



Scouting Matters

The newsletter from the 6th Farnborough Scouts Group
May 2020

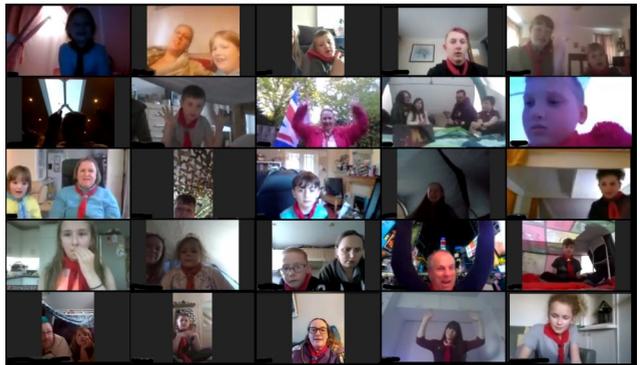
Keep calm and carry on Scouting!

Hello everyone! As we can't meet you face-to-face at the moment, we thought we'd send out a quick newsletter to let you know what's been going on here at 6th Farnborough Scouts.

These are truly interesting times, and our thoughts are with any of our

members who have been effected by COVID-19. Not since our group was re-constituted have we faced such a challenge to bring Scouting to our community, but I'm please so say - with the help of modern technology and our fabulous group of Leaders we have been able to do just that!

We would like to thank all of you who help your children take part in our virtual meetings and complete badge work when possible. We are working very hard behind the scenes to ensure that Scouting can continue during this period of physical (social) distancing. Many of our Leaders have learned some new technological skills (turning on our microphones or video and configuring our phones, tablets and computers). We have adapted our programmes to deliver what we can virtually, as well as giving your children a chance to stay in touch with their friends from the group. Here are just some of the things we've been up to since the lockdown started...



Our members meeting virtually during these days of social distancing



Most of the group participated in the Camp At Home event at the end of April - either making a Den to sleep in or pitching a tent in the garden/ living room! and spending the night "camping" out with a virtual camp fire. This event took place all over the world - with over 84,000 children taking part!

As we were not able to have the annual St. George's Day Parade this year, many of our group joined Scouts across the District for a virtual meeting - St. George being the Patron Saint of Scouting - and renewed their Scouting promise.



Your children have been amazingly busy earning their badges even in lockdown. We are using the new Badges at home feature of OSM to let them upload evidence of work done towards their badges. And - so they don't have to wait - we are posting badges to them - the picture is just two of our sections badges!

Scouting HQ has launched *The Great Indoors* campaign which has over 200 activities for you to try at home, as well as a Hike to the Moon fundraising event, which our members took part in, helping to raise over £240,000 for Children in Need





Our Leaders are working hard behind the scenes preparing their virtual meetings - adapting their planned programmes as much as possible to allow your children to continue to learn #skillsforlife and earn their badges. This has involved self up-skilling and learning to take advantage of new technologies.

The Group Committee is still meeting virtually to ensure the Group continues through this difficult time. We are currently looking at ways to hold our AGM virtually, and funding streams as our two main fundraising events have had to be cancelled this year - reducing our funds for hut maintenance etc.



Your children helped contribute to the human rainbow to thank the NHS workers for all the good work they are doing to fight the COVID -19 virus. This involved children from all over the Blackwater Valley District and was a lovely way to show our appreciation.

Don't forget - even in lockdown you can help the group with fundraising - by completing your Gift -aid form if you haven't already; using AmazonSmile and choosing 6th Farnborough Scout Group as your charity; and there is also the Rushmoor Community Lottery too!

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How can you help?

These amazing things are not possible without your regular subscription fees. Early on, we decided not to charge subscription fees for this term as we were not sure what it would bring. We asked for those who could to donate their normal fees via PayPal Giving and thank you very much to those of you who were able to give generously. We raised about one tenth of what we would have taken in by charging subscriptions.

We are very privileged to be able to have a hut to meet in, but this unfortunately comes with costs (alarm, water, electricity etc) which we still have to pay for - even while we are not holding meetings in it. Other groups who rent a hall can make significant savings in this area.

We have also heard from Head Quarters, and although they have made cuts and have furloughed as many people as they can, they still do need to remain open and cannot reduce the fees charged to groups - in fact if anything they are likely to increase. They provide vital services such as

- ensuring that all members of Scouting are covered by insurance while doing their scouting;
- ensuring that all volunteers are properly and thoroughly vetted before being allowed to work with children.
- providing helplines for Leaders, keeping the websites up to date (and recently created The Great Indoors!).

We understand that the current situation has caused financial troubles for many, but if you are in a position to help, please donate this term's fees - £40 for each child you have in scouting via - [PayPal Giving](#) and also ensure to Gift Aid your donation (turning your £40 into £50).

This will enable us to continue to function and ensure our hut is kept in useable conditions for when we return. We have had to cancel two of our major fundraising events that normally happen this term: Race Night and our AGM with Family BBQ. The AGM will still be held, but sadly we will miss the opportunity to celebrate awards together, and of course sell you burgers! We are continuing to provide a Scouting programme, even in these difficult times, so please donate this term's fees if at all possible to ensure the future of the Group

Book Reader Badge

As we're all stuck at home - and our secretary is a Librarian! - we decided to take a look at the book reader activity badge this issue. This is for both Beavers and Cubs, and helps children discover the joy of reading and writing of different genres, as well as how to care for books.



Activities you can do with your child to help them earn this badge include:



- Help them read six books - get them to read a variety of different books, from non-fiction, to poetry, as well as their favourite fiction authors!
- Get them to talk about their favourite book - why do they like it? What are the characters like? What happens in the story. Maybe compare it with other books they have read - what book was better and why?
- Have fun making a book mark, and explaining what a bookmark is used for
- Help your child find out what words in their books mean by themselves using a dictionary or thesaurus
- Take them to a library (once out of lockdown!) and show them the benefits of libraries to the local community. Help them find a book on the shelves - both fiction and non fiction and help them understand why they are stored differently

Reading is a fundamental skill which benefits all children well into their adult lives. Encouraging good reading habits when children are younger is extremely important, and will help them as they progress through school, raising their literacy levels, and encourages the sharing of thoughts and ideas.

Why not use the [District Book Reader Guide](#) to record your work towards this badge?

Find out more at <https://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources>