



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

6th Torbay Britannia Sea Scouts



Royal Navy Recognised Unit No 29

Introduction to our Sea Scouts Section

www.6thtorbaybritannia.org.uk



6th Torbay Britannia Sea Scouts RN29

Welcome to the 6th Torbay Sea Scout Group!

From the age of 10 ½ to about 14 your child will have the opportunity to take part in many activities (see further on for a typical year). Communication about group events will be through your child and via e-mail so please make sure we have your current e-mail address.

As your child gets older he/she will be taking on more responsibility for themselves having had what we believe has been an excellent grounding in Beavers and Cubs (If they have not come through cubs, rest assured we will help them to adjust!). They will have developed and learnt lots of skills needed for camping, water activities and life in general and these will be honed even further with a view to developing greater independence.

We want your child to enjoy scouts and welcome all questions and suggestions on anything that we can do to improve the way we operate the group.

The Scouts provide opportunities for:

- One week summer camp (A fantastic week where the Scouts experience many fun activities such as gorge walking, caving, climbing, abseiling, surfing etc)
- Weekend camps
- Dartmoor navigation
- Air rifle shooting
- Rowing
- Kayaking
- Sailing (RYA sailing qualifications can be gained)

What is Sea Scouting?

Sea Scout Groups are very similar to any other Scout Group; they have the same aim but use a special emphasis on water activities and maritime training within their programme to achieve that aim. Water activities can provide the adventure and adrenaline rush that youngsters are looking for. Sailing and Pulling (rowing) force the Scouts to work as a team and also provide the Scouts with an ideal opportunity to teach each other.

Royal Navy Recognition



The 6th Torbay Britannia Sea Scout Group was founded in 1922, and in 1942 became Royal Navy Recognised, under an agreement between the Scout Association and the Royal Navy, which brings some benefits and a great deal of honour to the Group. There are only a total of 101 places allocated to the scheme, we are number 29.

Since 1938 we have been proudly affiliated to the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, the name "Britannia" being given to us in 1971

RN Recognised Groups are re-inspected at approximately 2 year intervals to assess whether they have maintained standards and are worthy of retaining their Recognition.

To retain Recognition the Group and/or Unit must satisfy the Inspecting Officer that it continues to achieve the minimum standard required, in appearance, dress, presentation and badge work, as well as showing progress in efficiency.

Who is Who

Scout Section Leader (SL)

The 6th Torbay Britannia SSL is **Martyn Cowell**.

Martyn can be contacted on: 07860 514200

or by e-mail at:

martyn.cowell@6thTorbayBritannia.org.uk

The SSL should be your main point of contact for anything to do with the Scout Section.



Assistant Scout Leaders, ASLs:

Paul Badham

"Mr. B" deals with all the money, paperwork, camp bookings etc.

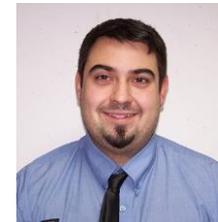
Please make sure that any bills or paperwork are handed in to him.



Adam Carter

Known as "Carter" to the Scouts, Adam organises all the badge work and runs the cooking and chef badges.

If you have a query about any of your badges then see Carter. Let him know about any outside hobbies, music, or sports clubs that you do.



Group Skills Instructor, GSI:

Paul Searle

Paul has been with the Group for many years and helps out at all our events and activities during the year. Paul is particularly fond of our Plymouth Pilot: Sea Scout.

Paul is always active at Winter Camp & Summer camps & rumour has it that he cooks the best breakfast at camp.



Scout Section Assistants, SAs:

Annie Duro

Annie is the RYA Principal for the Group - so see her for anything related to the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) e.g sailing courses, safety on the water.

Annie can train other leaders in the group for RYA sailing and power boat / safety boat courses.



Scout Section Assistants, SAs: continued

Will Coyle

Will has recently become a Leader, having left the Explorers after working his way up through the group. Will helps out with water activities, badge work and looking after Scouts on summer camps.

Before becoming an SSA he was helping out as a Young Leader.



Georgia Kerswell

Georgia became a leader after leaving the Explorers having worked her way up through the Group.

