



**SuperNova  
Explorer Scout Unit**

**Welcome &  
Information Pack**

**For new and prospective members**

September 2009

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# Introduction

## Welcome to SuperNova

Welcome to SuperNova Explorer Scout Unit and up to four years of excitement, challenge, development and fun! Maybe you have been in Scouting since you were a Beaver, or maybe this is the first time you have been involved with the organisation; we hope that you will enjoy your time with us, put all your energy into our activities and develop new friends and skills for life.

## What's the point

Keep this pack safe! It is a comprehensive information pack with everything you need to know about the Unit.

Some of you will already be familiar with a lot of the information, but please briefly read though just make sure. For those of you who have not been in Scouting before, this pack has some background information on the organisation and its aims.

Of most importance is the Unit Charter, contact details and financial information. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the leaders.

## Summary

- The Unit is open to males and females between the ages of 14 and 18.
- The Unit meets on Wednesday nights at 7:30 – 9:30 in Eastwinds Activity Centre.
- The Unit has a Charter, which it expects all Explorers to follow.
- The Scout Association is a uniformed organisation and all Explorers are expected to buy and wear an Explorer Scout shirt.
- The neckerchief is awarded to all Explorers on their investiture and is black with white and purple edging.
- Explorers must pay a subscription charge of £100 per year to cover insurance, rent and other activity costs.
- All cheques should be made payable to “**Bristol South Explorer Scouts**”.
- Our website address is [www.bristolsouthscouts.org.uk/supernova](http://www.bristolsouthscouts.org.uk/supernova) and is updated weekly.
- The Unit is run by two leaders;

James Watts	077 4086 0735
Bruce Whitehurst	077 1084 4475

# General Information

## Members

We are a district based Explorer Scout Unit, offering Scouting to both males and females between 14 and 18 years of age. We are an open unit, which means that we are not sponsored by, or related to, any other organisation and have a policy of unrestricted membership within the age range above.

SuperNova has approximately 20 active Explorers in the unit at this time.

## Meetings

We meet at the Eastwinds Activity Centre, which belongs to the Bristol South Scout District.

Our meeting time is 7:30pm to 9:30pm every Wednesday. Some activities are held away from our normal meeting place. The times and locations of these will be advertised in the programme and on our website.

We try to meet every Wednesday; however, we usually break for a couple of weeks at Easter, over the summer and at Christmas. This will be outlined in the programme.

## Charter

SuperNova is open to any young person within the age range to come along and join in with our activities. However, the leaders have the right to decline to accept someone if they do not follow a few simple guidelines.

All Explorers are expected to follow the SuperNova Unit Charter and adhere to the rules laid down in it. It has been produced by and agreed with the leaders and existing Explorers within the Unit.

Broadly, all Explorers are expected to behave appropriately towards their peers, leaders and to those outside the movement. Self-discipline is essential and inappropriate behaviour is not acceptable. Generally, minor incidents are dealt with locally. More serious issues, such as bullying, will result in parents being contacted. Older Explorers of the Unit are asked to set a good example to younger Explorers.

A copy of the Charter can be found at the back of this booklet.

## **Uniform**

Scouting is a uniformed organisation and all Explorers are expected to wear their uniforms to all meetings, when arriving and departing from events and for parades. They are encouraged to take pride in their uniforms and do their best to look clean and smart. It is necessary for them to have a uniform to be enrolled, but not until they are sure they are going to join the Unit.

Explorers can purchase their uniform through the Unit at a discounted price. Please let one of the leaders know what size you would like. Alternatively, you can buy uniform from the Blenheim Scout Shop. The Unit will receive a donation for items purchased in its name so please mention you are from SuperNova when you pay.

The minimum uniform requirement for the unit is an Explorer shirt and unit neckerchief. The neckerchief is only available direct from the Unit and the first one will be given to new Explorers when enrolled. Replacement neckerchiefs cost £7.50 each. For a small charge, you can have the Unit's badge and your name embroidered on the back of your neckerchief.

The neckerchief is black with a white and purple edge. We have found it to be highly sort after on camps and jamborees so please make sure you look after it.

At enrolment, each Explorer will receive a unit neckerchief, badges and a woggle. This is presented at the investiture ceremony and is supplied by the Unit free of charge. Further badges are presented from time to time for awards and achievement and these are also free. We will indicate the correct positions on the uniforms.

As a unit, we also have a navy blue polo shirt that can be worn instead of the Explorer shirt when the programme permits. This is available for £15 and has to be ordered direct from the Unit. The polo shirt also includes a choice of name on the back.

Please ensure all uniform is labelled.

