

February 2026



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COUNTY COMMUNITY

GREATER LONDON MIDDLESEX WEST



Census 2026!

Thank you to everyone for submitting their data.

The County is now in the processing of collating and sending to HQ.

Once the analysis is done, we will let you know how we compare to last year, and

how Scouting is looking around the country.

Scouting Conference for Adventure Leaders

A one day conference is being held for London Adventure teams from all Counties and Districts to share good practise and shape the Adventure Offering from London into the 2030's.



Date: Saturday 14th March 2026

Location: The St Marylebone CE School Sixth Form, 14 Blandford Street, London W1U 4AZ. (Parking is limited, public transport recommended. Baker Street/ Bond Street are nearest stations)

Timing: 08.45 - 4.30pm

Dress Code: Uniform not required, but do wear a necker!

What to bring: A water bottle. Sandwiches will be provided (please indicate dietary on form)

Programme for the day: The day will include a keynote speaker who has led adventure to extreme locations. There will also be sessions on:

- Showcasing some of our great facilities
- Providing challenging adventures safely
- Our approach to Assessing permits

There will also be discussions and break-out sessions to develop a coordinated approach across London.

To attend:

The day is targeted at CLV's, County Programme Leads, County Managers of the Activity Permit Scheme, District Lead Volunteers, District Programme Leads, Nights Away

Assessors, Adventurous Activity Assessors

Please book by Monday 16th February.

[Regional Conference Registration Form – Fill in form](#)

Please contact Geoff Vanderplank, County Adventurous Activities Team Lead if you have any further questions on geoff.vanderplank@glmwscouts.org.uk

Jamboree updates



POLAND

Thanks to all the volunteers that supported the selection days, we now have 36 brilliant young people in our unit!

We held our first full day unit meeting in January, and it was a massive success. There was a real buzz in the room with plenty of energy, excitement and enthusiasm from everyone! The day focused on team building and beginning to shape our unit identity, so watch this space!

We already have a really exciting programme planned from now through to the Jamboree. This includes monthly unit meetings, camps, watersports, cultural exchanges, and possibly even an international trip!

From now on, you'll hear regular updates from our unit members as they share their journey in each monthly newsletter.

Matt

Harlaam Jamborette

It was our first meeting, we had a presentation about expectations and the admin side. Participants then got to meet and interact with some ice breaker activities including using their patrol members to form household objects i.e. a chair. whilst parents attended a Q&A!



David Hurley



UK Jamboree

With 41 young people and 5 dedicated leaders, UKJ is ready for an epic start. The leadership team are rolling out some high-energy pre-events to spark friendships and team spirit, including an Activity Day at Paccar in March and a summer camp at Thriftwood in June.



REN: Chilly Goat Challenge Camp & more!

In January, REN District Scouts recently took part in the annual Chilly Goat Challenge camp, getting stuck into activities such as archery, shooting, water filtration, shelter building, first aid rescue,

and many more.

They camped out in -1°C conditions, which left the tents frozen by morning. All the Scouts did brilliantly and really enjoyed the weekend with 2nd Northwood winning the competition.

REN District Cubs recently had an exciting sleepover at a trampoline park. They bounced for most of the night, played mini golf, and even had a game of laser tag. The evening was topped off with plenty of pizza, squash, and a movie that eventually sent them all to sleep. The Cubs had a fantastic time, and it's definitely something we plan to do every year.

The new Youth Leads for REN (Kyle and Nikhil) recently put together a report on what young people enjoy most about activities at REN and what they'd like to see more of. They produced a long list of new and exciting ideas that both young people and leaders could benefit from. They're looking forward to planning these activities and helping REN grow even stronger.



35 Hours Volunteer Leave

Help us unlock adventures for young people and volunteers

One thing every Scout group needs across the country is MORE volunteers!

That's why Scouts is campaigning the government for the right to request up to



35 hours of paid volunteer leave each year, giving more people the chance to make a difference.

The campaign, 'Building Brighter Tomorrow's' is supported by our Chief Scout Dwayne Fields and has been launched in Parliament.

Over 10,000 people across the UK have already signed our petition supporting the right to request volunteer leave but we need your help to keep the momentum going.

Right now, over 100,000 young people are waiting to join Scouts.

Find out more about the campaign on this [webpage](#) and show your support by signing [here](#) - and get all your friends and family to sign it too!

Thank you!

HILLWALKING WEEKEND

Another well-organised and highly successful hillwalking weekend took place in the Lake District, with challenging conditions providing excellent learning opportunities throughout. Leaders from across the country gained valuable experience, including micro navigation, night navigation, winter conditions, and adapting plans when the weather became a challenge. Despite the conditions, the group successfully reached the summit of the Old Man of Coniston and surrounding peaks. Returning from the hills to a warm log fire and a slow-cooked dinner was a perfect end to each day.