Before becoming an SSA she was helping out as a Young Leader for the past year.



Explorer Scout Section Leader, ESL:

Doug Eltham

Doug is our Explorer Scout Section Leader; he mainly runs the Explorers on Fridays but can often be seen at Scouts as well helping out on camps, hikes and water activities.

He is keen at sailing and hiking, and is a regular cyclist and mountain biker.



Assistant Explorer Scout Leader, AESL:

Jamie Caswell

Jamie is one of our Explorer leaders and spends most of his time with them on Fridays, but will be seen helping Scouts at camps or on hikes.



Group Scout Leader (GSL)

The GSL is in overall charge of all the Group's uniformed sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) and has overall responsibility for Safeguarding and discipline within the group.

6th Torbay GSL is **Gareth Cowell**, he may be contacted at gsl@6thtorbaybritannia.org.uk – please note that questions related to the Scout section should be addressed to Martyn, the Scout Section Leader (SSL) at martyn.cowell@6thTorbayBritannia.org.uk

The Group Scout Council and Group Executive Committee

As a parent or guardian with a child in the 6th Torbay Britannia Sea Scout Group you automatically become a member of the Group Scout Council.

The council consists of all parents and guardians of youth members in the group, and the group council usually meets once a year at the Group Annual General Meeting. The council is primarily an electoral body to approve and elect the members of the Group Executive Committee, which is made up of adults who represent everyone in the group.

The Group Executive Committee is like the governing body of a school, and meets throughout the year to manage the business affairs of the group, in support of the uniform sections.

Its primary responsibility is to provide administrative support, fundraising and maintenance of group property. The Executive Committee comprises of the Group Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, a representative from each of the uniform sections and other supporters, either nominated by the Group Scout Leader or elected by the Group Scout Council at its AGM.

We like to have parents from each of the sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) on the Executive Committee to provide feedback on what we do, and for us to be able to take parents views into account for future planning and decisions. So if you are interested in getting more involved then please contact any of the Leaders.

Scouts Meeting Times

During the winter scouts runs from **7 - 9pm**.

The opening ceremony (Colours) is at 7pm, so Scouts need to be in the top hall in full uniform by this time - so they need to arrive at the harbour 10 minutes or so before this, so that at 7pm they are lined up quietly, scarf folded properly, hats on, ready for the ceremony. Delays here mean we have less time for activities.

The closing ceremony (Sunset) is held just before 9pm and the Scouts are usually out promptly at 9pm.

In the summer when the Scouts are on the water we start at **6:30pm** every week, please make sure you arrive on time as late arrivals cause delays in allocating the correct numbers to each boating activity. Summer uniform is less formal as the emphasis is on getting on the water as soon as possible.

Finishing time in the summer is a bit more random as this depends on how quickly the Scouts can put the boats away and get changed (talking and messing about in the changing rooms can add up to 15 minutes for some Scouts) ... the scouts are usually out between 9 and 9:20pm.

Linking from Cubs & Investment into Scouts

There are a number of things you will need to do before you are invested. It will take you about 4 weeks to complete the Membership Badge

1. Join a Patrol and get to know the other members by taking part in activities with them. Talk to your Patrol Leader about joining the Troop.
2. Get to know the other Scouts and Leaders in the Troop by taking part in at least three Troop meetings, one of which should be outdoors.
3. Show a general knowledge of the Scout Movement and the development of worldwide Scouting. Know and understand the Scout Sign, Salute and Handshake.
4. Find out about the ceremonies and traditions of the Troop.
5. Know, understand and accept the Scout Promise and Law. Talk with one of the Scout Leaders about how you can put them into practice each day.
6. Know what to do at your investiture and, if you would like to, invite someone to be there.

BUT – please don't panic – it's really not very complicated

Code of Conduct

As a member of the Scout Troop new Scouts and their Parent / Guardian will be asked to agree to, and sign, the Scout's Code of Conduct. This is a basic set of guidelines for good behaviour which are based on the Scout Law and Scout Promise. The Code of Conduct also contains a set of disciplinary sanctions that can be applied in the rare occasions that behaviour problems do arise.

