

**1st Islington (Acorns) Scout Group**

Our differences are our strengths!

# Welcome to the **ADVENTURE!**

A parent's guide to Scouting



[www.1stislington.co.uk](http://www.1stislington.co.uk)



## We're a member of Easy Fundraising – this means that you can raise money for the group at no cost to yourself!

If you buy things online then many retailers will donate a percentage of what you spend to us providing you access their online store via [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). Essentially the retailer gives the money they would normally spend on online advertising to the group instead. It's a win-win situation for the sake of a few minutes. There is even a range of widgets and tools to help remind you to shop via their site.

You just need to register at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/1stislingtonscouts>. No credit card details are required, you just need to enter your personal details and choose your cause.

Retailers include Expedia, Tesco, the National Lottery, GAP, Argos, Boots, eBay, LoveFilm, Dell, Amazon, Groupon, John Lewis, Lakeland, ToysRus, Viking, Boden, Debenhams and many many more!

## Raise even more money by using Easy Search!

Easy Fundraising also run a search engine which again donates a proportion of the advertising spend from retailers to the group. If you search <http://1stislingtonscouts.easysearch.org.uk> instead of Google or Bing you can help us to raise much needed funds!

## The 1<sup>st</sup> Islington (Acorns) Group Calendar

Each year we produce a calendar that features photos of the young people from the previous year.

The calendars are very keenly priced and make great Christmas presents. They are available in November each year. We get these printed at cost so every penny of profit goes towards supporting Scouting in the group.



## Welcome!

We're sure you have lots of questions so this information pack is intended to give you basic information regarding Scouting in general and our Group more specifically.

If you have any questions there are some useful websites below or please feel free to ask any of the leaders, we don't bite, honestly!

There are also a number of forms at the back of this pack that need to be filled out before your child can attend the group. The purpose and reason for each of the forms is explained within the pack.

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## Further Information

Scouting in the UK is split into counties which are subsequently split into districts. We're in Camden, City and Islington District which is part of Greater London North Scout County.

For more information you may want to visit one of the following websites:

Our Group Website: [www.1stislington.co.uk](http://www.1stislington.co.uk)

Our District Website: [www.londonscouts.org.uk](http://www.londonscouts.org.uk)

Our County Website: [www.gln-scouts.org.uk](http://www.gln-scouts.org.uk)

The Scout Association: [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

## Scouting

The Scout Movement the world's largest co-educational youth organisation and dates back to 1907. If your child joins us they will be one of 28 million members, in 216 countries and territories, that enjoy scouting every week.

In the UK, Scouting is organised through The Scout Association and has a clear purpose:

*The Purpose of Scouting is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.*

Over the decades the movement has evolved and today offers adventure to almost 400,000 girls and boys across the UK. Scouting is open to all young people aged 6 to 25 of every faith and background as long as they are prepared to make the promise. A number of variations of the promise are available to cover a range of faiths and nationalities. The principles of Scouting are;

*Duty to Self, Duty to Others, and Duty to God. We believe that the world is a better place when people are trustworthy, self-controlled and self-confident; work together to serve other people and to improve society; show responsibility for the natural world and proper respect for possessions and property; have self respect and respect for others; and have an active religious faith.*

Scouting uses a Method, which is young people, in partnership with adults:

*enjoying what they are doing  
learning by doing  
participating in varied and progressive activities  
making choices for themselves  
taking responsibility for their own actions  
working in groups  
taking increasing responsibility for others  
taking part in activities outdoors  
sharing in prayer and worship  
making and living out their Promise*

The Programme is a continuous progression of training, activities and awards. Whilst the activities they take part in will depend on their age, each Section gives young people the opportunity to learn by doing. The main programme areas are:

*Outdoor and Adventure  
Global  
Community  
Fit for Life  
Creative  
Beliefs and Attitudes*

Above all, Scouting is all about fun, friends and adventure and at every age. Rather than just extreme activities, adventure encompasses the many ways that Scouting challenges and stretches the lives of young people. To a Beaver Scout, waking up the morning after their first night away from home is as much an adventure as a Scout taking the 'leap of faith' 100ft in the air. It's all possible in Scouting!

