



# Welcome to WYSmail

Hello,

It has been brilliant to see what our groups have been getting upto over the last few months. Thank you for all our hard work, time and dedication, without you we wouldn't be able to give our young people even more skills for life!

Following a recent amazing headcount across the County our total young people numbers are 8126 which is just 35 short of where we were pre covid in 2020. This is absolutely amazing, and is a credit to the great work of all volunteers across West Yorkshire.

We would like to wish you all a joyous and adventurous holiday season! Your commitment to guiding and inspiring young minds is truly appreciated. May your festivities be filled with warmth, camaraderie, and the spirit of scouting.

On Thursday 7th December we will be holding a Winter Social for all volunteers from 7.00 to 9.00pm. We ask that you book on via BookWhen. This will be a great opportunity to meet members of the County Team, who will outline events for 2024 and beyond. This will be followed by break out groups for different sections and followed by refreshments.

Toby Hammond,  
West Yorkshire Scouts Youth Commissioner.



A winter-themed poster with a dark blue background. At the top, there are stylized white snow-covered tree branches. The background is filled with white snowflakes and small white dots. In the middle, there are dark blue silhouettes of evergreen trees. The text is centered and reads: 'Winter Social' in a large, white, cursive font; 'THURSDAY 7TH DEC -' in a bold, white, sans-serif font; and '19:00-21:00' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below the time, the location is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font: 'Jubilee Centre, Bradley Wood Scout Activity Centre, Shepherds Thorn Lane, Brighouse, HD6 3TU'. At the bottom, there is a dark blue rounded rectangular button with the text 'BOOK NOW' in white, bold, sans-serif font. A white hand icon is pointing at the button. There are also several white snowflakes scattered around the bottom of the poster.

# *Winter Social*

**THURSDAY 7TH DEC -**

**19:00-21:00**

Jubilee Centre, Bradley Wood Scout Activity Centre,  
Shepherds Thorn Lane, Brighouse, HD6 3TU

**BOOK NOW**

# Congratulations



As a County we'd like to extend our warmest congratulations to all those involved at 51st Pellon Scout Group Halifax on their outstanding achievement, being awarded the prestigious King's Award for Voluntary Service.

Here's what the group had to say.

"In a truly momentous achievement, the 51st Pellon Scout Group in Halifax has been awarded the prestigious King's Award for Voluntary Service, acknowledging our unwavering commitment and exceptional contributions to the local community.

Scouting has long been synonymous with leadership, community engagement, and personal growth, and the 51st Pellon Scouts have exemplified these values to the highest degree. Our dedication to community service, involvement in numerous local initiatives, and our commitment to the Scout oath and law have earned the Group this remarkable recognition.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service is a prestigious honour that acknowledges organisations and groups that have made a significant impact through voluntary work and community service. Equivalent to an MBE, KAVS is the highest Award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and it is awarded for life.

# Congratulations

This award is a testament to the outstanding work and effort of the leadership team at 51st Pellon Scouts, who have positioned themselves as the leading voluntary organisation in the local area.

51st Pellon Group have been actively involved in a wide range of community projects, from charity galas, fundraisers, care of the elderly and organising community events. We organised the memorable first Iftar under the Stars event which was held at the Piece Hall, and attracted over 1500 people.

This year the event was at The Halifax Academy, again hosting over 1200 people. 51st Pellon Scouts were also a delivery partner on the Calderdale Healthy Holidays Programme in 2023, and in partnership with Beech Hill School, delivered an outstanding programme of activities for hundreds of children from deprived backgrounds. More recently, we were asked by Halifax Central Initiative and the West Yorkshire Mayor's Safer Communities Fund to organise a community unity event in the Vickerman Street area, which it did successfully with huge praise from the local community.

Our work and commitment reflects the core principles of Scouting - to be of service to others, to always do their best, and to leave a place better than they found it."