Parents Leaving Permission Form

Unlike for the Beavers and Cubs most Scout's parents tend to wait for the Scouts outside the building, although you are welcome to come in and wait on the stairs / hall for them to be dismissed.

The Parents Leaving Permission Form outlines the choices for picking up children from the group, since if the Scout leaves the building to be picked up by the main road for instance, the group cannot accept responsibility for the safety of that child. If safety is a concern then we are happy for Scouts to remain in the building until they are collected. The form allows us to see which Scouts we can 'let go' and which we can't. Choices can be changed at any time.

Uniform

Full Uniform (All winter, Inspections, St. George's Day, Remembrance Day)

Hat with a 'Sea Scout' tally band {*Seaman's Class 2 round cap – see diagram for correct fitting*}

Group Scarf with 'wheel' badge {*see diagram for correct badge position*}

Sea Scout Jersey - Navy blue with "Sea Scouts" embroidered in white across the chest.

Scout Polo Shirt

Black trousers {*Regular/Straight fit school trousers – see description below*}

Plain **black** socks and smart black shoes (socks should be above the ankle)

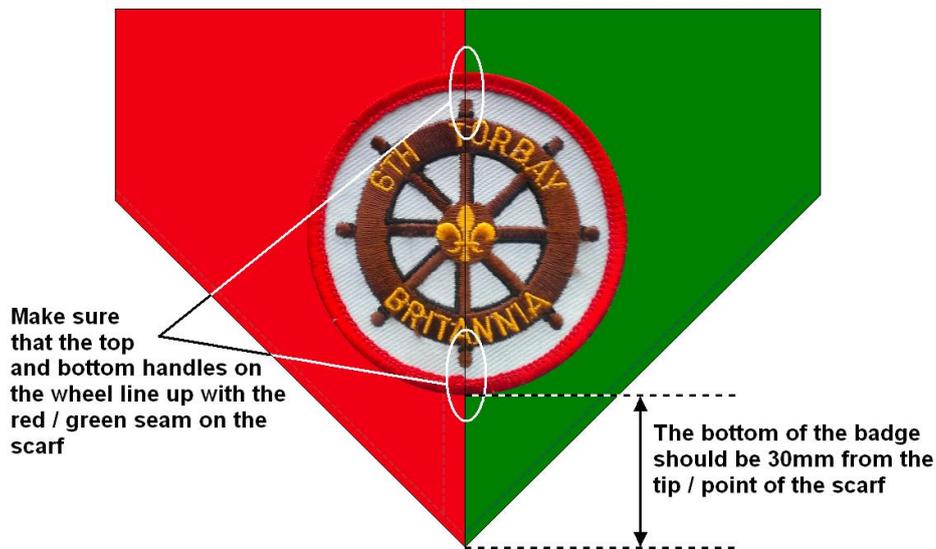
The jumper can be bought from the Torbay Scout Shop (directions on last page) for £32 to £34*. The group will supply the Hat, Tally band and Scarf - there will be a charge of £8* for the scarf and £20* for a new hat {hats can cost over £40 elsewhere}. Second hand hats are often available, contact Val Cowell for information.

Where to put your badges:



Staged Activity badges should be taken off your Cubs fleece and moved over to your Scouts jumper as these badges reflect everything you have done from Beavers, Cubs to Scouts and on to Explorers. See 'Carter' if any of these are out of date!

