



Squirrels. A new chapter in a well known tail.

Welcome to the first West Yorkshire Squirrels newsletter. These will be termly newsletters for managers to keep you updated on the roll out of this exciting new section. Feel free to circulate it to leaders within your groups who are interested in Squirrels too.

I am Dan Breeze, ACC Squirrels and County Advisor. I have been involved in the national pilot project trialling Early Years Scouting in my own group in Bradford. My role is to monitor the roll out here in West Yorkshire and facilitate meaningful conversations about whether it is the right time for individual groups to start this new section.



If you would like to get in touch or have any questions my email address is squirrels@wyscouts.org.uk

What is Squirrels?

Squirrels is the first new section in scouting in over 35 years. However, the concept of Early Years scouting is not new. Squirrels have been running in Ireland for 30 years and the concept has been trialled across England over the past two years. The Squirrel programmes and badges have been created so they fit well with the other sections but are also age appropriate and easy to use. Find out more [here](#).

Where are we now?

Here in West Yorkshire, we are in a very positive position. Over the next 3 months, we already have 9 groups who have registered an interest in opening a Squirrel drey and I have spoken to a number of other groups who are exploring opening this new section. The roll out of Squirrels is deliberately at a slow pace. This is to ensure that we get it right for every individual district and group.

How do I find out more?

Join me at one of our Squirrel information sessions. These will be informal sessions where you can hear from existing leaders and ask any questions you may have. We will also talk you through the next steps should you be interested in opening a drey.

The sessions will be on **Sunday 2nd October** and **Monday 11th October** at 7.30pm on Zoom. Places can be booked via [bookwhen](#).

Interested in starting a drey?

Feel free to get in touch and I will guide you through the process. There is a [readiness checklist](#) and the [expression of interest form](#) for GSLs to complete. Please remember inform your DC of your interest too!