



Scouting – the facts

June - 2017

UK membership

We now have 618,688 members in UK Scouting.¹ This should be rounded to **'There are nearly 620,000 Scouts in the UK'**. This is the key membership figure to quote.

- We have 464,687 young people aged 6-25 in UK Scouting. This should be rounded to '465,000 young people in UK Scouting.' Within this figure, we have 457,000 young people aged 6-18.²
- We have 154,001 adult volunteers in UK Scouting'.³ This should be rounded to 'over 150,000 adult volunteers in UK Scouting'.

We have a total of 169,449 female members in Scouting⁴ (27% of our total membership, 26 years on since we first welcomed girls to all sections). The best way to express this is: **'more than a quarter of our total membership is female.'** The figure can also be rounded to '170,000 girls and women in Scouting.'

- We have 99,989 female youth members⁵ (21.5% of our total youth membership). This should be rounded to '100,000 girls and young women.'
- We have 69,460 female adult volunteers⁶ (43% of our total adult membership). This should be rounded to '70,000 female adult volunteers'.

Scouting's UK youth membership has grown for the last 12 consecutive years⁷

UK Scouting's membership grew by 44,712 in the last year (from 2016-17), up by 7.8%.

¹ Source: The Scout Association's Census 2017

² Source: The Scout Association's Census 2017

³ Source: The Scout Association's Census 2017

⁴ Source: The Scout Association's Census 2017

⁵ Source: The Scout Association's Census 2017

⁶ Source: The Scout Association's Census 2017

⁷ Source: The Scout Association's Census 2017

Scouting has a waiting list of 51,000 young people – we need to provide more places for more young people. This should be rounded to **‘Over 50,000 young people waiting to join’**.

Cub Scouts is our most popular section with 158,000 members, and nearly 2,000 joining in 2016-17.

World membership

There are **164 National Scout Organisations** (NSOs) located in **224 countries and territories** around the world.⁸

There are over **40 million members of World Scouting** in some one million local community Scout Groups, making Scouting the largest youth movement in the world.⁹

Heritage

Scouting began on 1 August 1907 with an experimental camp for 20 young people on Brownsea Island.¹⁰ The camp was held on 1-7 August 1907.

Scouting was founded by Robert Baden-Powell.¹¹

The first official Scout camp was held at Humshaugh from 22 August to 4 September 1908.¹²

We celebrate Founder’s Day on 22 February, Robert Baden-Powell’s birthday.

Key benefits (UK Scouting)

73% of parents believe Scouting gives young people the skills to succeed in life.¹³

91% of volunteers say that Scouting has helped them develop key skills.¹⁴

88% of youth members say that Scouting has helped them develop key skills.¹⁵

⁸ Source: WOSM <http://www.scout.org/node/67>

⁹ Source: WOSM <http://www.scout.org/node/67>

¹⁰ Source: An Official History of Scouting, (Hamlyn, 2007)

¹¹ Source: An Official History of Scouting, (Hamlyn, 2007)

¹² Source: An Official History of Scouting, (Hamlyn, 2007)

¹³ Source: fast.MAP April 2016

¹⁴ A Study of the Impact of Scouting (PACEC, 2011)

¹⁵ A Study of the Impact of Scouting (PACEC, 2011)

Scouting gives you an edge in the employment market: **41% of employers** say that a Scouting background makes people more employable.¹⁶

Employability skills acquired in Scouting include: 'teamwork', 'problem-solving', 'leadership', 'self-confidence', 'social skills', 'independence', 'responsibility' and 'showing commitment'.¹⁷

Research shows that **people with experience of volunteering develop skills that are highly demanded by employers**. In a 2010 YouGov survey, 57 per cent of managers felt that skills gained from volunteering can fill gaps in the workplace.¹⁸

80% of companies and charities say that Scouting has benefited their organisation.¹⁹

Scouting has its **biggest impact and is valued most** in the most deprived parts of the UK.²⁰

79% of the general public believe that it is very important for young people to have a range of structured, out of school activities available to them.²¹

Bear Grylls, Chief Scout

Bear was appointed tenth Chief Scout on 11 July 2009, taking over from ninth Chief Scout, Peter Duncan.

Bear Grylls was the UK's youngest ever Chief Scout.

On 16 May 1998, at the age of 23, he reached the summit of Mount Everest.

Bear has visited tens of thousands of Scouts around the UK during his regular 'Bear in the Air' events, championing adventure and character education.

Scout Ambassadors

Our team of Scout Ambassadors help raise the national profile of Scouting.

They include TV presenter, author and naturalist Steve Backshall; Olympic rower, Helen Glover; survivalist Megan Hine, Paralympic swimmer Ellie Simmonds; TV presenter, Anita Rani; adventurer Ed Stafford and TV presenter Julia Bradbury.

These ambassadors are specifically tasked with increasing the national profile of Scouting, meaning that local appearances are not possible at present.

¹⁶ A Study of the Impact of Scouting (PACEC, 2011)

¹⁷ Attributes identified by Explorer Scouts (Scouting for Skills, Demos, 2014)

¹⁸ Gammon and G Ellison, *Volunteering is the Business*.

¹⁹ A Study of the Impact of Scouting (PACEC, 2011)

²⁰ FAST.Map 2013

²¹ FAST.Map 2013

Amazing but true...

11 of the 12 people to walk on the moon were Scouts.²²

Scouts have stood on the summit of **Everest**²³ and at the **South Pole**.²⁴

Scouts are public spirited – **all our leaders are volunteers** and nearly half (47%) volunteer outside of Scouting as well.²⁵

Over 150,000 adult volunteers in Scouting learn new skills, make new friends and make a positive impact in their communities.

We offer over 200 activities from abseiling and coding to drama and water-zorbing.

Over a quarter of UK Scouting's membership is female.

Scouting offers hundreds of different volunteer roles from management positions to behind the scenes roles like driving the minibus or painting and decorating

1 person began Scouting in 1907; today **620,000** Scouts now take part in the UK and **40 million** around the world.

What have **Barack Obama, David Beckham, Paul McCartney, The Duchess of Cambridge, Richard Branson and Jamie Oliver** all got in common? They were (or are) all Scouts.

Our Patron is HM The Queen

A short description of Scouting

Scouting offers fun, adventure and skills for life to over 465,000 young people aged 6-25 across the UK. Through an exciting programme of activities, from kayaking to coding, we help girls and boys develop the practical, employability and character skills they need to succeed in life. This is made possible by the efforts of over 150,000 adult volunteers.

²² NASA http://www.nasa.gov/audience/foreducators/informal/features/F_NASA_and_Scouting.html

²³ Hampshire Scout Expeditions, 2007

²⁴ Andrew Cooney, 2003 http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/world/newsid_2624000/2624333.stm

²⁵ A Study of the Impact of Scouting (PACEC, 2011)