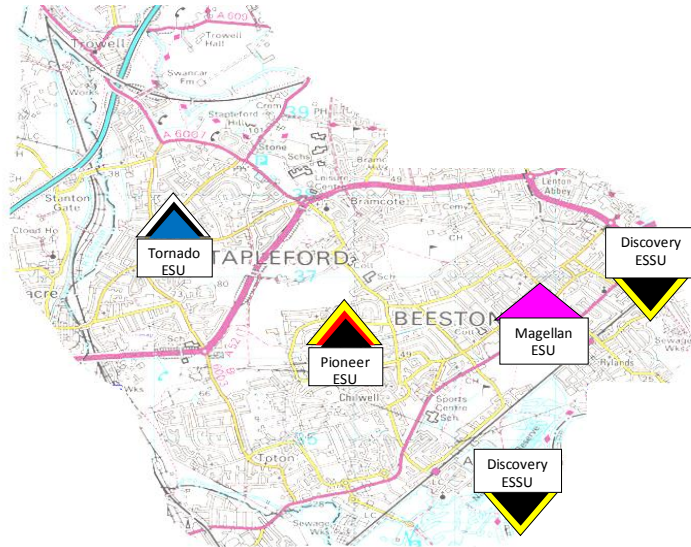




## South West Notts District Explorer Scouts



(The map above shows the meeting places of the Units)

# Information for parents of prospective Explorer Scouts

**The fourth Section of the Scouting Family, aged 14 – 18.**

### How do I find out more?

Speak to any Leader in the District, or contact the District Explorer Scout Commissioner, Chris Coats, on 0115 9522849 or drop a note to: [coatscq@gmail.com](mailto:coatscq@gmail.com) or visit: <http://explorers.swnotts-scouts.org.uk/> or visit: <http://www.notts-scouts.com/explorerscouts/index.html>

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### **When and where do Explorers meet?**

There are many types of Explorer Scout Units, some are linked to local Scout Groups, others are based around different activities. Not all Units meet each week, because Explorers will often be out and about at weekends or in the holidays doing activities. There will be times when young people will be busy doing other things such as exams, and being an Explorer Scout will have to fit around these. Explorers can go to any or all of the meetings in the District. The Units in the S W Notts District are:

**Pioneer ESU** - meets on Monday evenings in Inham Nook

**Tornado ESU** - meets on Monday evenings in Stapleford

**Magellan ESU** - meets on Thursday evenings in Beeston

**Discovery ESSU (Water Activities)**- meets on Thursday evenings in Beeston Rylands or on Barton Island in the Trent depending on the weather and time of year

**The Young Leader ESU** – a unit that supports Explorers working with other sections; it meets when and where necessary

### **What do Explorers do?**

That's up to the Explorers, really - the young people in each Unit will help to plan their own programme of activities, and will also get involved in organising events. Here are some examples of the activities that Units have enjoyed as part of a varied programme: Pioneering, Swimming, Wide games, Debating, Cinema trips, Sailing, helping out at the District Scout Camp, Barbecues and Cocktails (non-alcoholic, of course!). International events have been a feature of recent years.

### **What about Badges and stuff?**

Through the weekly programme, Explorers work towards obtaining the Chief Scout's Platinum and Diamond Awards and of course, the Queen's Scout Award - the highest award for young people in Scouting. These awards also cover the requirements for the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Then there are 28 Activity Badges to have a go at, and several more Group Awards to earn.

### **Are there some District and County activities?**

Yes - as an Explorer Scout, your child will get the chance to work with other Explorer Scouts in their District and County, not just their own Unit. By doing this, they will get the chance to do many more activities, not just the ones their Unit organises. For instance, endurance go-karting and canoeing courses. There are even national events such as the Winter Camp at Gilwell.

### **What is the Young Leaders' Scheme?**

The Young Leaders' Scheme is just one of the exciting programme elements in the Explorer Scout section. Young Leaders are Explorer Scouts who choose to devote a large proportion of their time in Scouting to service in another Section - Beaver Colony, Cub Pack or Scout Troop. They are automatically members of the Young Leaders Unit, but can be members of one of the regular Units as well. The Young Leaders' Scheme helps Explorer Scouts to develop and grow as individuals. It allows them to make a valuable contribution to their community and give service to others. The scheme also helps them fulfil the service elements of their Awards.

### **How much does it cost?**

Explorers wear uniform on formal occasions like St George's Day parade, and for the beginning and end of most Unit meetings.

Uniform (navy trousers/skirt with beige shirt/blouse) can be obtained from [shop.scouts.org.uk](http://shop.scouts.org.uk) or locally from:

Morleys, 118 Bramcote Avenue, Nottingham, NG9 4DR. 0115 925 8046 or 446 Nottingham Road, Chaddesden, Derby DE21 6PE.

(Discovery wear Sea Scouts uniform which is different.)

Their Leader will present them with the Unit scarf.

Subscriptions to Explorers Scouts in South West Notts currently range from £8 to £10 per calendar month, payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Part of this goes towards the HQ Membership Fee (£36 in 2013).

Cheques should be made payable to *S W Notts Explorer Scouts*, however ideally, subs should be paid by Standing Order - please speak to a leader to get the details. Many of the activities that Explorers will want to do (camping, climbing, 10-pin bowling, going to the cinema etc) will incur additional costs for those taking part.

### **Can I Gift Aid my child's subscriptions?**

YES! Please do! If you are a UK taxpayer, Scouting can claim back a further 25% of your subscriptions, helping to keep costs low. Ask your child's Leader for the appropriate form.

### **What can you tell me about the Leaders?**

Each Unit is led by a team of Leaders, who have been subject to vetting and have had access to extensive training to equip them to run safe and exciting activities for the young people in the Unit. All the adults working in Explorer Scout Units are volunteers who give up their spare time to provide good quality programmes for the members of their units. We're always looking for additional help so if you think you might like to get involved, please call the number overleaf.