* Prices are correct as of October 2017

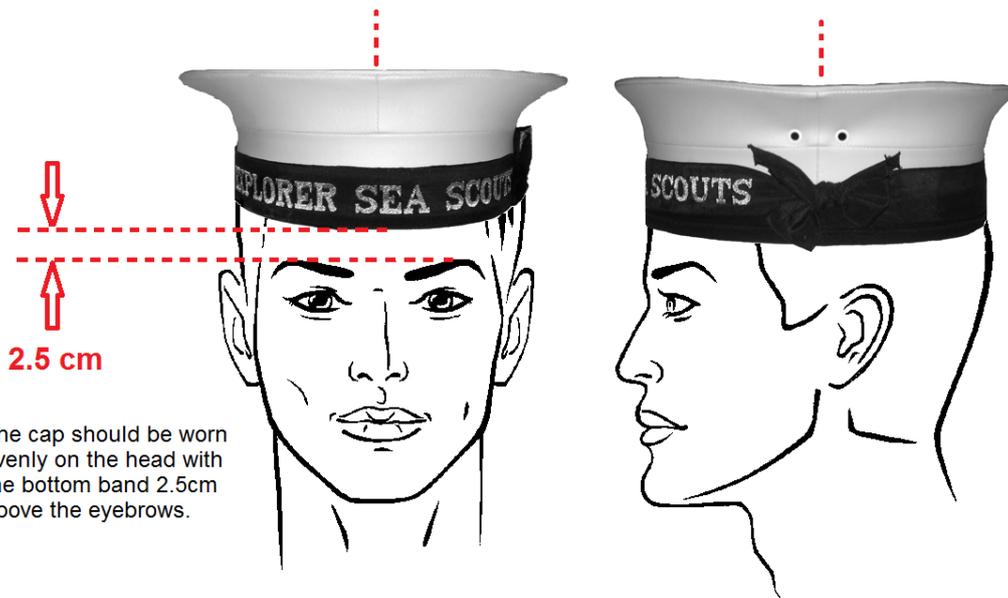


**Correct Junior Ratings
Cap fitting:**

Place the cap ribbon so that the middle letter is aligned with the cap centre front seam.

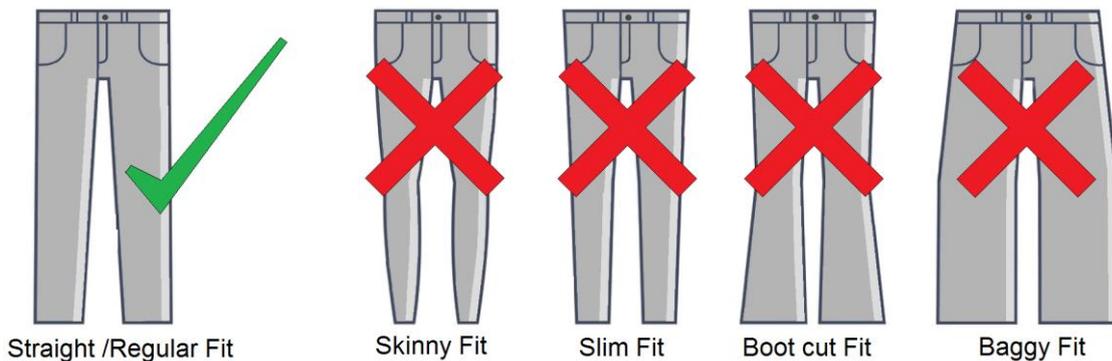
Place the cap so that the centre front seam is over the nose.

The cap should be worn square on the head with the bow directly over the left ear.



Correct Trouser Style:

Scout's black trousers should be a Regular/Straight Fit i.e. the trouser legs are straight all the way down and are neither tapered nor flared. The following styles are not acceptable as part of the Scouts Uniform: Flares, Drainpipes/Skinny, Wide Fit, Bootcut or Hipster.



Summer / On-the-water Uniform

Trousers / shorts that you don't mind getting muddy, wet or torn (NOT jeans)

Trainers / Walking boots

Group ID

Scruff Kit

Trousers / shorts that you don't mind getting muddy, wet or torn (NOT jeans)

Trainers / Walking boots

Group ID

Group ID

Letters for trips etc will often refer to 'Group ID'. This is either a 6th Britannia T-shirt, 6th Britannia Polo shirt (£8 to £9.50 depending on size) or 6th Britannia Hoodie (£14 including embroidered name).



All of these can be ordered through Val Cowell. Hoodies can have your name printed on them.

Val will normally be at HQ when we have a new intake of Scouts to sort out hat sizes etc, but can also be contacted on 07780 922139 or at val.cowell@btinternet.com.

Paying for Group Kit

Apart from the hoodies you do not have to pay for group kit when you order it, Val takes the orders, Mr B deals with the money.

Once you have received your kit (Hat, scarf, polo shirt) then Mr. B will give the Scout an invoice to take home. Please return this the next week with cash or cheque, and Mr. B will then issue the Scout with a receipt.

