



Staffordshire Scouts





See what has been happening in the last few months!

Welcome to the second edition of our County newsletter, showing all of the exciting events that have been happening. We hope to keep you up to date with news, events and information for future adventures in Staffordshire!

Search for new County Commissioner

During October and November, there have been a number of meetings where members of the County Team, including District Commissioners, have looked at different ways to create an enhanced support structure for a new County Commissioner. In parallel, with support from the Regional Services Team, Dan Potter (Regional Commissioner and acting County Commissioner) has been exploring alternative routes for generating interest in the role.

Dan and I remain extremely grateful to everyone who has continued to ensure that scouting for young people carries on brilliantly across the County. There has been a great spirit of team work with people stepping up help colleagues and a great sharing of knowledge and expertise. We are hopeful that a new County Commissioner will be appointed in the not too distant future.

Pat Russell, County Chair

YouthHub 2017 - THIS WEEKEND

This year's YouthHub is happening on Saturday 9th December and there's still spaces for young people (11-25 years old) to attend.

Josh and Beth (County Youth Commissioners) have planned a day of activities for you to learn new skills, share your ideas about Scouting and work together with other people from your district.

The day is free to attend and includes the traditional Dominoes lunch and a prize for the winning District.

For all information and to sign up to attend visit <https://youthhub2017.eventbrite.co.uk>

SOWA - Middleton Hall



Sam and Alex have been working on developing a site at Middleton Hall, Tamworth. Since the last update both Sam and Alex have achieved their Scouts of The World Award.

On the 5th November, there was a grand opening allowing Leaders from all over the county and other community members to explore the camp site which has been in development since January 2017.

Since January 2017 the site at Middleton Hall has been developed into a

campsite for Community Groups such as Scouts, Guides and Youth Groups. The site includes a campfire area, cooking area and a camping area.

With the help from Hopwas Scouts, Tamworth Explorers and Network members the site is now complete and ready for use next year!

Alex and Sam said "We would like to thank everyone who has helped over the past 10 months, it has been amazing what everyone has achieved over the past year. We are looking forward to using the site next year and watch it develop even more over the next few years!"

They will be showcasing their project in one of the upcoming Scouting magazines, so keep an eye out for them!

Amazon 2020 selection camp



Brianne Asbury and Sam Kingstone, 2 Network members from Tamworth, attended a selection weekend back in October at Kibblestone Scout Campsite and were chosen to go the Peruvian Amazon Rainforest in 2020. The trip will last 5 weeks where they will be able to do scientific research that can contribute to larger scale projects and to experience the wilderness in a rare and unique way. This once in a lifetime opportunity has been organised by British Exploring Society in partnership with the Scout Association and is open to all Scout Network members across the UK and is exclusively for Network members aged 18-25 in 2020.

The selection camp was attended by Explorers and Network members from across the UK.

The selection weekend they have completed gave them a slight taste on what to expect. Everyone was put into random 4 team and they all got tested from 2am wake up calls, pre-breakfast hikes, carrying around a log aka bob, right up to several team building activities. Every team member got on in their teams and as an overall group within the first few hours.

Both Brianne and Sam commented on the weekend saying “It was a brilliant experience to see what the British Exploring Society did and meeting other Scouts from across the UK. The people we have met over the weekend are incredible and we will be friends for life.”

Explorers Cluedo Camp



On 29th September Explorers from across Staffordshire (and Sweden) met up to solve a mystery! At stake £100 of vouchers!

Teams went head to head in challenges in various ‘rooms’ at Beaudesert. Saturday’s challenges included Tomahawk throwing, a GIANT inflatable assault course, laser tag, metal detecting, melting ice, crate stacking and the climbing eliminator! We rounded the evening off nicely with a 3 course meal featuring pate, roast chicken and cheesecake for desert. We even managed to squeeze in after dinner mints. Classy!

On Sunday, the 10 teams split for the biggest challenge yet... 9 suspects

scattered over Cannock Chase for teams to navigate and find. The first team back with the correct answer would solve the mystery.

Well done to Burton for solving the mystery! Twas Bruce in the drawing room with the saw!

Explorers YL weekend



This years Young Leader Training Weekend at Stanley Head saw a group of fantastic Young Leaders come together with one common mission; to make a difference to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We developed exciting programmes, look at why we 'Scout', built confidence and drove the development of these great Young people. This year saw a group of 27 Young Leaders from across the County; each one of these individuals has the potential to develop into a fantastic asset in Scout groups across Staffordshire.

These really are the leaders of the future...

"The YL Weekend was amazing, very informative with great leaders and was well worth going!" - Jaden Robinson.

Jamboree Selection weekend



In 2019, 54 Scouts and Explorers from Staffordshire will be attending the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia with the help of 6 unit leaders. In November 100 young people attended the selection weekend at Beaudesert, where activities ranged from laser tag to a locked box challenge. The young people were tasked with cooking their own food on the Saturday evening and then in these groups they performed a song or skit of their choice - all of them were amazing! On the Sunday everybody took part in a remembrance service ran by one of the unit leaders, after this a de-brief was had where all of the young people were informed on the County's international trips over the next 10 years. The leadership team, along with various members from all over the County, sat down and discussed the weekend and all of the young people. Over the coming years we will endeavor to keep you up-to-date with everything related to the Jamboree - watch this space!

A quote from one of the selected young people:

"The Jamboree Selection weekend was a really amazing experience that I don't imagine I will really experience again. There was a variety of bases on the camp that were slightly different to what we were used to. There were physical

bases such as go-karting, logical bases such as the locked box challenge, teamwork bases such as pioneering and discussion bases such as debating. From it I gained lots of important life skills including independence away from people I know, confidence in myself, leading a group of people you aren't used to and I know other people gained these skills too. Aside from the main bases that I participated in, I made a huge number of new friends that I would never have met if it wasn't for that weekend and that is something I'm definitely grateful of the camp for. Following the weekend, everyone was even more excited about the possibility of getting into the Jamboree." Rachel Bromley - Newcastle District

i.MOVEit weekend



Last month saw the West Midland regions first i.MOVEit event, at Needwood Forest campsite. It is a training weekend aimed at 18-25's who have the potential to be future leaders in Scouting. Nine people from across the West Midlands attended – with 2 from our County! There were talks from various trainers from around the region and special talks from the UK Chief

Commissioner Tim Kidd and the Chief Commissioner of England Alex Peace-Gadsby. The aim of the weekend was for the participants to gain new skills and knowledge to enable them to make a change in their local Scouting. They will be meeting up next year to follow up with their local change and hopefully the successes that they had.

Dates for your diary

9th December: YouthHub2017 - find out more here <https://youthhub2017.eventbrite.co.uk>

2nd - 4th February: Young Leaders Training Weekend (Beaudesert) - contact County Office for details

7th February: County ADC Beavers, Cubs & Youth Commissioners meeting (County Office)

10th February: Modules 5, 8, 9 & 11 (County Office)

13th February: County ADC & DESC's meeting (County Office)

2nd - 4th March: Young Person Expedition Training

29th June - 1st July: County Cub Camp (Beaudesert)

If you have anything that you would like to see in the next newsletter, then please forward any information onto Josh Latham - josh.latham@staffordshirescouts.org.uk

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