



Bristol South District Explorer Scouts

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In Touch

In general, mobile phones will not be “banned” from SuperNova events. However, they should not be relied upon as it may not always be possible to charge them, get a good signal or keep them safe.

Their use should be in line with the guidelines below. Parents are asked to respect this (particularly the section on communication between parents and Explorers) as complications can arise when they are used inappropriately in emergency situations.

All information about events, letters and contact details are published on our website.

www.bristolsouthscouts.org.uk/supernova

Communication between leaders and parents

James can be contacted on 077 4086 0735

Bruce can be contacted on 077 1084 4475

The leader in charge of any event will have with them information originally supplied on the Explorer Information Form. This includes parents’ contact and medical information.

If you suspect this may be out of date, please supply a new form (available from the website) to James as soon as possible.

For overnight events a Permission to Camp form will be required. The information on this form will be carried by the leader in charge, in addition to the information above.

It may be possible to provide to parents, further information about the place we are visiting, which may include a telephone number.

As a rule, we never plan to contact parents (or require them to contact us) whilst on an activity unless an emergency arises.

When it is likely that we will arrive back earlier or later than planned, we will phone or text parents (or ask Explorers to phone or text) to advise of the revised arrival time.

For certain events, such as summer camps, trips abroad and wild camps, it is likely that we will continue to use the Home Contact system and details will be provided to parents in the activity’s information letter.

Communication between parents and Explorers

Whilst on any activity it should never be necessary for parents and Explorers to contact each other. This adds to event for the Explorers as they are able to experience independence and enjoy the adventure of the activity away from home.

We cannot enforce this guideline (nor do we wish to), however, we ask that both Explorers and parents respect it and encourage each other not to make unnecessary contact during SuperNova activities. If, for some reason, you will want to contact your son/daughter (or vice versa), please let a leader know out of courtesy.

In the event of an emergency at home, please contact a leader in the first instance and NOT your son/daughter. This way, we can make sure that appropriate support is available and that any necessary arrangements can be made.

In the event of an emergency on any activity, a leader will contact parents and advise them of the situation. Explorers should NOT contact anyone other than the leaders on the activity (except for the emergency services if required).

It cannot be overstated how important this is. Information received by parents in an emergency may be extremely distressing and is likely to be inaccurate. A leader dealing with an emergency will only be distracted by calls from concerned parents – especially if they did not know that an Explorer had contacted them.

Please encourage Explorers to follow these guidelines. In the event that you do receive information from your son/daughter that concerns you, please try not to panic – especially if you cannot contact the leaders immediately.

It should be noted that unnecessary communications between Explorers and parents (or friends) by mobile phone may render the phone useless in the case of an emergency (either from a dead battery or no credit).

Communication between leaders and Explorers

Where this is necessary (such as Duke of Edinburgh expeditions), leaders make sure that Explorers have their contact details and that they have all mobile phone numbers for the Explorers.

It should be stressed that these events do not rely on communication between the leaders and Explorers as the expeditions are designed to ensure that the Explorers are self sufficient and capable of dealing with any situation that arises.

Leaders will ensure that they see all Explorers at any campsite or hut each night and ensure they are all ok.

Communication between leaders and the District

Leaders will carry with them all relevant contact information for the District, County and Headquarters. It may be appropriate to leave details of the party with someone not part of the activity. This may be a Home Contact or other member of the District Team.