



# 6th Torbay (Britannia) Sea Scout Group



South Quay, The Harbour, Paignton, Devon TQ4 6DT

Welcome to the 6th Torbay (Britannia) Sea Scout Group, scouting from 6 to 25. This handout will hopefully give you some idea of how to go on and what to expect. It cannot cover everything, but will give you some idea of the basics.

The group comes under the Scout Association and the usual scouting training is given, using a nautical atmosphere. The aim of the scout movement is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The group was started in 1922, and in 1942 became Royal Navy Recognised, a privilege granted to only 100 Sea Scout groups in the UK. This coveted status requires a high level of commitment from members, and the Admiralty inspection parade is a compulsory requirement for all members of the group. Moreover, since 1938 we have been proudly affiliated to the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, the name "Britannia" being given to us in 1971.

Recruits should be prepared to attend regularly and have a real interest in nautical matters as in due course they will be taking part in a variety of activities on the water. Absence of more than three weeks without an explanation and it will be presumed that they no longer wish to be a member of the group. We cater for the keen scout to help them become capable and confident. When a young person joins our group, we also consider that their parents/guardians have joined as well.

## Uniform

This can be purchased from any outlet of Scout Shops Ltd. within the U K, or from the Borough Scout HQ shop at the Torbay Scout Camp Site, Easterfield Lane, Watcombe, Torquay which is open between 10.00am and 12.00am each Saturday morning. It would be wise however to wait until they are ready to be invested before buying any item to ensure that they really wish to become a member of the group. Please check with the relevant section leader for that sections uniform requirement. Once invested members must arrive and leave section meetings in correct uniform. For summer and casual activities a t-shirt with the group logo on is available and necessary, please inquire for details, these are only available through the group. A complete change of clothing is required for boating activities to include soft-soled shoes. As a uniformed movement with a high standard to maintain it is expected that all children joining the group be prepared to wear the uniform as prescribed. Parent's support in maintaining this high standard is expected and advice is always available from the scouters in charge.

## Activities

Beaver Scouts	6 to 8 years	Monday 6.00pm - 7.15pm or Thursday 5.45pm - 7.00pm
Cub Scouts	8 to 10½ years	Tuesday or Wednesday 6.15pm - 8.00pm Extended in summer
Scouts	10½ to 14 years	Thursday 7.00pm - 9.00pm Extended in summer
Explorer Scouts	14 to 18 years	Friday 7.30pm - 9.30pm Extended in summer

Members must arrive at least 5 minutes prior to the start of meetings, and are normally "at liberty" within 15 minutes of finish time. Extra activities are arranged at weekends and other times, members will be expected to support them if required.

The group has three compulsory parades that members are required to attend: St. George's Day (all), Admiralty Inspection and Remembrance Day (limited numbers). Again parental support is a great help in achieving this. Church Parades are organised from time to time and there is also an annual Group Carol Service, which all members are expected to attend with their families.

With the exception of the Beaver Scouts all children need to be able to swim, swimming sessions are often arranged at a local pool. Camps are organised during the year as and when the leadership is available.

## **Method of Training**

### ***Beaver Scouts***

Easily recognised by their distinctive turquoise sweatshirts. Beaver Scouts enjoy making friends, playing games, going on visits and helping others. Sleepovers are sometimes organised, this takes place in a suitable building, usually Scout HQ. Young people can join Beaver Scouts in the three months leading up to their sixth birthday. They can move to the next Section, Cub Scouts, between eight and eight years six months.

### ***Cub Scouts***

There are loads of fun things to do as a Cub Scout. They will get the chance to try lots of different activities like swimming, cooking, exploring, computing and collecting. If they do them properly they will get a badge that they can wear on their uniform. Cubs also get to go on trips and days out. Sometimes they will be able to go camping, this will mean sleeping in a tent and doing loads of outdoor activities.

### ***Scouts***

Scouts take part in a balanced programme that helps them to find out about the world in which they live, encourages them to know their own abilities and the importance of keeping fit and helps develop their creative talents. It also provides opportunities to explore their own values and personal attitudes.

Being outdoors is important and a great deal of the Programme is given over to taking part in both the traditional Scouting skills, such as camping, survival and cooking as well as the wide range of adventurous activities, anything from abseiling to yachting. Scouting is about being with friends, as part of a team, participating fully in the adventure and opportunities of life.

### ***Explorer Scouts***

As an Explorer Scout, you will get the chance to work with other Explorer Scouts in your District, not just your Unit. By doing this, you will get the chance to do many more activities, not just the ones your Unit organises.

Explorers are also involved in Ten Tors, D. of E. and land and water based activities.

### ***Summery***

There is much enjoyment to be had from the things we do and the young people learn often without realising it. Activities are not normally cancelled because of bad weather. The leaders are well qualified to direct the children's training, and have great experience in dealing with youngsters under the unusual environment of camps and group life. Needless to say a high level of conduct is expected from all members on activities, both in keeping with scouting aims and as a Royal Navy Recognised Group.

## **Organisation and Finance**

The group receives no financial help and leaders give their time voluntarily. The leaders are supported by the group executive committee, which is made up from parents. Their aim is to provide the essential finance needed to sustain the group i.e. H.Q. maintenance, boat maintenance, mooring costs, tentage, plus associated equipment.

The quality of training and the activities we offer is highly dependent on the support we receive. Parents are strongly encouraged to support the various events arranged by the group executive and serve on the organising committee if they are able. Each section is required to provide two parents for this committee. **NOTHING GETS DONE BY STANDING BACK.** Many of the activities of the supporters are enjoyable and good fun in themselves, so please get involved.

### **Subs**

Subs pay for the day-to-day running costs of each section and are payable by monthly Standing Order. There is also an annual membership fee this pays for scout association and group membership fees and insurance costs.

### **Gift Aid**

On investiture new members are required to return a completed Gift Aid Declaration if a parent or guardian is a taxpayer.

Finally, we hope your child will have many happy years with the group. If you have any questions please ask any leader for advice or answers. Many young people have forged lifetime friendships from the comradeship of scouting.