



RN 57

Beavers

1st Clifton (York) Sea Scout Group



Cub Scouts

Sea Scouts

Explorer Scouts

Sea Scout Meetings at the River

We will be meeting at the Slipway, Blue Bridge Lane, York which is where the boating activities will take place from 2nd May 2025. This year we will be Sailing, Pulling, Power boat, Kayaking, Canoeing, Stand Up Paddle Boarding and some weeks we may do traditional rafting.

As a section we have written and submitted risk assessments for meeting at Blue Bridge. If you wish to view this, please let me know and I will send you a copy.

Duty Patrols

We will be working in a similar way as last year where most Scouts will be meeting at Blue Bridge Lane. We will have packed the van and canoe trailer on the 25th April with most equipment. The Scouts and Young Leaders will have been allocated their Buoyancy Aid and Helmet to take care of.

This means we do not need to pack these each week before we set off. However, as we are also sailing, pulling and power boating we will need to pick up these boats from the Scout Hut. This will require a small number of scouts as well as young leaders and leaders to help. This group of Scouts will be known as the **Duty Patrol** and they will meet at the Scout Hut at 5:40pm. Duty Patrol Scouts will then be transported to and from the river by minibus. Parents are to drop off and pick up from the Scout Hut. Parents are still welcome to come down and help at the river if they wish. I will be allocating the duty patrols before we start boating.

Drop Off and Pick Up

Arrive dressed for the water. **Bring your Buoyancy Aid and Helmet.** Also bring a bag with spare clothes and towel. Kit list is on a separate document.

All Except Duty Patrol

Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from the location. For health and safety reasons and there will be limited parking on Blue Bridge Lane, we would ask you to park at St Georges Field car park, Tower St, York YO10 4AB and walk your child across to Blue Bridge. Instructors and helpers will be parking at Blue bridge. A leader will check in and out each member. Parents to wait until Scout signed in.

Duty Patrol

The allocated scouts will meet at the Scout Hut at 5:40pm. Pick up will be approximately 9:30pm from the Scout Hut. These timings are approximate and do change depending on how quick the Scouts pack up at the river.

All

Any bags to be placed in a designated area. (Van if Raining)

When picking up your child please ensure they have been signed out as we do not want to be ringing parents to find out whether the child has been picked up. **Please remember to take their Buoyancy Aid and Helmet home. Scouts will be briefed on rinsing and drying the buoyancy aids.**

I am aware that some older scouts or young leaders may make their own way to the river. Please ensure you let me know before the 25th April that your child can travel to and from the river without supervision.



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Timings

All Except Duty Patrol

Please drop off your child between 6:30 and 6:45pm. We aim to get on the water for 7pm and off the water for 8:15 (Approximately).

Please arrive at 8:15 to pick up your child as they will have just got off the water and may be cold and need to get changed. Sometimes it may be between 8:15 and 8:45 when they get off the water. (Depending how organised they are). A further document will be sent out to all detailing timings landing the boats.

Duty Patrol

The allocated scouts will meet at the Scout Hut at 5:40pm. I would like to leave the Scout hut between 5:55 and 6:05pm at the latest.

Pick up will be approximately 9:30pm. This could change depending on how organised we are. Scouts must not leave until all boats are put away and signed out.

Toilets

There are no toilet facilities at Blue Bridge. The nearest toilets are at St Georges field car park. The cost of the toilet is 40p. Please ensure your child has 40p in their bag in case they need to go to the toilet.

However, please ensure your child goes to the toilet before attending. I am aware that most Scout usually go to the loo if they capsize in the river. In the event of an emergency, do not want to capsize and they cannot make it to the toilets, we will carry a bucket and a pop-up toilet tent in the van. The scouts can use this for liquids only and would need to empty and rinse in the river once finished. This will then need to be sanitised with a spray.

Food and Drink

Please bring a drink and a snack. Hot drinks are usually best as they may be cold when getting off the water. Please ensure their drinks bottle or flask is marked with their name. **Ensure they sanitise their hands before eating or drinking.**



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Changing Facilities

We will have a changing tent this year, but the priority will be for the Duty Patrol. If room or time other scouts can use it. A leader will be near the tent to ensure male and female are changing separately. Scouts must come to the river dressed for the activities. After boating it is the parent's responsibility to ensure get their child changed. This could be either:

- Towel on the seat of the car and change at home.
- Purchase a changing poncho to get changed in. Alternatively sew two large towels together to make a poncho.
- Change at the car.
- Pop up changing tent.

We do not really want lots of scouts changing around the cobbled area. There are a lot of passers-by and is potentially a safeguarding and reputation issue.

Hand Hygiene

It is advisable that each scout has their own mini sanitiser however we will provide hand sanitisers at check in. They must sanitise their hands during the meeting when required, eating, drinking and when checking out.

Parental Responsibilities

To ensure that your child takes care of the Helmet and Buoyancy Aid and it is returned to 1st Clifton in good condition after the boating season.

To drop off and pick up your child at the correct times.

If your Son/Daughter has or shows any symptoms of Covid they must not attend the meeting and you must let the Scout Leader know.

We have attached a separate form which requires parents to sign that they understand the above rules and have discussed with their Son/Daughter. We will also ask for up to date contact details.

To ensure you notify Peter Ingham if your child cannot attend boating. This helps in organising groups before we attend and we have longer on the water.

Illness after Boating

This is not something we have had but as we are on the water there is a potential that they could become ill if they swallow the water or don't wash hands before eating. If your child does become ill after boating and they see a doctor then mention they have been on the water. One illness is Weils disease which we have never had a case of but can happen.

