

Group Scout Leader

Ian R Malcomson

gsl@4thnorthamptonscouts.org.uk

07840 072 849

Group Chairman

Alan March

chair@4thnorthamptonscouts.org.uk

4thnorthamptonscouts.org.uk

scouts.org.uk

COVID Responsibilities

Following the cessation of face-to-face Scouting activities in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scouting Association (“The Scouts”) have issued advice to all Scout Groups regarding the journey back to normal Scouting activities.

This document supplements this guidance from the perspective of the 4th Northampton Scout Group. It outlines the process we are following, the responsibilities of our adult volunteers regarding running COVID-safe activities for our young members, and the responsibilities of parents and young members with regards to participating in these activities.

An Outline of The Journey

The Scouts has divided a return to normal Scouting into four coloured levels:

- **Red** – no face-to-face Scouting activities are possible. Only online/virtual activities may be provided by a Scout Group.
- **Amber** – face-to-face activities are permitted, subject to approval of an appropriate risk assessment. Outdoor activities are encouraged over indoor meetings, but limited indoor meetings are possible. Outdoor meetings are limited to up to 15 young people, plus up to 5 adult volunteers. Indoor meetings are subject to the nature of the venue used and capacity to run COVID-safe activities within it.
- **Yellow** – increased numbers permitted for outdoor activities, and looser restrictions on indoor activities.
- **Green** – All normal Scouting activities are permitted.

Each District may move into and out of the levels, according to the latest national guidance and any special guidance issued to specific regions. Currently, national guidance and that issued to Northampton District sits at Amber.

Risk Assessments

Each coloured band, and meeting/activity type and venue, is subject to risk assessment. Currently, 4th Northampton have approved risk assessments for:

- Meeting under Amber level, outside within Abington Park

Up-to-date copies of risk assessments and all documentation (including this document) can be found for download on our website at <https://www.4thnorthamptonscouts.org.uk/covid>

Key Responsibilities - Parents

The following are the key responsibilities we need parents to follow in order for us to keep all of our members and volunteers safe when running and participating in Scouting activities:

Understanding the Risk Assessments and Documentation

You must read and understand all of the risk assessments and documentation provided for a given activity. A consent form appears at the end of this document, and can be downloaded from <https://www.4thnorthamptonscouts.org.uk/covid>. You must complete and return this consent form for each separate activity/venue to an adult volunteer of the Group, or email back to gsl@4thnorthamptonscouts.org.uk. If you have any questions regarding the documentation or risk assessments, or need to talk it through to fully understand it, please forward your questions to gsl@4thnorthamptonscouts.org.uk, providing a telephone contact number if you wish to talk about them. Please do not sign and return the consent form unless you have read and understood the documentation and risk assessments.

Only one consent form must be completed per risk assessment. For example, for meeting outside in Abington Park, you only need to complete a consent form for your young people engaging in our Scouting activities within Abington Park. Another consent form will be required for meeting within the Church Hall, once we have approval to do so and have issued the risk assessment.

Young members will not be permitted to take part in our Scouting activities without an appropriate consent form.

General

Young people should not attend meetings if they or anyone from their household exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, or is currently isolated because of a positive test for COVID-19.

Information Prior To Meetings

As a parent/guardian, you will be forwarded an outline of the meeting being planned ahead of time. This outline will include provision for dropping off and picking up young people, which will be dependent on where we are meeting and the facilities to do these safely within guidance of, for example, social distancing.

You are responsible for ensuring the current contact details we have for you are up to date.

Please check the Parent Portal, and correct any out of date information.

If you do not have access to the Parent Portal, please contact gsl@4thnorthamptonscouts.org.uk so we can sort access out for you.

Please follow guidance provided by our volunteers for any given meeting.

General Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Please do not arrive early when dropping young people off to a meeting, or picking them up. We will need to provide time at the start and between sessions for setting up and cleaning equipment.

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Please maintain social distancing of 2 metres between families from different households.

If you have young people in different Sections meeting on the same day at different times, please aim to arrive at the drop-off time for the later Section to pick up your young member from the earlier Section, if the times follow on (i.e., less than 20 minutes apart). Adult volunteers will be responsible for your earlier young member maintaining social distancing between those leaving the meeting in which they participated, and during the gap between meetings.

Meeting Numbers

We are limited to 15 young people meeting during one session. While we are a small Group, this does not immediately affect any of our Sections. However, in the future it may be necessary to split Sections up into meeting groups to stay within number restrictions. If this becomes necessary, please ensure that you know which meeting group your young people belong to, and the specific guidance for that group.

Attendance Register and Track and Trace

We have always kept an attendance register for our meetings, and will continue to do so. This attendance register will be used for track and trace purposes, should we need them. Our Data Protection Policy has been updated to reflect this.

Should we need to contact you because of track and trace, we will guide you at that point on the steps you must take.

Personal Protection Equipment and Hygiene

We ask all parents/guardians to ensure their young people come to our Scouting activities with their own hand sanitiser and face mask. Young people will not be required to wear a face mask during our Scouting events, unless a public facility must be entered (e.g., public toilets). To that end, young people must be prepared by coming to meetings with their own face mask.

Please ensure young people have washed their hands and visited the toilet prior to attending the meeting. This will limit the need to visit public facilities during the meeting, and will reduce the chance of bringing anything unwanted from home to the meeting.

Please ensure young people wash their hands on arriving home from a meeting. This will reduce the chance of anything unwanted that has been brought home from affecting anyone in the home.

Clothing and Equipment

Please ensure that your young people attend meetings in appropriate clothing. This includes consideration for weather and light conditions.

When meetings are to be held in low-light, or may cross into low-light, please provide your young person with a head torch. A head torch is safer and more preferable, as it will ensure the young member's hands and arms are free to engage with the activity.

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Please equip your young person with a small backpack. This to be worn by them during the activity, and to contain their PPE, hand sanitiser, torch, rain coat, snack, drink, and anything else needed for a meeting without risking potential cross-contamination by having bags left together or otherwise away from the young person.

Please do not bring additional personal belongings to a meeting. This includes toys and anything else not outlined here and in the meeting notes provided by adult volunteers.

All belongings should be clearly labelled with the young person's name. This includes water bottles, snacks, etc. Because of the risk of cross-contamination, we will not retain lost property that cannot be identified.

Key Responsibilities – Adult Volunteers

Our adult volunteers will be responsible for keeping young people safe during our Scouting activities, and helping them to maintain a responsible engagement to our COVID-safe measures.

All of our volunteers are friendly and approachable. If you have any concerns, please feel free to talk to them. They may not be able to give specific advice or answers on the spot, but will be able to address your questions and concerns in a reasonable time.

All of our volunteers have up-to-date safety and safeguarding training, and have consented to follow the guidelines laid out through our risk assessments.

Final Word

The 4th Northampton Scout Group makes no comment regarding COVID-19, except as it pertains to measures taken as outlined in this documentation and our risk assessments. In order to engage in our Scouting activities, parents/guardians, young people, and our adult volunteers must follow these measures, regardless of their privately held opinions. Similarly, private opinions held by our adult volunteers should not be taken as reflecting the position of the Group. We ask you to respect these points when engaging our adult volunteers and participating with the Group to deliver fun and educative Scouting experiences to our young members as a whole.

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Consent Form

Please complete this form and return to an adult volunteer, or complete and email to gsl@4thnorthamptonscouts.org.uk

I have read and understand the response of the 4th Northampton Group to COVID-19, for **meeting within Abington Park under The Scouts "Amber" level of COVID readiness**, and I consent to my young member meeting with compliance to the measures the Group has identified.

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Young Member _____