## Our Group and the Sections

The Group consists of three sections, we all meet on Tuesday evenings during term time:

<b>Beavers</b>	6 to 8 years old, meet between 5:45pm & 6:45pm weekly
<b>Cubs</b>	8 to 10½ years old, meet between 6:15pm & 7:45pm weekly
<b>Scouts</b>	10½ to 14 years old, meet between 7:00pm & 8:30pm weekly

There is some flexibility in all the age ranges but you cannot start Beavers before you are 5¾. After 14 Scouting is provided at a district level with a number of options available including joining an Explorer Unit, taking up the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or becoming a Young Leader. When your child becomes 14 we will spend some time with them discussing the options available.

**Please do make sure that your child arrives and leaves on time. If you have children in more than one section we may be able to arrange for one to arrive early or leave late but please ask us first. If specific arrangements are not in place then your child is NOT insured.**

## Leaders

All our leaders are volunteers who give up their time freely to help young people get the most out of Scouting. In the UK Scouting is supported by nearly 100,000 adult volunteers. Trained Section Leaders take the lead in delivering the programme to young people. They ensure the young people stay safe whilst they enjoy themselves and learn. Our Leaders are supported by Assistant Leaders, Sectional Assistants, Occasional Helpers and a Group Executive. A full contact list for the group is available on the website – [www.1stislington.co.uk](http://www.1stislington.co.uk)

We're also fortunate to have a number of Young Leaders within the group. These Young People are Explorer Scouts and choose to help with the running of a section. They are all aged over 14 (16 if they are working with Scouts) and undergo a comprehensive training programme themselves. In the vast majority of cases they have also been youth members of our group too which gives them a real connection to the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts!

The group can always benefit from assistance either as a Leader, occasional or regular helper, as a member of Group's Executive or even as an occasional specialist skills instructor passing on skills and hobbies. If you would like to help, in any capacity, please let us know!

## The Promise

We are an "open Group"; this means that as long as your child meets the requirements for membership of the Association they are welcome in our Group.

To become a member of the Scout Association and our group your child will be asked to make a promise at an investiture ceremony. We try to make this a special occasion and it will only be carried out when they were ready. You are, of course, more than welcome to join this special ceremony and your section leader will let you know when we are going to invest your child.

The promise that they make will be dependent on the section that they are joining. The general promise for each section can be altered in a number of ways to take into account religious beliefs; nationality and / or special needs.

In the promise your child will undertake to either "love God" or to do their "duty to God" (or their choice of deity). Whilst we are not attached to any particular religious body our Group meets at St James' Church and we attend Church Parade once a term. If your child attends another place of worship then we ask that they attend once a month in uniform.

## Uniform

Since its inception Scouting has been a uniformed movement, and the scarf (necker, or neckerchief) is a key part of our identity. Details of uniform for each section, and the location of badges are shown at the back of this pack. On a Tuesday evening we would normally expect your child to attend in full uniform. Full uniform must also be worn to travel to and from camps and other activities.

Our group wears a scarlet scarf. This will be presented to your child during their investiture along with their badges, free of charge. Replacement Scarves are available at cost.

Uniform can be bought from a number of locations including:

- Online at [www.scoutshops.org.uk](http://www.scoutshops.org.uk) – all profits are put back in UK Scouting
- From John Lewis – our nearest branches are Oxford Street or Brent Cross
- From the Scout Park Shop (see <http://scoutpark.org.uk/scout-uniform-shop.html>). Here you can benefit from trying uniforms on in the shop before purchase. All profits are invested in the upkeep of Scout Park.

Alongside the formal uniform there is a range of optional activity wear:

- There is a choice of sectional polo shirts to match the formal uniform. The Scout association also produce branded ponchos, jackets and hats. These can be all be purchased from [www.scoutshops.org.uk](http://www.scoutshops.org.uk)
- As a group we have a Group Polo Shirt and other items, these are available to order. Please ask for more details.
- There is a range of i.Scout items available from [www.scoutshops.org.uk](http://www.scoutshops.org.uk)

## Subscriptions

Subs help us to cover the cost of things like badges, materials for activities and the general running costs of the group. **Importantly, subs also covers your child's insurance.** Our leaders are completely unpaid. Camps and other activities will usually have a small charge attached.

We offer two methods of paying subs:

- Option 1 - £2.75 per meeting
- Option 2 - £34 at the beginning of each term in January, April and September.