## **Costs**

We are neither sponsored by a church nor related to any other organisation and therefore must raise all our own funds. Subscriptions are one of the main sources of income for the Unit. Fund raising is another. We occasionally receive grants and donations from the District and local businesses.

All Explorer Scouts in the Bristol South District must pay a subscription fee. This must be paid in one of two ways. Firstly, you are encouraged to pay by standing order, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, July, October and January at the rate of £25 per quarter, however, if you prefer you may pay by cash or cheque on 1<sup>st</sup> of May, September and January at the rate of £34 per payment.

There is a standing order form included with this booklet, which should be completed and sent to your bank or building society. You may also use the details on the form to set up a standing order online. Please be sure to tell the leaders that you have done

this. It is your responsibility to cancel the standing order should you leave the Unit as we are unable to do this and cannot refund subscription fees.

The Unit is required to pay capitation costs every March for each Explorer of the Unit to the National Headquarters, the County and the District. This charge covers administration and personal accident and medical expenses insurance for all uniformed Explorers. The membership fee is paid out of the subscription charges collected from the Explorers during the course of the year.

We can claim back any tax you have paid to the Government in relation to the subscription cost of the Unit. Please complete the gift aid form included with this booklet and return it to one of the leaders. This can only be completed if the person paying the subscriptions also pays tax. It will not cost you any more or less.

In addition, certain activities carry extra costs. We endeavour to keep these to a minimum, using Unit funds and donations to subsidise events where possible. These types of events typically include the activities away from Eastwinds such as camping, outdoor pursuits and expeditions.

It is not our policy to run large events free of charge as we have found that this does not encourage commitment to the activities and we have a limited budget to work with.

Where possible all costs will be shown on the programme, however they may be subject to change as the event approaches.

Please also consider that events often require up front payments which we make based on the number of Explorers expressing an interest. Dropping out of events at short notice can cost the Unit large sums of money and can force an event to be cancelled.

The Scout Association is committed to enabling all young people to take part in any activity. We would never prevent an Explorer from taking part in any activity purely on financial grounds. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to one of the leaders in confidence.

All cheques must be made payable to **Bristol South Explorer Scouts** and not to SuperNova ESU.

## **Leaders**

SuperNova has two leaders at present; James Watts and Bruce Whitehurst. They are responsible for the programme and management of the Unit and are assisted by several other adults on various activities. The services of other adults are used as necessary, especially for particular skills or activities. All leaders and adult assistants are checked for their suitability before working with our Explorers.

All adults associated with SuperNova, including all uniformed leaders are volunteers.

The leaders are responsible to the District Explorer Scout Commissioner and any issues that arise which cannot be dealt with locally will be passed to him in the first instance.

## **Explorers' Commitment**

Explorers of SuperNova are expected to participate, where possible in all activities of the Unit. This should include:

- Regular and punctual attendance to all Unit meetings
- Attendance at the annual St George's Day Parade
- Supporting all Unit fundraising activities
- Supporting all District & County events that the Unit takes part in

If an Explorer has to miss meetings due to schoolwork, exams, sports events etc.; this should be explained to the leader. Explorers that miss several meetings may forfeit their place in the Unit, especially if there are young people waiting to join.

When events take place other than at the usual meeting times or places, it is expected that Explorers will want to take advantage these extra opportunities.

## **Parent Obligations / Support**

The health and safety of all our Explorers is of utmost importance and a level of supervision to ensure that this is fulfilled is always required. This is achieved through the regular leaders and the help of parents and carers when needed. We would welcome any assistance that can be offered from parents/carers. The Explorers will benefit from your demonstration of commitment to the Unit.

All new parent/carers will be required to complete the appropriate Scout Association acceptance procedures before they can help, to ensure the safety of our Explorers. It is hoped parents/carers will assist as often as possible.

There are many ways that other types of support can be given:

- By paying subscriptions through standing orders and completing the gift aid form
- By supporting the Unit fund raising events
- By offering transport to various events and activities.
- By attending the District and Unit AGM and social events.

Those in Scouting are well known for their enthusiasm and love of adventure and that includes the leaders. Working with young people brings many rewards, including plenty of challenges and the increased friendship of adults from all walks of life.

A great deal of work carries on 'behind the scenes'. If you have some time to spare and have a particular skill then please contact any leader. All offers of help are always gratefully received.

## **Database**

A database of information relating to individuals involved with the Unit is maintained by the leaders. This is kept for administrative purposes only and certain details may be provided to other people within the Scout Association such as the County and National Headquarters. If anyone has any objections to this then please speak to a leader.

Please complete the form included with this booklet and return it to a leader as soon as possible. If your details change, please inform us as soon as possible.

Please also speak to a leader if you do not want to appear in photographs on our website or other advertising media.

