



Royal Navy Recognised Unit No 29

# EXPLORERS

## Britannia Explorer Unit

# Introduction to the Explorer Unit

# Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> Torbay Sea Scout Group

From the age of 13 ½ to 18, young people will have the opportunity to take part in many activities.

## 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.

## Royal Navy Recognition



The 6<sup>th</sup> 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. There are only 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 in appearance, dress, presentation and badge work and are worthy of retaining their Recognition.

## Group Scout Leader (GSL)

The GSL is in overall charge of the Group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers) and has responsibility for safeguarding and discipline. The GSL is Vikki Cowell, who may be contacted at [victoria.cowell@6thtorbaybritannia.org.uk](mailto:victoria.cowell@6thtorbaybritannia.org.uk)

## The Team

Explorer Scout Leader - Doug Eltham - [doug.eltham@6thtorbaybritannia.org.uk](mailto:doug.eltham@6thtorbaybritannia.org.uk)

Assistant Explorer Scout Leader - Jamie Caswell

Section Assistants - Will Coyle, Alice Nuttall, Sam Willis, Guy Ludford, Harry Thompson, Gemma Morgan, Samuel Hart, Will Benney and Miles Wigmore

You will also see the team from the Scout Troop helping to run some Explorer meetings.

## **What Happens Over The Year?**

### **Water Activities**

The Explorers are on the water from May through to September. Activities will vary from week to week based on the weather and leader availability 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, paddleboarding, kayaking, canoeing, coasteering or helping crew the safety boats. These activities contribute towards various badges, including Nautical Skills, Dinghy Sailing, Time on the Water, Paddle Sports and Water Activities.

The Group is a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Recognised Teaching Establishment. This enables us to offer the Explorers the RYA Dinghy and Powerboat qualifications during the summer term. These Certificates have international recognition both within Scouting and elsewhere.

### **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

Explorers can complete Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards with the Unit. Expeditions are generally arranged for September/October. The Explorers can volunteer to help run the younger sections (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts) to complete the volunteering element of the Awards. Email [Jamie.Caswell@6thtorbaybritannia.org.uk](mailto:Jamie.Caswell@6thtorbaybritannia.org.uk) for an enrolment form, latest fee information and for any Duke of Edinburgh queries.

### **Ten Tors Challenge**

The Unit usually enters the Ten Tors Challenge organised by the Army. This is either a 35, 45 or 55 mile (dependent on age and previous experience) two-day hike across Dartmoor - unaccompanied and unassisted. Training for the Challenge starts in October and continues through to the event in early May.

## Adventurous Activities

Throughout the year the Explorers have the opportunity to participate in a range of adventurous activities. These include target shooting, archery, hill walking, wild camping, cycling, mountain biking, caving and snowsports.

## Winter Season

During the winter it is more formal. We usually wear full uniform each week and we concentrate on gaining some of the many Activity Badges which require group learning (usually at our headquarters) as well as outdoor sessions in the local area. These include practising navigation skills, cooking, rope work and caring for equipment

## Events

The Explorers will usually have the opportunity to attend:

- Winter Camp at Gilwell Park (the home of Scouting) over a weekend in January.
- Royal Navy Sea Scouts Swimming Gala at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall over a weekend in February.
- St George's Day Parade every other year (**Mandatory attendance**)
- Summer Camp over 9 days, usually the first week of the summer holidays but it varies. Locations have included the Peak District, Brecon Beacons, New Forest and Hamlyn, Germany.
- Bonfire Night fireworks display at the Watcombe Scout Campsite in November
- Remembrance Parade, Paignton Parish Church & Palace Avenue in November (**Mandatory attendance**)
- Group Carol Service, Paignton Parish Church, in December.

## Explorer Meeting Times

Winter – 19:00 - 21:00

The opening ceremony (Colours) is at 7pm, so Explorers need to be in the top hall by this time - 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. The closing ceremony (Sunset) is held just before 9pm..

Summer – 18:30 – 21:15

Finishing time in the summer varies between 21:00 and 21:15 depending upon the activity and how quickly equipment is put away.