Paying termly is the cheapest way of paying subs and is a huge help to the group. We are able to give refunds with adequate notice

These details are **correct at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013**– subs are reviewed regularly because our costs change. If there are any changes we will let you know with as much notice as possible. If at any point paying subs for activities causes concern please speak to one of the leadership team, we may be able to help.

We can claim back the income tax on all the money paid to us. To enable us to do this please complete the Gift Aid Declaration form at the back of this pack. For every £1 paid to the group we can claim back 25p from the Inland Revenue at no extra cost to you. For most children this amounts to about £25 on subs alone! This helps us keep the costs of activities as low as possible.

## Badges and Awards

All members work towards attaining badges which are a fundamental part of Scouting. From Circus Skills and Street Sports to Imagination and Public Relations, there is a wide range of choice of badges for all sections.

**Activity Badges** are generally awarded for specific activities, hobbies or skills. In Beavers and Cubs they are awarded for trying your best, in Scouts some badges have specific standards which have to be met. The effort needed to obtain a badge will increase as your child progresses through the sections. In addition there are six staged Activity Badges which have been designed to offer a unified approach throughout the sections. The staged activity badges are; Emergency Aid; Information Technology; Musician; Swimmer; Nights Away and Hikes Away. Several activity badges will be covered in the normal Scouting year, however, your child is free to work towards additional badges if they wish. We have badge sheets for suitable 'complete at home' badges – just ask a section leader for more details.



There are also **Joining in Awards**. These are presented with the number indicating how many years the member has *regularly attended and participated* in the programme of the Scout Association.

There are a number of **Challenge Badges**. These can either be completed individually or in groups, but most commonly a combination of the two. Completion of a number of these badges will lead to the award of the relevant **Chief Scouts Award**, the highest award worn on the uniform. Your child will be guided through these awards by their section leader and with hard work and commitment should achieve their Chief Scouts Award before leaving the section.



When your child is ready to move up to the next section they will begin working towards the appropriate **Moving on Award**. They will be presented this on their last night with their old section.

Occasionally your child may be asked to undertake things at home to go towards badge-work being undertaken on a Tuesday evening. Please encourage your child to complete this work as it will help them to earn the badges we are working on. Camps and trips are a great way for young people to get through badge work so we hope your child can participate in these events!

The Leaders keep accurate records of achievement and we will present badges as soon as we can (although we're sometimes delayed by badges arriving late!). If your child is not presented a badge when their friends are it is most likely because they were absent for a crucial part of the badge work, or did not participate fully. A Leader should be able to identify what this is and if this can be caught up at home or not. Unfortunately, repeating badge work on a Tuesday evening is not always possible because the other members get a little bored!

## Nights Away, Trips and Activities

From its very beginnings Scouting has been about getting away from home, trying new things and experiencing unusual surroundings! As a group we run a huge range of activities every year and are always trying new things – there are very few things we're not allowed to do so if there is demand we'll try our best to run it! Activities in past have ranged from trips to museums, hikes and film making to week long activity holidays and trips abroad!



**Nights Away** from home are a key aspect of Scouting and offer your child an experience they are unlikely to find elsewhere! Your section leader will speak to you before your child's first nights away experience to give you more information.

Good kit is useful in all sections, particularly an adequate sleeping bag. In Scouts the correct kit is **essential** so please take note of the information issued for each event. If you have to buy new kit as a Beaver or Cub it is worthwhile considering buying better equipment that will last through Scouts and beyond. The leadership team can provide advice of what to buy and where to buy it, a few suggestions are below:



- We often have pieces of second hand kit that you can buy at very low rates with the money going directly to the group. In particular we have sleeping bags and crockery and cutlery.
- Cotswold offer a 10% discount to Scouts – just take your uniform along. The nearest Cotswold Stores are on Upper Street and near to Chancery Lane Tube.
- Tesco have a surprisingly good range of equipment available via their 'Direct' scheme.
- ScoutShops sell a range of equipment with all profits going directly to scouting.

Some items are not appropriate for camp, especially mobile phones, games consoles and expensive cameras. Please take note of the prohibited items list when you are given event details.