# Congratulations

Following on from their outstanding accomplishment, of being awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service, the group went on to win Charity of the year at the Calderdale Community Spirit Awards, and a Certificate of Appreciation from Calderdale Council. The group were recognised for their community work and outreach, hosting a spectacular Bonfire Night extravaganza! Where members of the community were warmly welcomed, with food and activities for all, minimising disruption and protecting the community during the Bonfire Season. What an incredible year for 51st Pellon!

From all of us across the County we'd like to thank you for your dedicated team effort, commitment to Scouting and widening the Scouting voice & reach across our community.

If you'd like to personally congratulate or check in to see what the group has planned next. Click the 51st Pellon Scout Group Logo below to check out their Facebook page.



**The King's Award  
for Voluntary Service**  
*The MBE for volunteer groups*

# Congratulations





# **Squirrels**

## **WEST YORKSHIRE SCOUTS**



**Dan Breeze**

ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR SQUIRREL SCOUTS.



[squirrels@wyscouts.org.uk](mailto:squirrels@wyscouts.org.uk)



<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089622445244>

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

# **Welcome**

What a busy few months Squirrels have had! It has been amazing seeing all of the 2nd Birthday celebrations and seeing our first dreys complete their nights away events! We have lots coming up in the next few months so please put the dates in your diary and further details will be released soon. Keep up to date with all things Squirrels on our WYS Squirrels Facebook page! The Squirrel team will keep you up to date with all the up to date information and opportunities.

**16th Jan - Squirrel Leader Get Together**

**TBA - Squirrel Storytelling workshop @ Bradley Wood**

**9th March - Squirrel Activity Day @ Bradley Wood.**

**13th April - Cheif Scout Acorn Award Party @ Bradley Wood.**







WE WANT  
YOU!

Interested in starting a drey?  
Please do get in touch and I can  
guide you through the process. There  
is a [readiness checklist](#) to complete  
to help you consider if now is the right  
time to start a drey is your group.

Once you have decided that this is the  
right time, GSL's need to complete the  
[expression of interest](#) form that will  
be sent to your DC for approval. Start  
dates are available in March, May,  
September and November.

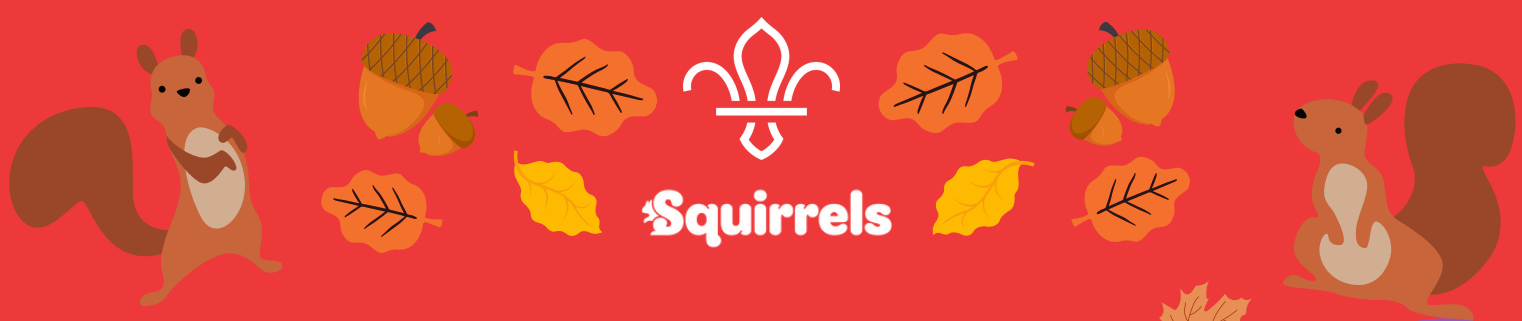
Please do not start a drey at this time  
without permission form HQ.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Squirrel Roadshow Event!

