



## **. . . press release**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

### **NEW SCOUT BADGES PUT HEALTHY EATING AND STREET SPORTS ON THE MENU FOR UK'S YOUNG PEOPLE**

***Lincolnshire: As they enter their second centenary, The Scout Association has today launched a series of new badges, including Health and Fitness, Healthy Eating, Street Sports and Parascending, reflecting the changing demands and interests of today's young people. This is the first time that The Scout Association has offered badges of these types.***

The Scout Association regularly review the programmes they offer to their members to ensure that they are relevant to the half a million young people, both boys and girls, who enjoy Scouting in the UK.

This continuous evolution of the Scout programme enables the Movement to continue to empower young people, helping them learn new and useful skills, giving them the opportunity to experience adventure, take risks in a safe environment, and have their first taste of responsibility.

The new collection of badges illustrates the diverse activities that Scouting has to offer young people across all ages. Younger members can now learn more about the benefits of healthy, active lifestyles, with a new programme for healthy eating and health and fitness badges for Beavers Scouts (aged six - eight years old) Both of these badges require the young people to learn about which foods are good for you and the benefits of keeping fit.

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**Patron HM The Queen President HRH The Duke of Kent**

**Founder Robert Baden-Powell OM Chief Scout Peter Duncan • County registered charity no. 522395**



Scouts aged 10 and above (Scouts and Explorer Scouts) are being given the opportunity to try out new activities through the Parascending and Street Sports badges. It is hoped that these new badges will show young people the huge variety of activities available to them and encourage them to be more active, while trying out new experiences.

In addition to the new activity badges, the Scouts have modernised some of their existing badges, including the Emergency Aid badge, which is now available to Beavers, Cubs Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts. At an early age, Beaver Scouts will be taught how to recognise dangerous situations and how to treat cuts and scrapes, through to Explorer Scouts (14 – 18 year olds) who will need to demonstrate that they know how to deal with a head injury and have knowledge of other medical conditions including Diabetes, Epilepsy and Meningitis

Welcoming the new badges Emily Cashmore a 10-year-old year old Cub from Lincolnshire said:

“I think it’s great that the badges will include activities that are important to today’s Scouts. We’re always hearing that young people aren’t healthy enough and I think it’s really important for everyone to learn about what healthy decisions they can make.

“I’m really looking forward to completing my Street Sports badge. The best thing about Scouting is that we get the opportunity to try new adventures and challenge ourselves, when we might not have been able to do so otherwise. Parascending, climbing canoeing can be quite expensive, but I’m able to try them all with the Scouts, for a much lower cost.”

The badges were launched during the Winter Camp celebrations. This year 2500 camped at Gillwell Park in Chingford, Essex over the 11-13 January 2008 weekend.

**Ends**

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**In addition, please feel free to use the links below to view the new badges (by section) together with the requirements . . .**

Beavers new badges: <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/badges/beaver-activity-index.htm>

Cubs new badges: <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/badges/cub-activity-index.htm>

Scouts new badges: <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/badges/scout-activity-index.htm>

Explorer Scouts new badges: <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/badges/explorer-activity-index.htm>

**You can download hi-res images of the badges here:**

Beavers: <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/clipart/badges/beaver-activity.htm>

Cubs: <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/clipart/badges/cub-activity.htm>

Scouts: <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/clipart/badges/scout-activity.htm>

Explorers: <http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/clipart/badges/explorer-activity.htm>

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## About Scouting

- *Adventure is at the core of Scouting, and the Movement passionately believes in helping their members fulfil their full physical, intellectual social and spiritual potentials by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves.*
- Over 200 activities are offered by Scouting around the UK, made possible by the efforts of 100,000 voluntary adult leaders. This has helped make Scouting the largest co-educational youth Movement in the country.
- One of the challenges that the Scout Movement faces is finding more volunteers to plug the current gap. At present there are nearly 30,000 young people on waiting lists.
- Adults working in Scouting contribute in excess of 364 million hours of voluntary work each year to their local communities.
- The number of volunteers working for Scouting is bigger than the combined workforces of the BBC (24,000) and McDonalds (67,000) put together.
- Worldwide Scouting has 28 million Members both male and female and operates in nearly every country in the world.