patrol Leader if they will not be attending (Only Patrol Leaders should contact leaders directly).
- Be on parade (standing quietly at their place in “the horseshoe” at 7:15pm wearing full smart uniform (or dressed appropriately for a special activity when notified).
- Bring along a change of clothes for inside and outside activities (including coat and footwear). We will try to give notice of outside activities but sometimes we have to take advantage of favourable conditions at short notice. (There are still Scouts who come to troop meetings without a sweater and coat and are surprised if part of the meeting may be out of doors).
- Get changed after Flag Break, pack uniform away tidily into a bag and store it in the fixtures provided for each patrol.
- Leaders should be available to talk to parents and welcome new members from approximately 7:45pm once registration and opening ceremonies are out of the way and the main activities are under way.
- Get changed back into uniform for flag down and prayers at the end of the meeting.
- Take note of notices and pass on notices to the appropriate person at home.

Kitchen

Over the summer a new kitchen has been installed in HQ, including an electric hob and dishwasher. The kitchen door is locked and will be opened by leaders when necessary. This is out of bounds unless you have been specifically instructed to go in there.

IF you have a drink, or use items, it is your responsibility to wash up and put away.

PLEASE do not leave items for others to tidy up.

Equipment loan

Will anyone requiring the use of Scouting equipment for their own expeditions, family holidays, parties etc please contact the quartermaster to make arrangements. We have a wide variety of tents, cooking & lighting equipment and are more than willing to loan equipment (subject to its availability). Donations are always appreciated.

Summer Working Party

Many thanks to those who donated their time to assist with Building Maintenance over the summer break.

Troop Subs

Subs are currently £3.00 per week. If you would prefer to pay termly or half-termly please speak to Glynis Titman, Troop Administrator. This payment includes not only contributions towards Scout activities and consumables, but also towards use of the building and a capitation fee to the Scout Association for each Scout which provides them with insurance cover, so it is important to keep subs payments up to date. Also please remember that even if your son / daughter is not able to attend a troop meeting they still need to pay their subs, so please remember to send double subs the following week.

If you are unsure if your child's subs are up to date please check with Glynis.

Troop Meeting will be on Monday Nights at the Scout HQ unless otherwise notified.

Please arrive in time to register and pay subscriptions before opening parade, inspection and flag break at 7:15pm

Significant Activities Planned so far for 2009/2010 are listed below.

Mon 21st Sept	Troop Meeting Eagles, Hawks & Falcons – Volcano Stoves Kestrel, Owls & Raven – Hike Training (please bring along your day sack packed for days hike ready to discuss contents).
Mon 28th Sept	Troop Meeting Kestrel, Owls & Raven Volcano Stoves Eagles, Hawks & Falcons – – Hike Training (please bring along your day sack packed for days hike ready to discuss contents).
Wed 23rd Sept	District AGM 7:30-9:30pm St. Andrews Church Hall Netherton All welcome to attend to review the business of Nene Scout District (covering Scouting in the South of Peterborough) and listen to talks on events by troop members.
Mon 5th Oct	8:45pm Parents Briefing for Autumn Camp
Sat 10 –Sun 11 Oct	Autumn Camp – see separate notice
Mon 19th Oct	Troop Meeting - Autumn Celebration Be prepared for mess!
Mon 26th Oct	Half Term – No Troop Meeting
Sun 8th Nov - Morning	Remembrance Sunday Church Service – Please keep this date clear Further Details to be issued.
Mon 9th– Sat 11th Nov	Peterborough Gang Show. Some members of Apollo Troop are performing at the Key theatre for the week.
Wed 11th Nov	Troop Visit to Gang Show <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meet Key Theatre 7pm for 7:15 curtain up. - Wear uniform - Ticket prices to be advised.
Mon 23rd Nov	Outdoor Wide Game – details to be announced
21st & 28th Dec, 4th Jan‘ 10	Christmas Holidays No Meeting
Sat 25th Jan 2010	Local Hike to a chip shop. Details to be confirmed
Mon 15th Feb	Half Term – No Troop Meeting
Feb 2009	Weekend in North Norfolk - Details to be confirmed
Mar 2009 (TBA)	Zatego – Annual Adventure Night Exercise in Ferry Meadows Country Park
Mon 29 Mar, 05 Apr	Easter Holidays No Troop Meeting
Fri 2nd – Sat 10th Apr 2010	SWAN 60 Norfolk Broads Sailing Expedition
Sunday 25th April 2010 (To be confirmed)	Peterborough Scouts St. George's Day Parade All members are asked to make every effort to attend this event.
Mon 31 May 2010	Half Term – No Troop Meeting
May 2010 TBC	Cambridgeshire Scouts County Activity Weekend – Mepal This is a very popular event, please mark diaries and be ready to return forms as soon as they are issued to select events as soon as they are issued in order to get the most popular events..
June 2010 TBC	Cambridgeshire Scouts County White Water Canoeing Day
July 2010 TBC	Apollo Troop Local Hike and Lightweight Camp
19 July 2010 TBC	End of Year Troop Meeting

For a comprehensive list of future and past events - See <http://www.2ndnenescouts.ik.com/> [News].
If anyone would like to add news, comments or pictures please contact Steve Pearce (see address list below).



Contact Details

Name	E-mail
Greg Jones (SL)	greg@wizmail.org
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Matt Belcher (ASL)	matt.belcher@ntlworld.com
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Steve Pearce (Building Maintenance, Troop Helper, Webmaster)	stephen.pearce93@gmail.com
Graham Sharman (Quartermaster, AL)	g.sharman@ntlworld.com
Steve Belcher Sectional Assistant	sj.belcher@ntlworld.com

Websites

Apollo Troop: www.2ndnenescouts.uk.com all the news and events of Apollo Troop and the 2nd Nene Group

Cambridgeshire Scouts: www.cambridgeshirescouts.org.uk - Useful for details of what's on in the county

The Scout Association: www.scoutbase.org.uk – All the requirements for badges and awards can be found here