On Saturday 9th March, we would  
like to invite anyone who is interested  
in Squirrels to see what Squirrels can  
do! The county Growth and Squirrel  
teams will be on hand to advise you  
and help anyone who is interested to  
plan opening a new section.





Meet our new West Yorkshire Squirrel Scout mascot! We are very excited to welcome them to the scouting family however they do not have a name! Join us on our Facebook page where we will be launching our name competition later this month. Suggestions can also be submitted via email.

### **Squirrel Storytelling Workshop** **POSTPONED**

Due to circumstances outside of our control, we are having to postpone the Squirrel Storytelling Workshop that was scheduled for Saturday 4th November. Once we have a rescheduled date in the new year, this will be advertised and we will reopen bookings. This is set to be a great afternoon with lots of interaction and hints and tips that you can take back to your dreys.



BEAVERS

## WEST YORKSHIRE SCOUTS



Sam Wakefield

ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR BEAVER SCOUTS.



[Beavers@wyscouts.org.uk](mailto:Beavers@wyscouts.org.uk)



<https://wyscouts.online>



CLICK ON BARNEY THE  
BEAVER, TO TAKE  
A LOOK AT WHAT BEAVER  
SCOUTS ACROSS  
WEST YORKSHIRE  
COUNTY HAVE BEEN  
GETTING UP TO.

13th March --  
Younger Sections  
Top Awards @  
Bradley Wood

5th October -  
Squirrel &  
Beaver Trip @  
Sundown

CHECK OUT  
OUR UPCOMING  
EVENTS

8-9th June - Beaver  
Event & Sleepover  
@ Bradley Wood







## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

18th November - The Northern Lights @ Blackhills Campsite

The Beaver Scout Northern Lights event at Blackhills Scout Campsite was a magical Christmas day filled with joyous activities that brought together young scouts for a memorable celebration. Against the backdrop of winter decorations, the campsite was transformed into a festive wonderland, adorned with twinkling lights and the spirit of the season. The beaver scouts eagerly participated in a myriad of activities, from crafting holiday ornaments, a snowman trail, giant sprouts on a spoon race, enchanting stories and hanging out with some alpaca-reindeer, before a night-time light display & a crackling bonfire. The air was filled with laughter and excitement as the scouts engaged in traditional winter games and enjoyed delicious treats. As the night unfolded, a special moment awaited them - a visit from Father Christmas, as Beaver Scouts waved him off back to the North Pole, to continue with his Christmas preparations. We hope you all had the most magical of days, and a huge thank you to all those involved.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page to keep up to date with county events. Just click on Barney the Beaver!



[CLICK HERE](#)



## West Yorkshire Scouts

Tina Knight

ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR CUB SCOUTS.



[cubs@wyscouts.org.uk](mailto:cubs@wyscouts.org.uk)



<https://wyscouts.online>



**COMING  
SOON**

16th January - Cub  
Leader Get Together

27th January - Cub  
Badge day @ Bradley  
Wood.

16th March - Cub  
International Day @  
Bradford Uni.

13th April - Chief  
Scout Silver Award  
Party.

11th May - Cub Cycle  
Challenge.

18th May - Pedal  
Car Day.

# WELCOME



Thank you for making me feel so welcome. It has been fantastic to get out to so many cub packs since I have started as ACC Cubs. I am really keen to get out to even more packs and district events so please get in touch if you have anything coming up that I can support with.

### **Cub Badge Day**

On Saturday 27th January we are holding our Cub Badge Day! There will be a morning and afternoon session where the young people can work towards one badge. We will be covering the Environmental, Photography, Chef, Science and Communicator badges. Places should be booked via bookwhen (insert link) for £5 per badge. A leader should accompany their young people.







Graham Starr

ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR SCOUTS.