## **Communications**

We use a system called Online Scout Manager to maintain details about Explorers and their parents/guardians. Soon after joining you will be sent an email to enable you to access the system and update your details. Please keep these up to date as we'll use these to send you information about the programme and to contact you in an emergency.

The system is also used to advertise the opportunity to sign-up to activities and events.

## **Linking from Scouts & Investment into Explorers**

If you are moving on to Explorers from Scouts it is usual for you to transition for about a month by attending both Scouts and Explorers meetings, but this is up to you.

## **Code of Conduct**

By joining the Explorer Unit, you agree to abide by the [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.

## **Safeguarding**

The Scouts understand that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and it is embedded across our organisation. Everyone within The Scouts must fully understand and implement the [safeguarding policies and procedures](#) relevant to their role. To enable this to happen, we have a comprehensive training programme and a safeguarding structure that makes sure we're proactively safeguarding across the organisation.

## Uniform and Kit

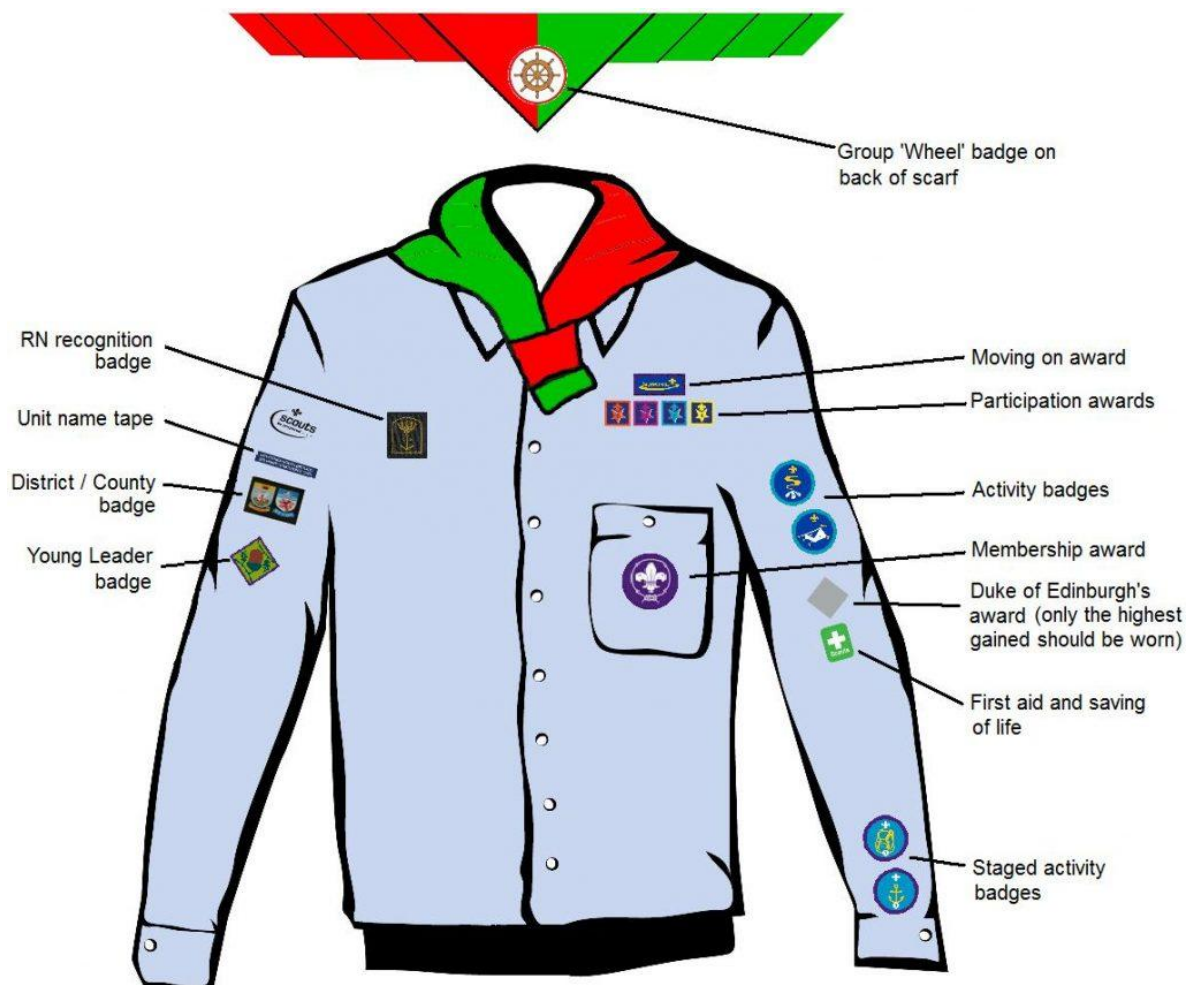
The full Explorers uniform is:

- Hat with an 'Explorer' tally band
- Group scarf with 'wheel' badge
- Explorer Sea Scout shirt
- Black trousers (see explanation below)
- Plain black socks (above the ankle)
- Smart black shoes that can take polish

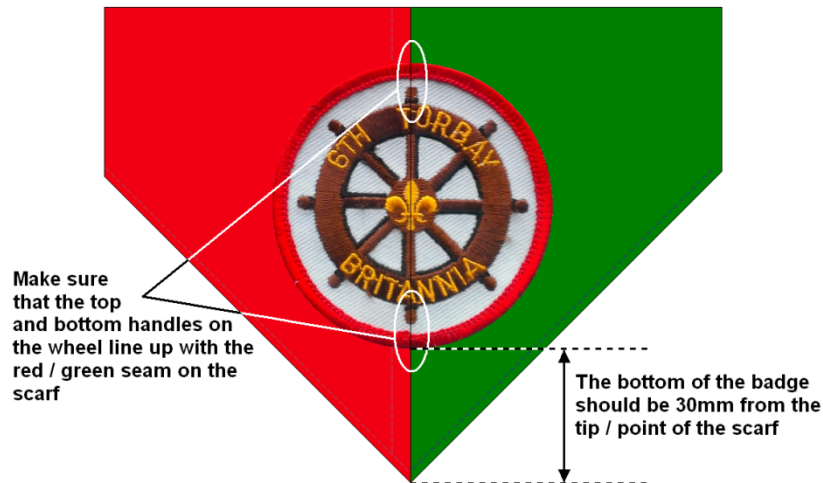
The Group will supply the Hat, Scarf and Shirt and you supply the remaining items yourself. The cost of the items we supply are:

- Hat with an 'Explorer' tally band - £10
- Group scarf with 'wheel' badge - £11
- Explorer Sea Scout shirt - £25