When we are away overnight or on trips we operate the Scout Association's InTouch policy. This ensures that we have an effective way for parents to contact us and for us to contact parents. We will always tell you how to contact us and how we will contact you during an event. Please try to use the advised communication methods – calls to event leaders' or childrens' mobiles directly can be very disruptive on some events.

## Diary Dates

Please check the calendar on our website – [www.1stislington.co.uk](http://www.1stislington.co.uk) – for a list of upcoming dates. Dates are often published online before we are able to get letters about camps etc. out so this is a good way to stay ahead of the game! We also include a summary of upcoming dates to the newsletter each term.

## Keeping in Touch

We do our best to keep parents up to date with what is happening in the group. We publish a termly newsletter (distributed just after Christmas, Easter and the Summer Holidays). We also send out a regular e-update if you have provided us with your e-mail address. The website is also a great place to keep up to date with what we're up to – [www.1stislington.co.uk](http://www.1stislington.co.uk).

If there is an event, camp or other sort of trip we will always send you a letter with all of the details that you need.

## Child Protection

The Scout Association's policies, rules, code of behaviour, advice on Child Protection and safety policy are there to ensure our young people stay safe whilst the activities provided are fun, exciting and challenging.

It is the policy of The Scout Association (and therefore of the Group) to safeguard the welfare of all Members by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

The Scout Association is committed to:

- Taking into account in all its considerations and activities the interests and well-being of young people;
- Respecting the rights, wishes and feelings of the young people with whom it is working;
- Taking all reasonable practicable steps to protect them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and
- Promoting the welfare of young people and their protection within a relationship of trust.

All adults aged eighteen or over, no matter what their role or involvement within Scouting, are responsible for putting this policy into practice at all times. All adults carry a yellow card which summarises our key responsibilities – please feel free to ask for a copy of the card. All Leaders and helpers must undertake and pass an enhanced Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) disclosure.

All our Leaders must complete basic training within five months of appointment and their full training within five years. Leaders running nights away receive additional, continuous training.

We regularly take **photographs and videos** of children undertaking activities. This is useful for publicity material, to validate leader training and to give individual children a record of their achievements. All photographs and videos taken as part of a Scouting event will comply with the Scout Association's Child Protection Policy. Please ask if you have any questions about this. There is a form at the rear of the pack covering photographs and videos - please complete it as appropriate.

Our Group is totally inclusive; however please make us aware of any relevant information to help us ensure that your child is safe and comfortable whilst in our care. All information provided is kept in complete confidence. Again, the only people outside of the Group to have access to any of this information would be a nominated "home contacts" during trips or activities.

More information about how we safeguard your child also available on the enclosed leaflet or online at: [www.scouts.org.uk/childprotection](http://www.scouts.org.uk/childprotection).

## Safety

It is the policy of The Scout Association (and therefore our Group) to provide Scouting in a safe manner without risk to health, so far as is reasonably practicable. It is the responsibility of all those involved in Scouting to seek, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that:

- all activities are conducted in a safe manner without risk to the health of participants
- the provision and maintenance of equipment and buildings for Members and others is safe and without risk to health and adequate for their welfare
- information, instruction, training and supervision is provided with the object of ensuring the health and safety of all those involved in Scouting activities or who may be affected by them
- appropriate arrangements are made to ensure safety and the absence of risks to health in connection with the use, transport, storage and handling of equipment, and substances which are inherently or potentially dangerous