[scouts@wyscouts.org.uk](mailto:scouts@wyscouts.org.uk)



<https://wyscouts.online>

## COMING UP!

Take a look at the exciting opportunities coming up so far in 2023. With many more activities & experiences on the cards, don't forget to check back with WYSmail to see what's coming up. For more information and to keep up to date with current events, don't forget to join and follow the West Yorkshire Scouts Facebook Page.

Click the link below!



9th Dec - Health  
Science Day @  
Bradford Uni

3rd Feb -  
Engineering Day @  
Bradford Uni

9th Feb - Winter  
Carnival Camp @  
Bradley Wood

2nd March -  
Business Day @  
Bradford Uni



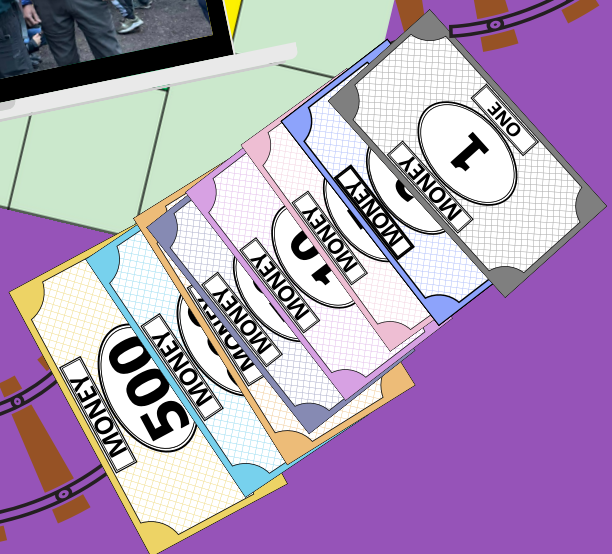
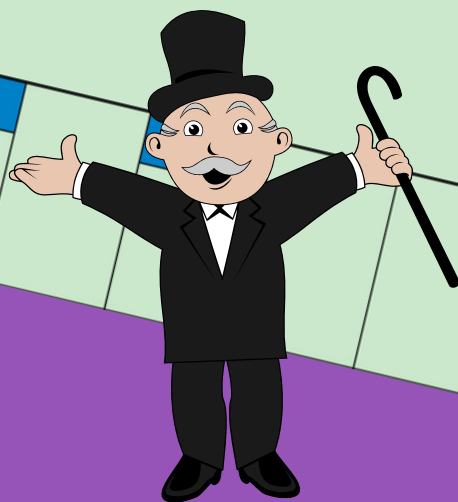
*click  
here!*



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Scoutopoly - October 2023.

Back in October Scouts & Explorers across West Yorkshire took part in the annual Scoutopoly event. A unique and adventurous event, as scouts embarked on a thrilling journey using public transport to explore the region's local landmarks and places of interest. Inspired by the classic Monopoly board game, scouts navigated through the picturesque landscapes and vibrant communities, each destination corresponding to a location on the iconic game board. This innovative approach not only encouraged teamwork and strategic planning but also fostered a sense of exploration and community engagement among the scouts. Well done to all teams involved, and congratulations to 14th Marsden Scouts for winning the competition.





## West Yorkshire Scouts in partnership with Bradford University

Following a successful launch of the Bradford Faculty Experience days for Scouts last year, we are pleased to announce the dates for this coming year. The events which we ran last year have been reviewed and adjusted to make them even better this time round.



### Each day features

- Hands on activities for Scouts to engage with
- Experts and student helpers to assist
- A bespoke badge to be achieved by the end of the day for everyone
- An opportunity to see what Universities are like and encourage young people to aim high.



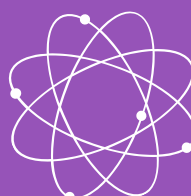
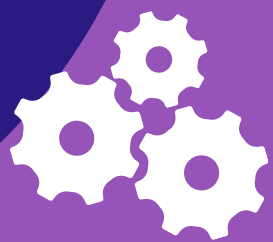
Each day runs from 1.00 to 5.00pm and is entirely free of charge.