To minimise any risks of this it is advised that any cuts are covered with a waterproof plaster, and they ensure they use hand sanitiser as soon as they leave the water.



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General Boating Rules

At Scout Hut (Allocated Leaders, Young Leaders and Duty Patrol Only)

- Assemble at Scout Hut for 5:40pm and sign in with Scout Leader in charge.
- Ask Leader in Charge for allocation of jobs.
- Deployment of Swift, Tern or Safety boats, whichever needed or chosen to use. The Scouts will be allocated by the Leader in Charge to which piece of equipment they need to help load or hook up to which vehicle.
- When all jobs are finished board the minibus to be transported to the river with all your kit. Minibus does not leave until the Leader in charge has checked all scouts and young leaders are boarded.

Leader Responsibilities before Departure

- Scout allocation – Peter Ingham
- Kayaks and Canoe trailer – Driver of Vehicle Towing
- Swift or Tern – Driver of Vehicle Towing
- Safety Boats and Engines – Peter Ingham, Alastair Mills or Darran Hutchinson.

The above responsibilities may change dependent on availability of leaders and drivers.

At Blue Bridge

- All except duty patrol to park at St Georges Car park and walk through with parents for sign in.
- Scouts approach leader for sign in.
- Parents to wait until Scout signed in.
- Place bags in the designated area. (If raining in Van)
- Buoyancy Aids and helmets on. These should be brought and taken home each week. No Helmets are required for Swift or Tern and can be left with spare clothes.
- Assist in removing kayaks / Canoes from trailer, van and place on the cobbles away from the **cycle path and road.**
- Each Scout will be allocated an instructor and then allocated a boat.
- Assist in preparing Tern / Swift / Topper and safety boat for launching.
- Scouts are NOT to assist in launching Swift, Tern or safety boat.
- Only Adults who have read the document “**Launching Larger Boats from the slipway**” and been shown the procedure should assist or be on the slipway when launching Swift, Tern or the safety boat.
- Adults to launch Safety boat first then Swift/Tern.
- When being used the Safety boat is to be launched first. Must always be used when sailing.
- If Kayaking or Canoeing get your logbook from the box.
- Scouts will have a quick chat with instructor and go through the logbooks and warm up.
- Return logbooks to box.
- When launching Kayaks do not seal launch from the high part of the bank including the cobbles near the railings.
- Always launch from the slipway. Only launch from other areas if your instructor allows.



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On the Water

- Always wear Buoyancy Aid or Lifejacket.
- Under 18s must always wear a helmet in all activities unless in the Power Boat or Pulling Boat.
- Over 18s. Are recommended to wear a helmet but is their choice not to do so.
- Always listen to your instructor.
- Be Aware and show respect to other river users.
- No deliberate capsizing unless your instructor allows.
- If you hear someone shout Skull or Boat, look around for where the boat is and keep away. The instructor will give instructions.
- Participants **MUST NOT** deliberately crash into other boats. If this does happen, they will be asked to leave the water.
- Spray decks on Kayaks **MUST** only be worn by those participants who:
 - Have completed their Paddle UK Discover Award.
 - Have been shown and understood how to release the deck.

The permitted instructor must ensure that any participants wearing a spray deck have completed the above. Once complete and the instructor and participant are confident then this will be noted on the weekly register.

Off the water

- One group at a time leaves the water, Scouts **MUST** empty boats and store near the Van or Trailer as instructed by instructor. **DO NOT BLOCK THE CYCLE PATH.**
- Kayakers, Stand up paddle boarders and canoeists to buddy up for boat handling.
- Wait in the cobbled area until parents arrive.
- Parents will arrive to pick up and get changed **QUIETLY** as we are in a residential area. Ideally towel on car seat and change at home or change near cars.
- Duty patrol has priority in the changing tent.
- Take Buoyancy Aids and Helmets home. Wash and hang up Buoyancy Aids. Do not leave on the floor or boot of car.
- Do not have your drink/snack until boats and equipment are taken to van or trailer.
- Do not have your drink/snack until you have sanitized your hands.
- Do not leave until signed out.
- Do not leave if work is still required to empty boats or load trailers and vans unless permission is given by the Leader in Charge.
- Duty patrol to wait near minibus when finished ready to leave.
- Parents to assist in loading of equipment where they can.

On Return to the Scout Headquarters (Duty Patrol only)

- Duty patrol must return to the Scout HQ to assist in unhooking the trailers and putting away.
- Must not leave early before dismissal. (Unless specifically allowed to by Leader in Charge)
- Place all personal kit in the main hall.
- Assist in putting boats away.
- When all kit is away return to the main hall to be signed out.



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General SAFETY and Behaviour

- **Scouts, Parents and Leaders** must always wear a Buoyancy Aid or Lifejacket when on the river, slipway or the riverbank.
- **Cycle path to be kept clear at all times.**
- No running about.
- Respect residents and onlookers.
- Please keep the noise to a minimum as there are local residents.
- Scouts carry kayaks in twos. (Unless the instructor is confident in your boat handling and has allowed you to carry your own)
- Carry Canoes with 1 adult and two scouts or 4 scouts.
- When carrying a Kayak on the shoulder please be aware of other people and vehicles around you.
- Always wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Something that won't come off in the water.
Crocs, Flip Flops or Sliders are not acceptable on or off the water when loading boats. Please do not bring them as they will not be allowed on the water.
- Be careful on the slipway and near the river as it can be slippery.
- Bring a drink, something to eat, spare clothes, spare shoes, towel and spare Goggles.
- Bring hand sanitizer to regularly clean hands. We will also provide if they do not have any.
- Be Aware of any Cars and Bikes on the road and the cycle path.