## **Contacts**

Explorer Scout Leader

James Watts  
077 4086 0735  
j.l.watts@pobox.com

Assistant Explorer Scout Leader

Bruce Whitehurst  
077 1084 4475

District Explorer Scout Commissioner

*Vacant at present – Contact Nick Winter*  
077 7199 7785  
*mrnick.w@virgin.net*

District Management Team

Bob Stanfield  
Bob Hussey  
Nick Winter

Assistant County Commissioner (Explorer Scouts)

*Vacant at present – Contact Neil Salter*

Blenheim Scout Shop

Cheddar Grove School Field, Banwell Close, Bedminster Down, BS13 7DS  
0117 9645555

Opening hours: 9.30am – 2.45pm Mondays & Thursdays during term time or other times by pre-arranged appointment. Please ask for Karen and make sure you mention you are an Explorer from SuperNova

# About the Unit

## What do Explorer Scouts do?

Scouting contributes to the fulfilment of its Explorers using a progressive and enjoyable values-based programme for personal development. It seeks to provide young people with opportunities to participate in adventurous outdoor activities, to learn team-building skills and to develop new friendships.

At SuperNova, we achieve this through a combination of evening activities, weekend events and longer camping trips and expeditions.

We strive to provide a programme which is fun, interesting, inclusive and educational. The backbone to this are the awards the Explorers work towards including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Queen's Scout Award.

## Patrols

The Explorers are arranged into patrols, each (generally) named after an animal. The patrol names at SuperNova are currently Wolves, Panthers and Ducks! Each patrol consists of about six Explorers ranging in age, experience and time within the Unit. Each patrol has a Patrol Leader who looks after it, liaises with the adult leaders and helps younger Explorers within their patrol. They are helped by an Assistant Patrol Leader.

The Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders meet with the adult leaders at regular intervals to discuss issues in the Unit, the forthcoming programme and larger activities.

We encourage Explorers to work closely within their patrols and to respect their Patrol Leaders.

## Flag break

We expect all Explorers to be ready in their uniform by 7:30 for flag break. This a brief ceremony used in Scouting to begin every evening and some external activities. It is intended to remind Explorers of the promise they made when they joined the Unit and the Scout Law that they should try and keep.

## **Activity Programmes**

In 2002, the Scout Association launched a revamped and re-vitalised activity and training programme for the 500,000 young people of the movement.

The Explorer scout section has two types of awards; progressive and activity awards.

### ***Progressive awards***

The progressive awards are the Chief Scout Platinum, Chief Scout Diamond and ultimately the Queen Scout Award. These awards now run alongside the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

The three stages of the Duke of Edinburgh's award are Bronze, Silver and Gold. These match the Scout awards, so an Explorer working towards their Gold award is also working towards their Queen Scout award.

There are four sections in the Scouting and Duke of Edinburgh's awards that must be completed. Each one can take from between 3 to 18 months and can be run concurrently. The sections are Service, Skill, Physical Recreation and Expedition. In addition, Explorers working towards their Queen Scout's award and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award must also undertake a week long residential project.

The Expedition section is operated by the Unit on an annual basis. We try to offer all Explorers the chance to undertake the training and assessed expeditions necessary for the awards.

The Chief Scout's Platinum award and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's award can be started at the age of 14, the Chief Scout's Diamond award and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's award at 15 and the Queen Scouts award and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award at 16. All awards must be finished by the age of 25. Completing one award reduces the amount of work needed for the next.

To begin any Duke of Edinburgh's award, Explorers need to register. A form is included with this booklet and should be returned to a leader. The cost is £11.00 for Bronze and Silver and £16.50 for Gold. Cheques must be made payable to 'Bristol South Explorers'.

As an incentive to the Explorers, we will reduce the registration cost to half once they have completed their first award and to nil once they have completed their second.

All Explorers are automatically registered for the Scouting awards,

### ***Activity awards***

The activity awards are completed over a shorter timescale and are more specialised. Explorers can work towards achievement in particular areas of interest such as the campers badge or I.T. badge. We try to run these within the Unit on a regular basis.

## **Special Events**

All Explorers and their parents will receive letters about special events. These are normally distributed at the Unit meetings. Should an Explorer miss a letter, the leaders will endeavour to ensure that they received the information the following week or by some other method. Information will also be posted on our unit notice board, within Eastwinds and on our web site. A copy of our programme can also be found on the web site.

[www.bristolsouthscouts.org.uk/supernova](http://www.bristolsouthscouts.org.uk/supernova)

## **Moving onto Network**

When Explorers reach 18 years of age, they are required to leave the Unit. However, we expect them to take part in a 6 to 8 week link period when they attend both SuperNova and Camelot Network meetings; our local network is also based at Eastwinds. We require that Explorers move on at the end of the school term following their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Camelot Network is run by Avon County and is open to young adults between the ages of 18 and 25. More information will be available at the appropriate time.