To book onto one of the days go to 'Book when'

<https://wyscouts.bookwhen.com/schedules/hqn2eefaz59z>



There are 50 places available for scouts from across the county. Adult support is required on a one to 6 basis.







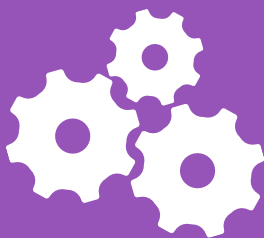
## Saturday 9th December Health Sciences

- Learn about how a paramedic team operates at an accident site using first response skills
- Find out how midwives train to support women during pregnancy
- Develop their own abilities to know what to do in an emergency situation



## Saturday 3rd February 2024 Engineering

Work in teams to develop satellites to enhance space communication



## Saturday 2nd March 2024 Management & Law

- Have an opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial skills to sell a product
- Develop team work and trust
- Find out how law courts work







EXPLORERS



Katie Travas

ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR EXPLORER SCOUTS.



[explorers@wyscouts.org.uk](mailto:explorers@wyscouts.org.uk)



<https://wyscouts.online/explorer-events-2023/>

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

### Canada Training Weekend @ Hag Dyke

In November, the Canada Contingent headed for to Hag Dyke Hostel in the Yorkshire Dales for a training weekend ahead of the big trip in Spring 2024. As they prepare for the big adventure, Explorer Scouts were set a series of team building tasks & challenges. We hope you guys had a fantastic time up at Hag Dyke, and can't wait to follow your journey to Canada.



## UPCOMING EVENTS!

10-11th Feb - Winter Camp @ Bradley Wood

23rd Feb - Explorer Party @ Bradley Wood.

22-23rd June - Pioneering @ Bradley Wood

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Scoutopoly - October 2023.

Back in October Scouts & Explorers across West Yorkshire took part in the annual Scoutopoly event. A unique and adventurous event, as scouts embarked on a thrilling journey using public transport to explore the region's local landmarks and places of interest. Inspired by the classic Monopoly board game, scouts navigated through the picturesque landscapes and vibrant communities, each destination corresponding to a location on the iconic game board. This innovative approach not only encouraged teamwork and strategic planning but also fostered a sense of exploration and community engagement among the scouts. Well done to all teams involved, and congratulations to Hydra ESU from Central Yorkshire Scouts, and to HSW Network team for winning the competition.





EXPLORERS



## Young Leaders Award

Explorer Scout Young Leaders are Explorers who volunteer alongside adult leaders in a Squirrel Drey, Beaver Colony, Cub Pack or Scout Troop. They're a valuable asset to any leadership team and play an active role in the section, bringing a range of fresh ideas to the table and acting as positive role models for the young people they work alongside.

The Explorer Scout Young Leaders' Scheme is the training programme for Young Leaders. It contains 11 modules and four missions for them to work through whilst volunteering in their chosen section.

Modules give Young Leaders the skills and knowledge to be successful in their role, while missions allow them to put everything into practice with support.

As well as developing valuable life skills, the scheme is an opportunity for Explorers to make a positive impact in their communities and to fulfil the service elements of many of the top awards in Scouts, or their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Recognition of achievement is available along the way, and on completion of the Scheme, the Young Leader is awarded with an Explorer Scout Young Leader belt buckle.

To learn more click the Young Leaders Award badge at the top of the page. To book Young Leaders on Module training courses, click the Book Now Icon.



Don't forget to share and tag us  
@explorersofwyscouts



Looking to book Young Leader Modules?  
Click the image to book now.



Courses available for booking are [blue and underlined](#).