Congratulations to Ed from West London who successfully passed his technical assessment for his T1 hillwalking permit.

If this sounds like something you would like to get involved with, keep an eye on County website for the next event which is on the 12th-14th June. We look forward to seeing you on the next trip!

Matt Lee



Network 26 in 26

Looking for a new challenge for the year?

Take on 26 exciting challenges inspired by a letter of the alphabet...

You could try adventurous activities, learn new skills, get involved in your community,



go camping, or just have fun! The choice is yours!

Find inspiration for your A-Z challenges here [26 in 26: a Network Challenge | Scouts](#)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH PRICE INCREASE

Please note that with effect from April 2026 the price of DofE places is increasing:

Bronze - £33.00 Silver £33.00 Gold £40.00

Please ensure you apply the correct amount when paying for places after the increase.

Duke of Edinburgh Skills Activity

Listening Books is a UK charity supporting people whose illness, disability, learning difference or mental health condition impacts on their ability to access printed text. They are an approved activity provider for the Duke of Edinburgh skills section and offer a skill for both Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants.



Listening Books offers an audiobook-based Skills activity, allowing young people to complete their Skills section by developing listening, comprehension, focus and reflection through audiobooks. For bronze this consist of learning the skills to review an audiobook and for silver taking that review a step further by learning ways to present the review to an audience.

Young people:

- Access an online audiobook library of over 10,000 titles
- Commit to regular listening over the required DofE timescale
- Reflect on what they have listened to and follow guided instructions to put together a review (and for silver record that review)

The Skills option is designed to be inclusive, flexible and low-cost, and works particularly well for young people who may experience barriers with traditional reading-based activities, including those who are neurodivergent, have a disability or live with mental health conditions.

Membership is £25 per year, and we also offer free memberships for anyone who would find the cost a barrier to joining, ensuring the activity remains accessible to all.

More details about the Skills option can be found here:

<https://www.listening-books.org.uk/extra/the-duke-of-edinburgh-bronze-skills-award>



Planning a visit abroad?

If you are looking or planning your next adventure, you must complete a Visits Abroad form and submit to Gillan for review before you send it to your DLV/ CLV.

Gillan Barnard

gillan.barnard@glmwscouts.org.uk

Triple Birthday Celebrations: Celebrate at PACCAR!

2026 is a big birthday year. In fact, it's a triple birthday year!

We're celebrating 5 years of Squirrels, 40 years of Beavers and 110 years of Cubs across the UK.

That's over 250,000 young people and volunteers all celebrating, making it one of the biggest birthdays ever.

Sections can celebrate at any point in the year -there lots of programme ideas [here](#)

Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs can celebrate at PACCAR - on the weekend of 11th/12th April.

You can sign up for a day of activities by booking [here](#):

Its £30.00 per YP, free for leaders and YL's. There are only a limited number of spaces left!

If you are celebrating any of the birthdays - get in touch with media@glmwscouts.org.uk to let us know your plans and we can help with getting wider publicity!



'Your Vote Week' - Teaching Young People about democracy

The government is looking to lower the voting age to 16, and in attempt to teach our Young People more about their democratic rights - Your Vote Week has released resources for Scout age and upwards, to get your young people engaged in democracy.

Your Vote Week takes place in march.

Find out more , and sign up for the free resources [here](#)





Jack Petchey Award Ceremony

The next Jack Petchey award ceremony is taking place on the Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at Greenford Hall at 7.30pm!

There will be Scouts performing, so it should be a fab evening!

All Young People attending should be in uniform. Remember you can nominate a Leader or a Young Person for an award - speak to the co-ordinator in your District for more information.

We'd love to hear from those receiving an award - email a picture and quote to media@glmwscouts.org.uk

Greater London Scout Region



London Challenge Award



Greater London is recognised as a global hub of world events, culture and history. It is one of the most diverse cities in the world, with over 300 languages spoken. A centre of European and world trade for over 2000 years, it remains one of the principal centres of international markets. It has the world's largest railway system. With a population of around 10 million, it is the largest conurbation in the Country and yet hosts the geographically smallest UK City in the Square Mile at the centre. Greater London is home to more than 170 museums and four UNESCO World Heritage Sites. London also holds the unique distinction of being the first City to host the Summer Olympics three times, and to cement its unique place in the world, London defined and holds line from which all other places measure time. Get to know our great city by completing the London Challenge Award.



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So what is the London Challenge Award:- It is an exciting opportunity to find out about

Greater London,

to celebrate our heritage and explore the city in which we live. Completing the London Challenge Award will

earn you a distinctive 63mm woven badge which has been approved by the Regional Lead for

London as an

Occasional Badge that can be worn on your uniform.

