

1st York Poppleton Scout Group Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2019.



Hello Everyone

I trust you are all looking forward to your Summer again.

Here we go with the first update for 1st York Poppleton Scouts 2019.

Towards the end of last year an number of leaders stood down, Julie Anderson Morgan left as Beaver leader after 15 years in Scouting and Karena Williams also left as one of the assistant Beaver leaders, we thank them for their contribution Scouting over the years.

Alex Pull has now taken over as the new Beaver Leader, so I hope everyone will give Alex their full support going forward.

This year Pippa Lindsey the groups secretary is saying goodbye after seven years in the role, so thank you to Pippa for her sterling efforts and we welcome Helen Edwards is currently doing a handover with Pippa as she gets up to speed with the role.

So far in 2019 we are having a really good year across all three sections. We had a second intake in Jan, which has worked really well. It also helped to reduce the waiting lists, which still continue to grow and shows that Scouting is still very popular.

We are about to do our first major fundraising of 2019, this month its Poppleton Children Sports Day and we will be hoping to make as much money as possible, which we pump back into part funding Scout and Group Camps.

If anyone can help we really need your support, as it will be a busy day.

Other fundraising activities include Apple Day, in September and Bonfire night on our calendar.

Equipment wise, Alex has kindly volunteered to be our Quartermaster and he has taken stock of what equipment we have and we are now looking to source a number of items which we need for Scout and Group Camps, in addition we have agreed to pump some investment into the Scout Hut which we all agree is in need of some TLC!

Mandy Bowers our Chair Person has taken on the lead to progress this, so can I please ask for your support in any requests for help she makes over the coming months.

Mandy has asked me to give everyone a reminder about our AGM which will be held in September again and we will be following the same format to 2018, which was from feedback proved to be a very successful event.

1st York Poppleton Scouts have also agreed to move to an automated system for managing all of its business, its called Online Scout Manager (OSM) and Helen Edwards the new Secretary has written a few words explaining what it is and what benefits it will bring to both leaders and parents;

Online Scout Manager

We have introduced Online Scout Manager, OSM, across all groups to manage personal details, badges, attendance and payments. We will also be using it to send out emails to parents containing invitations to events or camps. You can access OSM here;

www.onlinescoutmanager.co.uk

You will be invited to join the OSM 'Parent Portal', and if you aren't already set up, you will receive an email inviting you to set up an account.

Once you have set up an account you will then be able to check and update your child's details (please be advised you will need to set up a new account when your child moves to a new section).

Once you are logged in, on the left-hand side under "My Child" you will see several headings:

Noticeboard – An area where your leaders can leave a message for its section members.

Payments – Under here there is a list of payments made by yourself, plus due and upcoming payments. We are asking all payments to set up two different payment schedules – on for subs and one for activities. You will be sent a payment request when a payment is due for an activity; for subscriptions we are asking all parents to set up a direct debit for this regular payment. This online payment method is provided by GoCardless.

Events – Details of events that your child has been invited to and signed up to.

Badges – Details of badges that your child has completed or working towards.

Personal Details – This is where you can update all of your child's details, medical details, allergies, dietary needs, emergency contact details, school, religion and provide your consent choices for photo publicity.

Emails – You can see all the emails that you have been sent to you by your section and by the group during the past 3 months.

Gift Aid – You can see/update your Gift Aid Declaration.

OSM will also hold our waiting list for all beavers, cubs and scouts.

We still **urgently need some more volunteers** to help with some of the sections, Scouts and Cubs are the current ones in desperate need of help as some nights we don't have enough people to run the meetings due to other leaders commitments, meaning other section leaders having to cancel personal commitments in order to help, which is becoming a strain on them.

As stated in previous newsletters without more volunteers, sadly, one or more of the sections may not be able to operate.

If people can't commit every week, it won't be a problem as you can share a role, we can have a rota, even share roles across other sections.

We also need help with the Executive and Building Committees, on which several other people have now moved on.

So please volunteer even in a shared role, as we need volunteers to keep 1st York Poppleton Scouts running. We can chat and adapt positions to suit.

The more volunteers we have the less of the commitment on everyone.

Going forward Scout Camp is due to take place at the end of May and we are going to Thornthwaite near Darley where we hope the weather gods will be kind; one of the days the Scouts will be doing a 24 hour survival challenge at which they are required to make fires and light them without matches, cook for them selves for 24 hours, make their own shelter and sleep in it for one night amongst a number of further challenges!

Scouts have also arranged a Canoe challenge event at Aldwark Scout Activity centre in July, details of how to book on the event are now on OSM and places are limited so book now.

Looking across all the sections the leaders have programmed some really exciting events, so thank you to all of them for keeping Beavers, Cubs and Scouts both challenging and exciting!

Coming up towards the end of July we then have Group Camp, which is being run by Jo Scott (Cub Leader) and leaders from across all 3 sections. They have a busy schedule in store for all those attending and I am sure everyone will have a fab time, which we'll inform you about in the next newsletter.

Young Leaders, continue to play a key role in the sections, but we only have 5 at present and desperately need several more. They are a valuable attribute to our Scout group & learn some amazing useful skills.

If there is anyone else who may be interested (14 to 18 years) please let me know.

<https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/300/young-leaders-scheme>

Finally, I hope all the young people across the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers continue to enjoy Scouts in 2019, we are always open to suggestions for activities and a huge thank you to all the volunteers at 1st York Poppleton Scout group, without them we would not have a Scout Group.

On behalf of all the committee, leaders and helpers at 1st York Poppleton Scouts have a great summer.

Cheers

Guy Bolton

1st York Poppleton Scouts Group Scout Leader.