# **Promise, Law and Motto**

The basic principles of Scouting are contained within the promise, law & motto of the Movement.

## **The Scout Promise**

On my honour, I promise  
That I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and to the Queen,  
To help other people  
And to keep the Scout Law

## **The Scout Law**

A Scout is to be trusted  
A Scout is loyal  
A Scout is friendly and considerate  
A Scout belongs to the world-wide family of Scouts  
A Scout has courage in all difficulties  
A Scout makes good use of the time and is careful of possessions and property  
A Scout has self-respect and respect for others

## **The Scout Motto**

Be Prepared

# **Background to Scouting**

## **Worldwide Scout Movement**

Welcome to the World Scout Movement started in 1907 by Robert Baden-Powell and in particular to the SuperNova Explorer Scout Unit. Today there are well over 25 million members of the Movement in 210 countries across the world with over 500,000 in the United Kingdom.

The Scout Association is a youth organisation and all Scout Groups in the UK are automatically separate educational charities. The aim of the Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The method of achieving the aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership.

## **History of the Unit**

SuperNova was formed in February 2003. The Unit was originally known as the Brislington or Eastwinds sub-unit of Creation Explorer Scout Unit. This was the name given to the collective sub-units that were initially formed at that time as part of the old Bristol South East Scout District. There were initially four sub-units; Brislington, Newfoundland, Stockwood and Whitchurch.

SuperNova started with 14 Explorers, most of which came from Scout Troops based around the area. The majority were 15 or older, as they had been waiting for the new section to commence. Before 2003, Scouts stayed at their troop until they were 15½ years old and then moved on to Venture Scout Units. Under the new structure Scouts now leave their troops at 14 and come to a district based Explorer Scout Unit, until they are 18 and then move onto a county based Network Unit.

In the summer of 2003 the Explorers decided to identify themselves as SuperNova, as they felt that “Brislington” did not reflect the fact that over half the Explorers came from outside of the local area. In the summer of 2004 both the Stockwood and Whitchurch sub-units closed in quick succession and SuperNova inherited half a dozen new Explorers from the closures.

In September 2005 the Bristol South East and Bristol South West Scout Districts merged to create the Bristol South District. With the merger came two more units which had been running in the Bristol South West District. It was also decided to formalise the provision for young leaders in the new district and a fifth unit was created to cater for these people.

## **Explorer Scouting in Bristol South**

The Bristol South Scout District currently has four Explorer Scout Units in total. They are Aqulia, SuperNova, Newfoundland and a unit dedicated to bringing together all young leaders between the ages of 14 and 18 within the District. Newfoundland is a specialist unit open only to children with physical and/or mental handicaps. The units all meet at different venues and on different days throughout the District. For further information on the other units please speak to the leaders or the District Explorer Scout Commissioner.

## **UK structure**

The Scout Association's Headquarters in Gilwell, Essex, is responsible for the organisation in the UK and sets out how Scouting is to be run in its Policy, Organisation and Rules to which all Scouting activities in the UK must adhere.

The country is then split into over 100 counties. These have regional responsibilities for the provision of Scouting including a supervisory role over the districts under its control. SuperNova is within the county of Avon. This broadly matches the old political county of Avon.

The counties are further split down into districts. These have local responsibilities, including the appointment of adult leaders, monitoring of day to day activities within the groups and leader training. Furthermore, the districts are directly responsible for the provision of Explorer Scout Units within their area. SuperNova is within the district of Bristol South.

Our District is run by a District Management Team consisting of three. They are supported by the District Executive Committee. The District also appoints a District Explorer Scout Commissioner for the specific purpose of managing the provision of Explorer Scouting.

# Unit Charter

All members of SuperNova Explorer Scout Unit must follow the following guidelines.

- Arrive to all activities with a positive attitude and a desire to take part in everything we do.
- Attend all activities linked with the Unit, including those away from Eastwinds or scheduled after the programme has been published.
- Wear appropriate uniform to all activities unless explicitly told otherwise.
- Attend St George's Day Parade in April.
- Treat all Explorers, Leaders and visitors with respect.
- Poor attitude, bad language and violence will not be tolerated in any shape or form.
- Turn off mobile phones upon entry to Eastwinds.
- Pay all subscription payments on time.

In return, the Unit will endeavour to provide the following:

- A safe environment in which you can learn new skills, meet new people and have fun.
- The opportunity for you to gain awards, challenge yourself and take responsibility for yourself and your actions.
- A full and balanced programme of activities in line with the aims of the Scout Association.