How do I complete the Award:- Your journey to completing the award will take you on a trip

through five

different zones: 1) London in the past, 2) London in the future, 3) A Celebration of London's Diverse Culture,

4) Where we live, and 5) Places to go and things to do. Many of the themes along the way will

align with your

own existing Scout programmes and help you to complete your Scout top awards in your section. You can

pick from a vast array of different ways to complete each zone.

How do I register to participate:- To get started, ask a member of your Section team to

email the Greater

London Region Programme team. Tell us the name of your Group / Section and the approximate number of

young people who will be taking part. We will send you an electronic copy of the award zones

together with

some suggested ways to complete each of the zones. When you have completed them, simply email back the

record sheet to tell us what you did and how many badges you need.

To Register please email:- programme@scoutslondon.org.uk **What does this cost:-** The



Vacancies & Opportunities



Grant opportunity

The James Cowper Kreston Foundation has opened its Winter funding round. They are offering grants of up to £5,000 for specific projects based areas including London.

To be eligible, applicants must be registered charities, the application must be for a defined project, and the organisation must not already be a client of James Cowper Kreston.

Full application guidance can be found here:

<https://www.jamescowperkreston.co.uk/downloads/jck-foundation/winter-2025-final-documents/grant-application-guidance-document--winter-2025.pdf>

[Apply for the funding using this link](#)

Vacancy: Greater London Regional Team Member (Volunteer Development)

An exciting opportunity has been created to work across the Region, supporting the development of our Leaders. As a Greater London Regional Team Member (Volunteer Development), you will act as the lead for learning in the Region, supporting and coordinating the delivery of Manager and Supporter learning opportunities for volunteers across London.

You will help identify learning needs, align delivery across the Region, and ensure volunteers have access to high-quality, engaging development opportunities.

See more details and about nominating someone here: [Greater London Regional Team Member \(Volunteer Development\) Vacancy | Volunteering Vacancies | Scouts](#)



Paddlesports Development Weekend

Greater London Middlesex West, along with Hertfordshire County Scouts have a Paddlesports development weekend for adult leaders in May 2026. The course is being operated via The Canoe Sports Trust at Bury Lake, Rickmansworth.

The event will run over the weekend of 16th / 17th May 2026. The course will include the British Canoeing Paddlesport Safety and Rescue Skills award. Details can be found here:

[Paddlesports Development Weekend - Greater London MW](#)

Geoff Vanderplank

Minibus for sale!

Greenford & District are selling their two Ford Transit 17-seater minibuses.

If a group or district is interested in purchasing one of these, please email for more information on minibus@greenfordscouts.org.uk.

Details of the minibuses may be viewed at <https://www.greenfordscouts.org.uk/minibuses/>.



Activity Centres in our County

Do you know that we have more than a dozen Scout campsites around our County? Or that London's largest indoor Bouldering Wall is in Harrow? Or that you can take your young people on a Narrowboat trip on the Grand Union canal.

We have compiled a list of campsites and activity centres within easy reach of our County here:

<https://www.glmwscouts.org.uk/programme/campsites-and-activity-centres-around-glmw>

Take a look at the activities on offer - it may give you something new to add to your programme!

New Partner: Quality Coach Travel

Scouts have officially partnered with [Quality Coach Travel](#).

This new relationship aims to help groups that don't have qualified drivers or their own transport, access safe, good value, travel options in the UK and abroad.

You can find out more [here](#)



Are you a member of a City of London Livery Company or do you know someone who is?

London Scout Region is working with the City of London Livery Companies on an exciting project. We would love to hear from you if you are involved in the Livery movement or know people who are.

Please contact Adam.Taylor@scoutslondon.org.uk
and Nicholas.Thompson@scoutslondon.org.uk to
discuss the project.

scouts.org.uk/join

#SkillsForLife

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GLMW Leader courses

There are lots of leader courses available throughout the year.

In particular, on the weekend of 7/8th March the following courses are running

7th March - Modules 16 (Introduction to Residential Experiences), 18 (Practical

Skills) and 19 (International)

Book [here](#)

8th March - Modules 8 (Skills of Leadership), 9 (Working with Adults) and 13 (Growing the Section)

Book [here](#)

TRAINING CALENDAR

GREATER LONDON MIDDLESEX WEST

GLMW offers a wide range of training for you to sign up to.

Please see the GLMW website (click [here](#)) to book onto any of these or others.

[Contact with the GLMW Community.](#)

Here are some handy shortcuts to contact people within the GLMW community.

[District Lead Volunteers](#)

[County Team](#)

Get in touch to share your news and events with the GLMW community! We'd love to hear from you at:

media@glmwscouts.org.uk

[Chip](#), [Claire](#) & [Nisha](#)

GLMW Scouts



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