

Scouting

East Somerset Scout District



December 2015 (Edition 9)

Have a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year from East Somerset District Team!

East Somerset District Executive and District Commissioner Team would like to thank all their members (youth and adult) for a great year. We have collectively come through a year of transition and look forward to an exciting new year in 2016. We would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

East Somerset run first GSL development day

In October East Somerset ran their first ever Group Scout Leader Development day at Charlton Musgrove Village Hall, Nr Wincanton. The day provided our group managers with new tools, information and guidance from our headquarters team on recruitment and retention, group development plans and the DBS system to name a few. Other workshops included a sneak peek into the new District web site, branding & marketing, Young leaders and the 14-25 programme as well as some sessions run by the Regional Development service. The event also saw the first East Somerset District General meeting run by our chairperson Tim Rutherford. We also launched our new support structure for Groups where they are mentored in small groups. A special thanks must go to Paul Bentley (ADC Communications), Hannah Bester (Regional Development Service) and Alan Henderson (County Scout Training Manager) for their input and support throughout the day and a BIG Thank you to the Camelot Active Support Unit for the food and refreshments

Upcoming events:

Tues 12th January: District Executive meeting (Wincanton)

Fri 29th January: District Scouts Football Competition (Strike Soccer Centre – Yeovil)

Sat 30th January: County Scouts Master Chef (Shepton Mallet Scout HQ)

Sat 30th Jan & Sat 6th Feb: District Cubs badge days (Yeovil & Shepton Mallet)

Fri 5th – 7th Feb: District Scout Exmoor hiking weekend (Horner Wood)

Sat 27th Feb: District Cubs Chess & draughts Competition (Yeovil)



Training Advisors needed for East Somerset!

East Somerset Scout District is growing, not only are we now one of the largest Districts in the country but are numbers are starting to grow now both within our youth sections but also within our volunteer leader and adult support roles too. With this in mind, we are now looking for more Training Advisors (TA's) to help support the new generation of volunteers coming into Scouting in East Somerset.

Sunday 7th Feb'16 (10am – 12.30): Assessing Learning – TA (25) @ Tangier Scout HQ (Taunton)

If you are interested, please visit the County training diary web page:

<http://www.somersetscoutsinfo.org.uk/>

New web site and social media for East Somerset

After a long build process East Somerset District will shortly be launching their new web site in January 2016. The site will provide both Leaders and the outside community with a 'one stop shop' resource for information, tools and resources. Alongside the web site new social media resources are being developed. Our Facebook site is live and we are now looking into Twitter, Google+ and Utube too. Watch this space for the launch on www.eastsomersetscouts.org.uk or find us today on our Facebook account.



2016: Programme

30 years of Beavers in 2016

It's not all about the Cubs in 2016. The Beaver section is also celebrating a birthday too. In 2016 Beavers will be 30 years old and for some of our current Scouters, they will have memories of when Beavers first started locally in East Somerset as they would have been one of the first ones nationally! To celebrate this birthday year the District and County will be putting on a variety of activities, camps and programmes to challenge the Beavers and to look back at Beaver Scouting over the last 30 years! If you were one of those first Beavers and have some fun photos, paper clippings or information, then we want to hear from you. Please send any information to james@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk



East Somerset District

100 years of Cubs in 2016

Wow! 100 years in Scouting! That is a massive birthday celebration and the Cub section aim to celebrate this centenary in style with a wide variety of activities and programmes including a 100 year activity challenge pack, birthday parties, fun and adventure and of course the main celebration Cubs 100 Adventure camp being held in our District on Frome Showground between Friday 27th May – Monday 30th May 2016. Camp and booking information is now available on the County website.

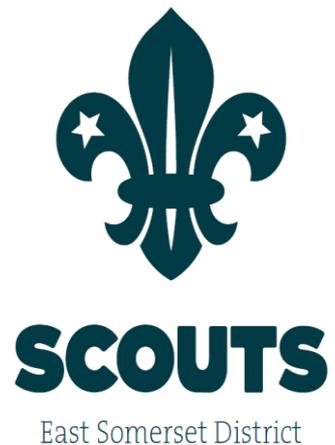
It truly will be a year to remember and the camp will not disappoint you, with 6 activity zones planned from massive arts & craft marquees, an adventure zone with caving, climbing, inflatables, shooting and archery, a team building zone, animal encounters, conservation projects, international themes and of course fun evening camp fires and wide games to name just a few! Watch this space for more information coming your way!



Scouts

2015 has been a fantastic year for the Scout section with the new District growing its programme to meet the new 'youth shaped' approach. In this addition our ADC Scouts as provided an additional supplement to highlight just a few of the activities that have been going on around the District during the winter term.

More programmes are planned for 2016 and with the return of the 4-a-side football competition, more caving taster sessions, Wild activities weekends at JAWS, camping competition, day hikes and winter Exmoor hiking weekends, cooking competitions and more! Watch this space or visit: www.eastsomersetscouts.org.uk for dates and more information.



Explorers

East Somerset District has seen a massive growth in the Explorer provision over the last 18 months with the opening of 4 new Explorer units in Barton St. David, Yeovil, Evercreech and Martock. The provision has never been as strong as it is today, but with growth comes the need for more leaders and helpers. If you are an adult member over 18yrs and keen to get involved in the Explorer leadership programme then we want to hear from you – contact Pete Ward on: 14-25@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk

2016 will see the first East Somerset District Explorer summer camp. This year they are planning a combined trip to Essex International Jamboree. Bookings are imminent so if you are keen and would like to go please contact Pete Ward as soon as possible.



Duke of Edinburgh programme

2016 will see the growth of the Duke of Edinburgh programme in East Somerset District. We know all-ready that more and more explorers and network members are now taking up the DofE programme (our stats are telling us this) but we as a District need to support our leaders and young people further. East Somerset District will be running Duke of Edinburgh Award courses for adults (leaders and members interested in supporting the DofE programme) in:

- Introduction to DofE (Beginners guide)
- DofE Supervision (ideal for Explorer leaders / training support)
- DofE Assessor

The courses will be ideal for Explorer Scout Leaders (or supporting helpers) keen to understand and grow the DofE provision within their unit. The dates are still to be confirmed but are planned to be run before March 2016. If you are interested in taking part in one of these courses please contact James Divall (DC – Team DC) on james@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk



Scout Active Support Training Course running in East Somerset

Due to the increased numbers (excellent!!) of Active Support Unit members in the District (Group provision, District support, activity support & campsite) we have organised a bespoke training course covering adapted modules of the leader training programme specifically tailored for support members.

The course is running on: **Saturday 20th February 2016 (9.30am – 1.30pm) at West Coker Scout Hall.**

Remember if you are an ASU (SAS) member and have not already covered leadership training this course is an essential requirement of your role. For more information and to book a place contact James Divall (DC – Team DC) on james@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk



Network update!

Like everything else in the District, Network membership is growing too. Thanks to the hard work of our Network Commissioner, young people between 18-25yrs can access a full range of activities, camps and award work challenges.

A District Facebook page is available for all members and enquiries. On there you will find out about up-coming events, chat forums and news items from around the District. For more information on the East Somerset Network please contact: Natalie Ashford on network@eastsomersetscouts.org.uk



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Census! Just a reminder that the national census will take place in January – separate instructions are being issued for this. The DC team would be appreciative of this census being as accurate as possible & remember that all subscriptions are based on Young People numbers, with adults no longer being charged for. The new ADC (Group Liaison) team will be assisting the GSLs with the process.

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