For Group hoodies we need to have payment in advance, as once they are ordered with the scouts name on, we cannot sell them on to other Scouts if you change your mind and cancel.

Once you have found out which is the right size, Val will let you know the cost and Mr. B will issue an invoice. When we receive the money we will then place the order with the supplier.

On The Water

Wetsuit (either full length or shortie)

Wetsuit boots or trainers that you are prepared to get soaked {flip-flops or sandals will not be allowed}.

Wind proof coat

Towel & dry clothes, shoes to change into plus a bag to bring wet clothes home in.

Please note: it gets very busy and crowded in the changing rooms - fragile items such as mobile phones & iPods are easily dropped on the floor and trodden on!! You have been warned!

Put Your Name On It

"Someone's taken my ...!"

Usually, this is because you looked in the wrong bag or took it out and left it somewhere. Pack your kit yourself and make sure it is all clearly labelled.

Hats and scarves are taken off after the Colours ceremony – they all look the same so please make sure they are named. The same goes for Group ID, wetsuits, wetsuit boots which all look similar and are often picked up by the wrong person in the changing rooms.

Every year we accumulate swimming trunks, towels, wetsuit boots, T-shirts etc from the changing rooms which have no identification on them and go un-claimed. These will be thrown away at the end of the season.

Insurance Liability

The Scout Association insurance does not extend cover to any personal equipment / clothing and effects including items that may be left at headquarters / changing rooms / camp during any events, this includes mobile phones and other electronic devices.

Please check that your home insurance covers all personal kit and equipment, as no liability can be accepted for damage or loss by the Group.

Tuck Shop

The scouts run a tuck shop when they are not on the water so that scouts can get themselves a snack or drink midway through the evening. 50p to 70p MAXIMUM is adequate for an evening.

Please note that any tuck purchased should be eaten during the break period, or put away to be eaten later, and **not during the second session** as this can disrupt any training or activities that are taking place and is unfair to the rest of the group.

RYA



Following the successful application last year to be a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Recognised Teaching Establishment the Scouts Section is offering Dinghy Sailing Training in its summer programme. This means that every Thursday night (weather permitting) training can be given to enable the participating Scouts to work towards and hopefully achieve a Dinghy Sailing Certificate.

These Certificates have international recognition both within Scouting and elsewhere, and counts towards other awards, badges, Duke of Edinburgh Award sections to name but a few.

	Stage 1 <i>A basic understanding of how a boat sailing, with some experience of steering and handling the boat</i>	Stage 2 <i>A range of sailing skills and knowledge to help in becoming a confident sailor</i>	Stage 3 <i>Rigging, launching and sailing in any direction. Equivalent to Level 2 in the National Sailing Scheme</i>
Course content	Launching and recovery, steering, parts of the boat, basic sailing	Basic sailing skills, ropework, collision avoidance	Rigging, launching and recovery, sailing techniques, capsized recovery, sailing theory
Ability after course	Able to steer and understand basic principles	Able to tack and control boat speed, and understand basic principles	Able to launch and sail a dinghy around a triangle in moderate conditions

If your Scout is selected to participate in one of the RYA courses could you please make extra efforts to ensure that they attend for all the required sessions? It is a waste to have Scouts attend only half the sessions and then fail to get the certificates when other Scouts could have achieved them in their place.

Any Scouts who fail to complete RYA courses are unlikely to be offered any further courses during their time with Scouts and Explorers (this would include power boat training in the Explorers).

What Happens Over The Year

The scouts are on the water from Easter through to September / October. Activities may vary from week to week but will include pulling (rowing) in either our home counties gig or one of the two giglets, sailing in our Pico or RS Vision dinghies, kayaking, using open canoes or just riding along in one of the safety boats. During the summer they can gain the practical parts for - Basic Nautical Skills, Dinghy Sailor, Paddle Sports or Pulling Activity Badges.

During the winter it is more formal with full uniform each week and more structured evenings where we concentrate on gaining some of the many Activity Badges available to Scouts. Typically we run 4 to 6 week courses on a selection of these: Camp Cook, Chef, Craft, Electronics, Fire Safety (run at Torquay fire station), Mechanic, Meteorologist, Navigator, Orienteer, Photographer and Quartermaster.

