

Southport Scout News – No. 272 21st September 2015

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www.southportdistrictscouts.org.uk

www.merseysidescouts.org.uk



58th Southport Pack Holiday 2015

August 2015 saw the Cubs from the 58th Southport attending Pack Holiday. This year the holiday took place at Ashworth Valley Scout Camp over 5 days.

The weather for the five days in camp was very mixed with some very heavy rain showers. The Cubs took part in a wide range of activities whilst on the holiday from Archery, to the climbing wall, grass sledging and pedal car racing.



Monday afternoon we went on a walk down the Gelder Clough and Naden Valley stopping to skim stones in the river then exploring the ruined mill and pausing at the top of the waterfall daring each other to jump in but no one dared thankfully. On returning to camp the usual games took place and after our evening meal a scavenger hunt was organised and completed.



Tuesday was set fair in the morning; the instructors arrived to take the Cubs on the climbing wall and onto the Archery range. In the afternoon all the Cubs took part in a series of practical bases, making a leather key ring, coaster and belt loop followed by a session branding a piece of wood with your name, or favourite football club etc then

onto the activity all Cubs enjoy, making and lighting your own fire and cooking a twist on it mmm...delicious.

Wednesday morning started damp but soon dried up to allow the Cubs to go on the Ashworth Valley Cresta run with grass sledges despite it being damp a dry line was soon formed and the speeds increased much to the delight of the Cubs but not necessarily the Cub Leader.

To calm things down a little all the Cubs had to build a cardboard oven and bake some cakes as a sweet after their lunch. Before the cake they had to make themselves a toastie, various fillings were available after which they wrapped the toastie in foil and placed it on the barbeque some very tasty toasties were made. After lunch we all descended on the swimming baths in Heywood (it is one way to make sure they get a wash when on camp), in the evening we held a camp fire.



Thursday morning arrived and after inspection and flag break we all made a Para cord bracelet I am pleased to say the Cubs picked up the making of the bracelets quicker than the Leaders but all were proud of their achievements. After this a quick game on the field and before we knew it we had to pack away all the equipment, personal gear and clean out the centre before departing for home and for the leaders some well-earned rest.

My thanks go to Kath Lawrence for ensuring we all had enough well cooked food to eat, to Ian Herbert for running around like a mad man playing games with the Cubs.

Photos of the Pack holiday will soon be on our website at www.58thsouthport-scouts.org.uk

John Simpson
Cub Leader

Project Supporter advert

DID YOU KNOW you could earn money actively supporting the growth of Merseyside Scouts?

Merseyside Scouts are currently part way through a series of growth projects, the latest of which is being funded through 'Youth are United' and involves a locally based development officer and also incorporates a role for **locally paid volunteers**. These are existing and experienced Scout Volunteers working with a new group or section encouraging and supporting new and existing leaders and ensuring the long term success of our projects. We have used 'Project Supporters' in the formation of a number of new sections and two such volunteers have been actively engaged in the creation of Merseyside County's newest group, the 1st Leasowe, in Wallasey District.

Jane Richards, Project Supporter said,

"Whether you've been in scouting for years or decades, the opportunity to be a Project Supporter is something you should definitely consider.

It is the chance to do something amazing - bringing Scouting to areas where it is in short supply or does not exist at all. I've been working with 1st Leasowe starting up a brand new group on the Leasowe estate. It has been a very varied role; teaching all ages how to put up a tent or tie a reef knot, recruiting leaders, talking to community centres about potential venues, talking to parents about how scouting works. Of course there have been challenges along the way - both for the group and for me as a Project Supporter - but being part of the investiture of 45 young people and 8 leaders in front of their family and friends was a great reward.

It has been an absolute privilege to have been a small part of bringing Scouting to the area. I can honestly say it has been one of the most worthwhile things I have done in Scouting."

We can all see the value of Scouting to the lives of the young people who are currently members. We can improve the lives of even more young people by opening more sections and groups in areas we have already identified as being ready for Scouting

HOW does it work?

We are looking for Scout Leaders, volunteers, who are willing to support and help a new section or group. You would be required to attend meetings, work with new and existing leaders and support them, imparting your own knowledge and experience to them. You will, of course, be

supported through this role by local managers, District Commissioners and District Teams as well as the local development officer.

WHY are we doing this?

It is an approach which has been trialled in a number of areas around the country and has found to be a really successful way of ensuring experience and support is given where it is needed and has created long-term success in a number of projects. Here in Merseyside, we have used this approach with great success, with projects in Birkenhead, Wallasey and St Helens. The cost is built in to the funding which has been granted to the County for this project.

WHAT'S in it for me?

Firstly, payment - £1000 per project.

Secondly, the satisfaction of playing a vital part in the growth of our County and also being able to pass on some of your knowledge and experience to other leaders as they start their Scouting Journey.

WHERE is this happening?

We have a number of projects ready to start. They are right across the County. There will be a project near you, or within relatively easy travel.

WHAT do I have to do?

Commit at least 12 weeks to a project, which may be the formation of a new group or section. If you are interested, or require more information, send your Scouting CV with an email to, paul.coleman@merseysidescouts.com

Could you be our next UK Chief Commissioner?

After seven successful years as UK Chief Commissioner, Wayne Bulpitt will step down from the role in September 2016. Over the course of the next year we will of course be thanking Wayne for his incredible service to the Movement.

The Scout Association's Board of Trustees is now starting its search for a new UK Chief Commissioner. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for someone to lead over 100,000 volunteers in the country's largest coeducational youth movement and to transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people.

For further information go to scouts.org.uk/ukchiefcommissioner or email the Charity Secretary, Judeth Neville at governance@scouts.org.uk or call Judeth on 0208 433 7261. The closing date for applications is Monday 2 November.