

1st Trumpington Scout Group – Waiting List and Admissions Policy

Updated January 2024

Our Group

The 1st Trumpington Scout Group has one Beaver Colony, two Cub Packs and one Scout Troop. There is currently no plan to start a Squirrel Drey. We are investigating opening a second Scout Troop from September 2024, subject to available space and volunteers. Our section sizes are as below:

- Scouts – up to 36 young people
- Cubs – up to 30 young people
- Beavers – up to 24 young people

Our waiting lists

Currently all our sections are full and we have a waiting list. A child's name may be added to the waiting list at any time but will not be eligible for a place until they have at least reached the minimum age. We will contact you from time to time to check whether you still want your child to be on the waiting list.

When we have spaces available, we will offer children from the waiting list in accordance with our Admission Policy below.

If you move into the area and your child has been on a waiting list for Beavers/Cubs/Scouts elsewhere, please ask a Leader to contact us with details and we can back date when they were added to ours.

Minimum age

- Children are eligible to join Beavers when they are 6 years old.
- Children are eligible to join Cubs when they are 8 years old.
- Children are eligible to join Scouts when they are 10½ years old.

There is flexibility to allow children to join 3-6 months before the minimum age but this will not normally happen due to the size of the waiting list. There is also flexibility for children to stay in a section longer than the minimum, which may be necessary depending on available places in the next section.

Admission policy

In deciding who joins each Section the following criteria are applied:

1. Currently in a 1st Trumpington Beaver Colony or Cub Pack (ie moving up between sections). This may mean that from time to time, a section appears to have a space although these may be being held for children who are nearly ready to move up. We may need to delay the age at which a young person

transfers between sections in accordance with The Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules (ie up 6 months later than typical).

In the case that there are not enough places for young people in the Group to move to the next Section, priority will be given to those whose parents volunteer, followed by those who have been in the Group the longest. If a place is not immediately available, the young person will be put back onto the waiting list and given priority when any places do arise eg due to someone leaving or opening a new section.

2. Moving from another Beaver/Cub/Scout pack outside the area in accordance with The Scout Association's Policy, Organisation and Rules.
3. Children of adults who demonstrate a serious and sustained commitment to volunteering within the 1st Trumpington Scout Group. *If an adult ceases to volunteer within 12 months of a young person gaining a place through this route, the young person may lose that place if there is a waiting list for places at that time. All adult leaders are required to undergo a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check and training.*
4. Length of time on the waiting list. *Priority will be given to those with siblings in the Group followed by those for whom the 1st Trumpington is their nearest scout group.*

From time-to-time priority may be given to girls over boys, or vice versa, if there is a significant imbalance within the group. This is to help ensure that all children have a positive scouting experience by not being significantly outnumbered.

If in the opinion of the Group Scout Leader (GSL) a young person reaches an age where there is insufficient time to gain much benefit from being in a section (typically 2 terms for Beavers, 3 terms for Cubs) they will not be offered a place in that Section but will remain on the list for the next Section.

Places will generally be offered at the start of a term but from time to time a place may come up mid-term if someone leaves.

Anyone who is offered a place but is not able to take it up, will generally be removed from the waiting list. They can be re-added but this will move them down the priority list.

All decisions regarding admissions will be made in conjunction with the GSL, whose decision will be final.

January 2024