If you wish to see what is involved in the badge work you can use the following:



www.scouts.org.uk – go to the MEMBERS tab, then under MEMBERS RESOURCES on the left hand side click 'Scouts', then 'Badges and awards' and then 'Activity badges' – you can then click on any badge to see what is involved.



Download an App for your phone / tablet – 'My Badges – UK Scout Programme' which costs £1.49 from both Android and Apple stores

A *typical* year for the Scout troop looks like this:

When	What
January	Winter Camp at Gilwell (Home of Scouting), Friday morning to Sunday, they have camped in the snow before, over 2,500 scouts there!, loads of activities to try out & you can get the T-Shirt. We do all the cooking, you just enjoy it.
February	HMS Raleigh Swimming and lifesaving competition, Friday evening to Sunday, stay in barracks at HMS Raleigh, Plymouth, we usually do well at this. Knock out rounds and then activities on Saturday, meals in the Mess, finals on Sunday
March	Back to Basics camp, Watcombe, cook your own food, fun weekend
April	The start of water activities, 6:30pm starts now St. Georges Day Parade (Mandatory attendance)
May	Family Camp ? Friday evening to Sunday if enough people want to go
June	RN Pulling Regatta (London Rowing Regatta), Friday evening to Sunday, stay in a Scout HQ near the Thames, 2 days of individual and team races and fun
July	Summer Camp - talk to the older Scouts about this. See the photos from previous years. Loads of fun. Don't worry about food - we do all the meals.
August	More water activities
September	RN Soccer Sixes Competition-Portsmouth, Friday evening to Sunday, stay on board HMS Bristol (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Bristol_%28D23%29) berthed at Portsmouth, 2 days of football knockout and fun, minimum age 12
October	Winter activities begin, various courses to gain Scout badges through to April
November	Fireworks Night & BBQ at Watcombe campsite. Remembrance Parade, Paignton Parish Church & Palace Avenue (Mandatory attendance)
December	Night Hike Group Carol Service

Camp / Nights Away Kit Lists

This is a typical kit list for a weekend camp, Essential items to bring;

Walking boots
Waterproofs -both top and leggings.
Tent (or arrange to share)
Sleeping Bag and roll mat/thermarest
COMPLETE change of clothing x 2. NO JEANS.
Torch or Head Torch with spare batteries & bulb
Windproof or Warm hat, gloves.
Supply of fresh water in either a bladder or tough bottle (at least 1 litre)
Means to make hot drink. Sachets of hot chocolate/soup etc
High energy food for 'walking fuel' (chocolate/jelly squares etc)
Wash Kit & Towel
Plate Bowl Mug & Knife/Fork/Spoon in drawstring bag
Day rucksack

Should you not possess all the equipment required, if notified in time we can arrange loan items.

Bivvy

Hopefully, weather permitting, at some point during the year the Scouts will do an overnight bivvy (also known as a bivvy, bivvi, or bivi). For this they will need a bivvy bag - essentially a thin waterproof fabric shell (similar to tent fabric) that is designed to slip over a sleeping bag, providing additional insulation and forming an effective barrier against wind chill and rain.

The more expensive ones are breathable. Another option is to use a survival bag - a large orange bag made out of strong plastic - these are much cheaper, but you tend to get wet with condensation inside your sleeping bag.

Bivvy bag



Survival bag



These are also available online at Amazon, Go Outdoors, Camouflage in Preston, or Mountain Warehouse in Paignton/Torquay

Torbay Scout Shop

The Torbay Scout Shop is at the Watcombe Scout Campsite, in the main building just to the left of the Tuck Shop and the Wardens Office. Parking is free in the main car park at the very top of Easterfield Lane.

Opening times: 10am until 12 noon on Saturdays.

The Scout Shop is open during Half Term but closed for the Christmas, Easter and Summer school holidays.

Items not usually held in stock can be ordered for you.

Torbay Scout Campsite,
Easterfield lane,
Watcombe,
Torquay, TQ1 4SW

Scout Shop Manager:
Tel: 07858 998157
Email: scoutshopmanager@torbayscouts.org.uk