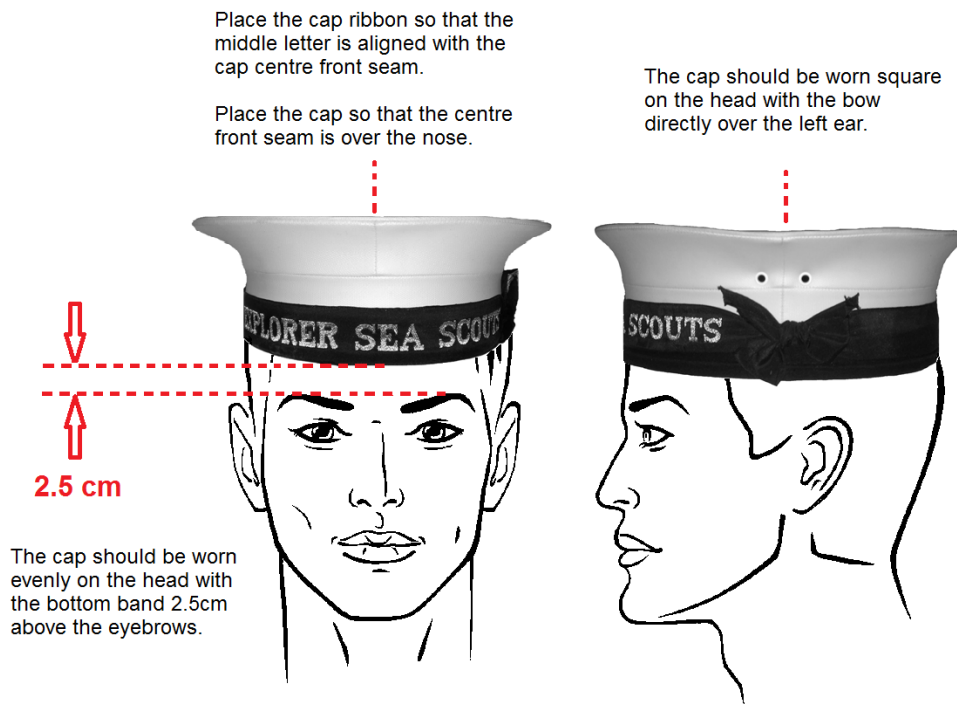
### Where to put your badges



Staged Activity badges should be taken off your Scouts jumper and moved over to your Explorers shirt as these badges reflect everything you have done since being a member of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers.

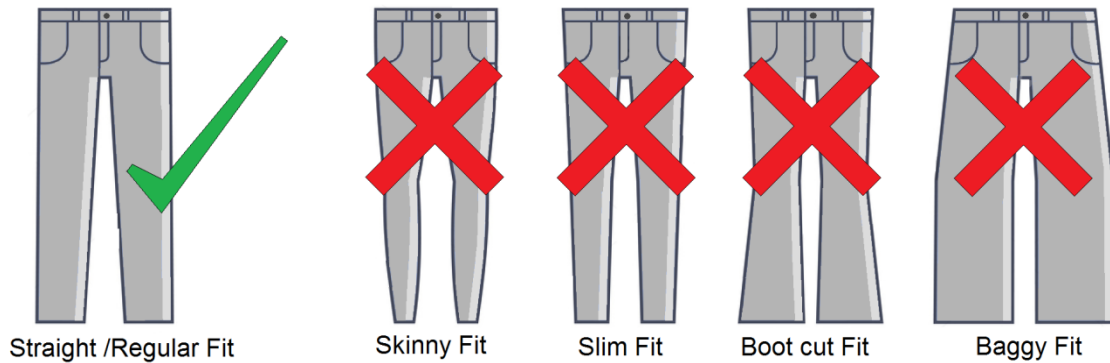


## Cap fitting



## Correct Trouser Style

Trousers must 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 Uniform

- Trousers / shorts that you don't mind getting muddy or wet (NOT jeans)
- Trainers / Walking boots
- Group ID

## Group ID

This is either a 6<sup>th</sup> Britannia polo shirt (£11) and/or 6<sup>th</sup> Britannia hoodie (£15) including embroidered name.

Group Hoodie



Group Polo Shirt





## Ordering Uniform

Uniform can be ordered through Val Cowell. Val can be contacted at [val.cowell@6thtorbaybritannia.org.uk](mailto:val.cowell@6thtorbaybritannia.org.uk). For Group hoodies we cannot offer refunds if you cancel the order, as once they are ordered with the Explorer's name on, we cannot sell them on to other Explorers.

## On The Water

You will need:

- Wetsuit (either full length or shortie)
- Wetsuit boots or trainers that you are prepared to get soaked (lip-flops or sandals are not allowed).
- Wind proof coat (optional)
- Costume/shorts for underneath/on top
- Towel
- Bag to take wet clothes home in.

## Camping Kit List

This is a typical kit list for a weekend camp. Essential items to bring:

- Large rucksack - about 65 litres
- Walking boots and thick socks
- Waterproofs - jacket and trousers
- Sleeping bag certified under EN 23537 with a Limit Temperature, or under EN 13537 with a Lower Limit, of -2°C or less.
- Full-length sleeping mat
- Complete change of clothing. NO JEANS.
- Head torch with spare batteries
- Warm hat
- Gloves
- Two water bottles, at least 750ml each
- Plate, bowl, mug and cutlery

Should you not possess all the equipment required, if notified in time we can arrange loan items. Most Explorers own a small hike tent, but we have loan tents you can borrow.

## **Put Your Name On It**

Pack your kit yourself and make sure it is all clearly labelled. Hats and scarves are sometimes 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 and wetsuit boots which all look similar and are often picked up by the wrong person in the changing rooms.

## **Insurance Liability**

The Scout Association insurance does not extend cover to any personal equipment / clothing and effects. 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.

## **The Group Scout Council and Group Executive Committee**

As a parent or guardian with a child in the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.