6Th Winchester Scout Group

Youth Membership and Moving on Policy

The 6th Winchester Scout Group welcomes local children within Abbotts Barton & Hyde.

Admission to any section within the Group is at the discretion of the Group Scout Leader (GSL) and our policy is to try and balance the criteria given below and offer places that will maximise the benefits both to those joining the Group and existing members.

The 6th Winchester Group has more young people wishing to join than places available, especially Beaver age children. To manage this, we have a Joining List.

We will admit young people whose ages match those prescribed in The Scout Association Policy, Organisation & Rules ([POR](https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/)) subject to the limits on size. We will record interest for places over and above these numbers and, whilst maintaining contact with the parents/carers of these children, endeavour, once the child has reached the required age, to allocate places based on the following priority order:

1. Families who volunteer as Group Trustee Board Members or Leaders.
2. Families who actively volunteer in another Group or District roles.
3. Inclusivity and demographic considerations.
4. Succession of existing members within the Group.
5. Special Cases, such as transfers from outside the Group or District.
6. Age and the length of time on the Joining list.

Requests for places must be made directly via the 6th Winchester website [Joining Form](https://www.onlinescoutmanager.co.uk/waiting-list/6th-winchester-abbotts-barton-and-hyde-joining-list/3a3eec7e-a7e3-4638-b9dc-49b9647bb03a/apply). A request does not guarantee a place.

In accordance with POR, specifically The Scout Association’s [Equal Opportunities Policy](https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/2-key-policies/), no young person will be denied admission on the basis of gender, class, ethnic origin, mental or physical ability, political or religious belief.

**Starting Ages**

Places within the Sections are allocated based on age, with young people joining a peer group cohort of four new members each term.

Squirrels 4 to 6 years

Beavers: 6 to 8 years

Cubs: 8 to 10.5 years
Scouts: 10.5 to 14 years

The starting age allows each young person to have a realistic chance of achieving the relevant award badges for the section they are joining.

**Conditions of Membership**

**Subscriptions**

Membership is subject to payment of the termly subscription fee ([POR 3.2](https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/3-membership/#3.2.2)) preferably by Direct Debit through Online Scout Manager ([OSM](https://www.onlinescoutmanager.co.uk/features/overview.html)).

Payment shall commence at the start of the half-term in which the investiture of the member takes place. If a member joins at the half term, a pro-rata subscription shall apply.

In cases of financial hardship individuals may be eligible for the district [RBR Fund](https://www.winscouts.org/Pages/TeamPage12), applications for assistance should be made in confidence to the Treasurer.

**Personal Details**

Membership is subject to maintenance of up-to-date personal details and emergency contacts within the Online Scout Manager ([OSM](https://www.onlinescoutmanager.co.uk/features/overview.html)) portal.

**Uniform**

Full membership requires the purchase and wearing of a uniform ([POR 10](https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/10-uniform-badges-and-emblems/)).

**The Promise**

Members are required to make The Promise appropriate to their Section([POR 1.4](https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/1-our-fundamentals/#1.4)).

**Attendance**

Scouting is not designed to be “dipped in and out of” but rather is a continual programme of development and requires a level of commitment. We ask all young people to make a commitment to attend every week unless they have a good reason. Therefore, we ask that parents let us know in advance if their son or daughter cannot attend.

**Progression**

The Group will make reasonable attempts to allow young members to progress freely through sections within the Group considering section size limits and priority of spaces which will be offered in accordance with the Admissions Policy.

Where progression within the Group is not possible, the Group does not guarantee a place at an alternative Group.

**Termination of Membership**

Membership can be cancelled, at the Group Scout Leaders discretion,

* If the payment of the subscription fee is not received.
* If the young person does not attend for three consecutive weeks without notification or attends less than 50% of the regular weekly sessions run.
* In accordance with the Behaviour Policy
* If the Section or Group closes in accordance with POR

All subscription fees are non-refundable apart from due to closure of the Section or Group.

Refunds for paid-for activities or events will not include any deposit or any payment already incurred by the Group which are not retrievable.

Youth Membership of 6th Winchester Scout Group is at the discretion of the Group Scout Leader (as outlined in [POR 3.3.1](https://www.scouts.org.uk/por/3-membership/#3.3.1)).