

District scarves may be purchased for £5.40 each from your unit leader. Please note that once enrolled, Scout Group scarves may not be worn. Uniform can be purchased in Ipswich from the Craftability in St Lawrence Street; or from www.scoutshops.com.

Transportation

Castle Hill Explorers have the use of the 11th Ipswich Scout Group's vehicles. Our small leader team only has a few minibus drivers, which can make organising whole unit trips out very difficult. We are always on the look out for parents with experience of driving minibuses or vans to help us out. Please take a look at our programme and if you think you might be able to help, please speak to the Unit Leader.



Leadership



Castle Hill Explorers currently has two 'warranted' leaders; Matt Collins & Keith Gadsden. All warranted leaders undertake to complete Scout Association training that includes a compulsory 'first-response' course & various leadership & scout-craft skills. All adults who volunteer in Scouting are cleared through the Criminal Records Bureau. Matt joined the 11th Ipswich Venture Scouts in 1993 & has been involved with Explorers since 2003. Keith has previously been involved with the 26th Ipswich Scout Group & until 2007 he was running Quantum Explorer Scouts Unit based at the 26th.

CASTLE HILL EXPLORERS...

This leaflet will offer you some of the answers to questions that people have about Explorer Scouting. Please take your time to read it & if you have any questions we would be very happy to answer them.

What is Explorer Scouting?

Explorer Scouts are young people, aged between 14 and 18 years old. They make up the fourth Section of the Scouting family. There are many types of Explorer Scout Units, some may be linked to a local Scout Group, and others may be based around different activities.



How are Explorers different to Scouts?

Firstly, an Explorer Scout Unit belongs to a District & not a Scout Group. There may be one or more Explorer units within a district.



Our district (Wolsey) currently has five geographically based units. All Explorer units have a 'partnership agreement' with a local Scout Group, which allows them to use a particular headquarters or available facilities. Castle Hill Explorers have a very favourable partnership agreement with the 11th Ipswich Scout Group.

What do Explorer Scouts do?

What don't we do? The balanced programme set by the UK Scout Association guides our meetings. Our programme is designed to develop teamwork, independence, new skills & of-course fun! We organise a number of camping opportunities both in the UK & abroad that take place throughout the year.

We also take part in a number of District, County & National Explorer Scout events such as the Sedan Chair Rally www.sedanchair.org.uk, which are always well supported. As part of our programme, we also work towards our Chief Scout Platinum & Diamond awards. Explorer Scouts may also enrol on the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme that runs parallel with our programme.



In November each year, Castle Hill Explorers support the 11th Ipswich Scout Group's annual fireworks display by joining the many volunteers that work tirelessly to stage this demanding but worthwhile fundraising event.

How much does it cost?



Castle Hill Explorers pay £2 a week. This is collected on a weekly basis & is used to cover meeting expenses, badges, transport costs etc. We offer to all new members to the unit a 4-week free trial where we will not charge you subs, so to help decide if you wish to join us. The only exception is when we indulge in an activity such as climbing or swimming; we ask you to pay the full increased subs for that week. You will also be expected to pay an annual membership fee in February of each year. This is around £40 & covers your insurance, National, County, & District administration costs. Additional activities such as camps & visits will be charged accordingly but subsidised by unit funds as often as possible.

Young Leader Training

The District also operates a Young Leader training scheme for Explorer Scouts who may wish to focus more of their time on leadership in the lower sections i.e. Cubs. The Young Leader training scheme offers training modules to help Explorer Scouts develop a range of leadership skills. Many of the Young Leader modules are validated towards the adult training scheme should you continue into leadership at the age of 18.



Where do we meet?



Castle Hill Explorers currently meet every Tuesday at the headquarters of the 11th Ipswich Scout Group. Our normal meeting times are 7.30 – 9.15pm, unless we take a trip out where we might meet at 7.00pm. The headquarters provides us with excellent facilities for Scouting.

You can find the headquarters at Chesterfield Drive in the Crofts area of Ipswich, near to Norwich Road.

Communication

We currently have a Facebook page that Explorers and parent/guardian(s) can 'Like' and so keep up to date with our announcements www.facebook.com/chexplorers/. Also we have a website www.castlehillexplorers.org.uk, this is currently a work in progress where we will hold our current programme, recent photographs & be able to download Unit related letters & forms. Also to keep costs down, we also use e-mail or text messaging as much as possible to keep you up to date.



Fundraising

Castle Hill Explorers have no financial assistance & rely on regular subs payments & the occasional fundraising event such as bag packing at a local supermarket, or taking part in the Sponsored Orwell Charity Walk www.orwellwalk.org.uk. Your support with any of our fundraising efforts is very much appreciated.

Uniform

We take our uniform very seriously & ask all members to wear their uniform with pride. For regular unit meetings & outings on camp, members are welcome to wear the Explorer polo shirt or the Unit's own branded wear with their District scarf as a more

