Welcome

Hi, thanks for watching.

This week

Lots has happened including the move from Red to Amber in our framework for getting back together safely. I’ll explain more about that shortly.

Personally this week, I have been honoured to join a district team to help them work through how to increase the numbers of young people moving between sections.

I was able to deliver another of our online Safeguarding courses, and probably by the time you are watching this I will have delivered a Module 12A online course.

I’m really thankful for everyone taking part in these. You can still find dates for future courses on our website.

I’d also like to say a huge thank you if you are one of those who has completed their Safety or Safeguarding training recently. We are good progress to a place where almost all of our adults know what they need to do to keep young people and each other safe.

The area that we need to focus on next is to look at Module 1 for executives. Over 40% of our exec members across the County have not completed this really important training for all trustees. Please, if you are an exec member and you have not completed it yet, we would really appreciate it if you can.

I’m still hearing of lots of amazing things going on around the county and last weekend 11th Hucclecote Cubs had their under the sea themed camp at home. They played online games, took part in a virtual campfire and did craft including making these awesome octopuses and jellyfish.

Thanks to all the leaders and young leaders there, it looks like all of the young people had an awesome time.

Caroline and Helen from 1st Woodmancote wrote to me this week, pleased as punch at their first Beaver in their new Beaver colony having achieved their Bronze Chief Scout Award.

Ajay worked really had with his mum and Grandma, supported by Caroline and Helen to achieve his challenge awards, and now he has completed the Chief Scouts Award. Well done Ajay, and thank you Helen and Caroline for keeping young people focused on their Top Awards.

Restarting Scouting

On Monday 6th July, The Scout Association following consultation with National Youth Agency changed the state of Readiness for Scouting in England from Red to Amber.

This means that we can now start planning and preparing to meet together in groups of up to a maximum of 15 people including adults and young people. These meetings must be outdoors and social distancing measures must also be in place.

There are some important considerations to this. No member or adult in Scouting can meet with more than one group in any one day.

So you are not allowed to meet with a group of Beavers at 6pm and then help with a different group of Cubs at 7pm. Everyone who meets face to face cannot meet in another group on the same day.

There is lots of guidelines to support you in how you do this but I thought it might be useful to describe in one place what you need to do.

So, the first thing that as leaders you should do, is discuss amongst your whole team whether or not you want to meet with Young People face to face in the near future. You don’t have to. There is no rush and you can continue to do remote Scouting if that is best for you and your leadership team at this point.

Please remember there will still be adults that need to shield. There may be some that do not want to put themselves at risk. We should not rush anyone into meeting.

When you have agreed that you want to start meeting, section leadership teams then need to write risk assessments. They do need to be written and there is a great template on the website to get you started.

You must risk assess all of the environments that you will possibly meet in.

Whether the park, or the space in the field next to your HQ. You also need to think about access, so you will need to risk assess the Car park, how young people are dropped off and collected.

All of your risk assessment must cover all of the elements of the Covid code.

You of course may also need to risk assess the actual activity too.

There is also a checklist for you to help make sure you have consider everything including People, Programme and Places.

When you have written your risk assessments in full, you then submit them to your Group Scout Leader or District Explorer Scout Commissioner and the relevant Executive Committee, Group or District.

They will review, and consider any other risks that they are responsible for assessing and mitigating.

Your GSL or DESC will then need to submit all of the risk assessments for all of the sections in the group at one time to the DC using a specific Smart Sheet, which can also be found on the Scouts webpages.

The DC will review the risk assessments, any supporting documentation and may have a conversation with the GSL to ensure the whole People, Programme and Places checklist has been considered.

If satisfied, the DC will approve the restarting of Scouting for the group or Explorer unit. Please note you cannot start meeting Face to Face until you have had formal approval from your DC.

So, what next?

Next you will need to talk to young people and parents to explain your plans and what they will need to do to ensure the safety of everyone.

They of course may choose not to put themselves at potential risk, or may be having to shield. There is no expectation for any young person to return to face to face Scouting.

Also, a vital part which is often forgotten is to make sure that everyone involved has read the risk assessment and knows their role in ensuring the safety of all.

As you get closer to meeting, you may think of more Risks, or things may change. Please update your Risk Assessments and share them with your DC.

I really, really recommend everyone of you taking a look at the pages on the Scouts Website, there is far more to know, hopefully this will give you a great overview of what is needed.

And that’s it. Get back to delivering Inspiring Programmes for young people. You may choose to supplement with online activity, and as ever there is a huge range of activities available on the Great Indoors pages.

Good luck, and thank you

Coming up

This weekend, its the great indoors weekender the UK’s biggest virtual summer camp.

You can take part in as much, or as little as you want. They have got special guests and amazing people leading brilliant activities.

Helping out they have the Explorer and Adventurers that Dwayne Fields and Ed Stafford showing us how to build brilliant dens and have amazing nights away.

The UK Space agency are showing us how to build rockets, the RAF, helping us make Whirly Bird helicopters and the Gilwell 24 team leading us through the night with Taskmaster activities and tunes on the radio. On Sunday I want to try and make sure I watch Scouts the Musical.

The Chief Scout, Bear Grylls is kicking it all off on Saturday at 12pm.

Many of the activities count towards badge work and on the website it shows you how you can adapt the level of challenge for different age groups.

Don’t forget it isn’t just for those in Scouting, so if you know family members, neighbours or friends aged 6 and up, get them to visit the website and take part.

The great thing is you don’t have to do anything other than tell people about it, so please do.

Don’t forget you can sign up for information on GOOOSE on our website, just visit gscouts.org.uk/Gooose

Carole, has done another brilliant blog for us on the topic of being kind. You’ll find it as well as the latest bumper edition of the all new GScouts magazine which really is packed with lots of great stuff, on our County Website, in News & Updates.

Thanks to Carole and thanks to John.

And finally…

Thanks to Cheltenham district for sending me through their District Necker. This is my first District Necker in the County, which is surprising because I have been the acting DC for 5 of the 8 districts at one point or another.

Thanks Cheltenham, I look forward to continuing to support you and the teams there in doing the great work you are.

Don’t forget, especially DCs, you can still send me a Necker, just drop me a line, I’ll give you my address. If you want me to return your neckers, that is fine, I promise I will.

I just want to pause at this point to just recognise that there are still people having quite a tough time. Whether it is due to the pandemic, illness, worries at work or in families, my team in particular, I just want to let you all know that I am here to support you. And I know that every team out there, you will all support one another if needed too. Thanks for being amazing volunteers in Scouting, all of you!

Please continue to stay safe and again, thank you so much for all that you do.

Bye bye