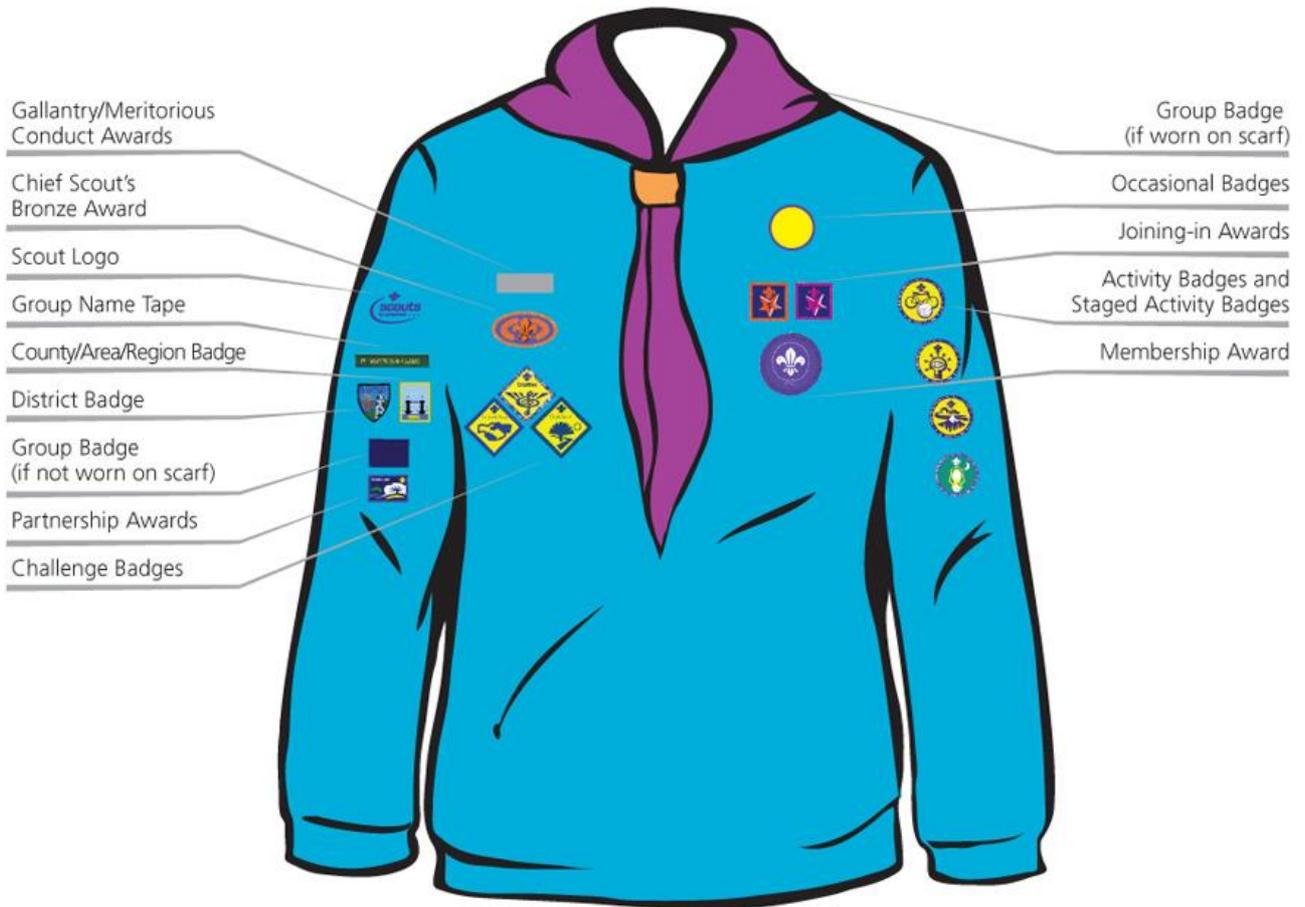
As a group we risk assess every activity that we undertake to ensure that any risks are mitigated to a safe level. If you have any concerns please just ask the leader running the activity to show you their risk assessment.

When we are undertaking camps and activities we ensure that we have appropriately qualified people to help us. We have a professional cook in the group to maintain food hygiene standards. Everybody that drives a mini-bus will hold a D1 licence and will have been tested by the local council. There will always be a first-aider on every event. If the event involves an overnight stay there will be a leader with a Nights Away permit on site at all times.

Unfortunately, however, accidents occasionally can happen, consequently in order to comply with The Scout Association's health and safety policy's we require certain information regarding emergency contacts (next of kin, emergency contact numbers etc.). If this information changes e.g. change of address or phone number please let us know. Two general information and emergency contact forms are attached. If we are going away we will also ask you to provide us with information relevant to the time. The only people outside of the Group to have access to any of this information would be a nominated "home contact" during trips or activities.

Our Group is totally inclusive; however please make us aware of any relevant information to help us ensure that your child is safe and comfortable whilst in our care. All information provided is kept in complete confidence. Again, the only people outside of the Group to have access to any of this information would be a nominated "home contact" during trips or activities.