Simply click the course title

## Adult Leader Training 2023

Date	Day & Time	Course	Volunteer Learning Manager (Course Director)	Venue
28th Jan 2024	Sunday, 09:15	<a href="#">Multi Module - Day 1 of 3</a>	Richard Oldfield	Jubilee Centre @ Bradley wood
25th Feb 2024	Sunday	<a href="#">Multi Module - Day 2 of 3</a>	Richard Oldfield	Jubilee Centre @ Bradley wood
10th March 2024	Sunday	<a href="#">Nights Away Theory</a>	Jenny Pearson & Christine Stephenson	Jubilee Centre @Bradley Wood
24th March 2024	Sunday	<a href="#">Multi Module - Day 3 of 3</a>	Richard Oldfield	Jubilee Centre @Bradley Wood
10th May 2024	Friday	<a href="#">Nights Away Campsite</a>	Nights Away Team	Bradley Wood





**Howard Fishwick**  
COUNTY TRAINING MANAGER FOR WEST YORKSHIRE SCOUTS



[training@wyscouts.org.uk](mailto:training@wyscouts.org.uk)



[https://bookwhen.com/scouttraining](https://bookwhen.com/scouttraining#focus=ev-sh0k-20230401090000)  
[#focus=ev-sh0k-20230401090000](https://bookwhen.com/scouttraining#focus=ev-sh0k-20230401090000)

### Multi Module days will cover module listed below:

Day-1 Covering Modules: 5 / 12a / 12b,  
Day-2 Covering Modules: 8 / 9 / 14 / 15,  
Day-3 Covering Modules: 11 / 13 / 18 / 19

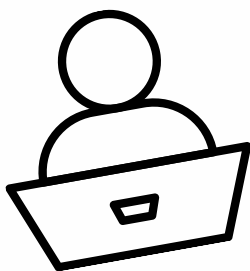
### Managers and Supporters Training

- Materials for learners for Managers and Supporters Training
- Information for Trainers

### Module List

#### Getting started

- Essential Information (01)
- Personal Learning Plan (02)
- Tools for the Role (Section Leaders) (03)
- Tools for the role (Managers and Supporters) (04)
- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)



### Training for All Appointments

- The Fundamentals of Scouting (05)
- Scouting for all (07)
- First Aid (10)
- Administration (11)
- Delivering a Quality Programme (12A)

### Section Leader Training

- Skills of Leadership (08)
- Working with Adults (09)
- Programme Planning (12B)
- Growing your section (13)
- Supporting Young People (14)
- Promoting Positive Behaviour (15)
- An Introduction to Residential Experiences (16)
- Running Safe Activities (17)
- Practical skills (18)
- International (19)





**Howard Fishwick**  
**COUNTY TRAINING MANAGER FOR WEST YORKSHIRE SCOUTS**

 [training@wyscouts.org.uk](mailto:training@wyscouts.org.uk)

 <https://bookwhen.com/scouttraining#focus=ev-sh0k-20230401090000>

Courses will be loaded to Book-When in the next 2 weeks

To book your place on any of these courses, West Yorkshire Scouts uses an online booking tool, via our web pages. Links for courses currently available are included in WYSmail. Simply click/select the course title on the above pages that you'd like to book on to.

Available courses are [underlined & blue.](#)

If no link is present, it means it's currently not available on the online Booking System. But will be updated when it becomes available.

To access the online booking tool, go to [wyscouts.org.uk](https://wyscouts.org.uk), select the Book Events dropdown on the right of the screen, then select Adult Learning. From here you can see all the training courses we offer. Course bookings open 3 months before the start date of the course and will close a minimum of 1 week before for non-residential and 2 weeks for residential for booking purposes. Initially your Local Training Manager or Training Advisor for your district will be able to assist you.

As always course dates, venues are dependent on attendance, it is down to you to book on these events and ensure you keep the booking up to date.

If for some reason you cannot attend, please ensure you notify the course leader, as there may be a cost incurred if you do not attend.