More information about how we keep your child safe also available on the enclosed leaflet or online at: [www.scouts.org.uk/safety](http://www.scouts.org.uk/safety)



**Essential Uniform**

Turquoise Sweatshirt  
Group Scarf

**Promise**

I promise to do my best  
To be kind and helpful  
And to love God.



Welcome to the  
**ADVENTURE!**

# cubs



## Essential Uniform

Dark Green Sweatshirt  
Group Scarf  
Navy Blue Activity Trousers

## Promise

I promise that I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and to the Queen,  
To help other people  
And to keep the Cub Scout Law

## Law

Cub Scouts always do their best  
Think of others before themselves  
And do a good turn every day.

# [SCOUTS]



## Essential Uniform

- Teal green shirt
- Group Scarf
- Navy Blue Activity Trousers
- Brown leather belt

## Promise

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best,  
 To do my duty to God and to The Queen,  
 To help other people,  
 And to keep the Scout Law

## Law

- 1) A Scout is to be trusted.
- 2) A Scout is loyal.
- 3) A Scout is friendly and considerate.
- 4) A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.
- 5) A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
- 6) A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
- 7) A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.



**CONFIDENTIAL**

**General and Emergency Contact Information Form**

Please continue overleaf if necessary.

**General Details**

Childs Name: ..... Date of Birth .....

Home Address: .....  
.....Postcode.....

School:.....

**Medical**

Any special needs (physical, medical or educational) that you think we need to be aware of: .....

Any allergies (nuts, plasters etc) or other medical condition that we need to be aware of: .....

Any medication that may be required during a Scouting Activity (e.g. inhaler, epi-pen etc) .....

If your child requires the above do they know how to administer it: YES / NO

Are they likely to be able to self-administer if required: YES / NO

**Parents Details & Emergency Contact**

Name: .....

Relationship to the child: .....

Telephone number: .....

Mobile number: .....

Email address: .....

I do not give permission for my email address to be used to send me relevant information.

**Doctor**

Doctor's name: .....

Doctor's address: .....  
.....Postcode.....

Doctor's telephone number: .....

**Consent**

*I have read the parents welcome pack and am happy for the above named to join 1<sup>st</sup> Islington Scout Group*

Parent/Guardians Signature: ..... Date: .....

Parent/Guardians Full Name (Printed) .....



## Gift Aid Declaration

Child/Children's Name(s): .....

Name of the Charity: 1<sup>st</sup> Islington Scout Group (operating as part of Camden, City and Islington District Scout Council).

Please treat as GiftAid donations all gifts of money that I have made in the past four years and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations.

Title:.....Forename:.....

Surname:.....

Address:.....

.....Postcode.....

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs), that I donate to, will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signature: ..... Date: .....

### Notes:

Please notify the Group if you;

1. Want to cancel this declaration
2. Change your name or home address
3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

Tax claimed by The Group

1. 1st Islington Scout Group will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give on or after 6 April 2008.
2. The Government will pay to The Scout Association an additional 3p on every £1 you give between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2011. This transitional relief for The Scout Association does not affect your personal tax position.
3. If you pay income tax at the higher rate, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you.

1<sup>st</sup> Islington Scout Group operates as part of Camden, City and Islington District Scout Council. Registered Charity No.: 303747. Details of the District Scout Council are available at [www.londonscouts.org.uk](http://www.londonscouts.org.uk).

*giftaid it*



## Photographic & Video Footage Permission Form

Child/Children's Name(s): .....

I acknowledge that during the course of Scouting events (weekly meetings, days out, camps, etc) photographs and / or video footage may be taken, and could be used for any of the purposes outlined below. I understand that names will not be used with any image displayed.

I also acknowledge that on larger events photographs and / or video footage may be taken that the Group's Leaders have no control over.

I understand that all photographs and / or video footage taken by or on behalf of Scouting events will comply with The Scout Associations Child Protection Policy. However, the Group has no control over the photographs and / or video footage taken by Third Parties and their proposed end use for the photographs and / or video footage.

Use	I give my permission	I withhold my permission
Internal Publicity (Group Newsletters, District and / or County Newsletters etc)		
External Use (Website, Calendars, Local Newspapers, etc)		
To be shown at Group events / on the Groups notice boards in the Crypt		

\* Failure to indicate preference will grant permission to use photographs / video footage

Signature: ..... Date: .....

Full Name (Printed) .....