**Trevor Watson**

**ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF ACTIVITIES**



[activities@wyscouts.org.uk](mailto:activities@wyscouts.org.uk)



07768865793

## Trevor's Titbit

Activity	Contact
Archery	<a href="mailto:archery@wyscouts.org.uk">archery@wyscouts.org.uk</a>
Caving	<a href="mailto:activities@wyscouts.org.uk">activities@wyscouts.org.uk</a>
Caving - Indoor	<a href="mailto:bookings@bradleywood.org.uk">bookings@bradleywood.org.uk</a>
Canoeing & Kayaking	<a href="mailto:Water@wyscouts.org.uk">Water@wyscouts.org.uk</a>
Climbing - Indoor	<a href="mailto:bookings@bradleywood.org.uk">bookings@bradleywood.org.uk</a>
Climbing - Outdoors	<a href="mailto:climbing@wyscouts.org.uk">climbing@wyscouts.org.uk</a>
Fencing	<a href="mailto:activities@wyscouts.org.uk">activities@wyscouts.org.uk</a>
Sailing	<a href="#"><u>Green Withens – West Yorkshire County Scouts</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Watersports Centre</u></a>





**Trevor Watson**

**ASSISTANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF ACTIVITIES**



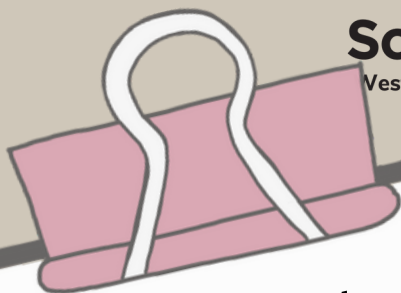
activities@wyscouts.org.uk



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*Coming soon...*

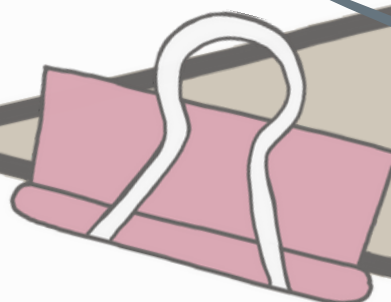
Date	Activity	How do I book?
1st December	Fencing Training for Leaders at Low Wood	Via the County Website
18th January	Climbing Course for adults at Bradley Wood(7 Weeks)	Email climbing@wyscouts.org.uk
2nd March	Fencing Training for Leaders at Bradley Wood	Via the County Website
8th March	International Womens Day Climbing (Adults)	Wait for 2024
27th April	Pioneering for Adults	Wait for 2024
3rd – 5th May	Terrain 1 Training and Assessment	Wait for 2024
31st May – 2nd June	Terrain 2 Training and Assessment	Wait for 2024
21st – 23rd June	Pioneering for Explorers and Scouts (Scouts and Explorers)	Wait for 2024



## First Aid

I am currently in the process of arranging some Outdoor First Aid courses for 2024. Currently the plan is to run two – one in the middle of the year, and one in the autumn / winter. Priority will be given to assessors, and then the remaining places will be offered to anybody.

There is a cost for these courses so I don't want to book courses that we cannot fill. If you would be interested in a two-day first aid course then please let me know by emailing me at [activities@wyscouts.org.uk](mailto:activities@wyscouts.org.uk). This is not a commitment to the course, but merely an expression of interest, however, I would give you priority when bookings open.



## Fencing

Just a reminder that we have two fencing courses coming up – one at the beginning of December, and the other at the beginning of March.

Taking part in one of these courses gives you access to the County Fencing Kit which you can use to deliver taster sessions to young people.

For full details please see the last issue of WYS Mail -

<https://wyscouts.online/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/WYSmail-SEPT-2023-.pdf>

# Our Centres

Within West Yorkshire we have a wide range of campsites and centres to cater for everyone's needs. Whether its a place to camp on your expedition or the fully furnished centre for a Beaver Sleepover, our county with over 13 places to stay has it covered.

As you would expect in West Yorkshire all our campsites and centres have people ready to welcome you to our county and ensure that your stay is a memorable one.

All you need to do is choose your location!



Blakedean Scout Hostel

