



Phil's Points

Dear Parents and Explorers,

Let me introduce myself. I'm Phil Hallett and from January 1st I took

the role as District Explorer Scout Commissioner. Many of you will have seen me around the district as I was formerly the Scout Leader at the 7th Eastleigh in Fair Oak. Previously I have been a Scout Leader in Gloucestershire and Salisbury. Over the last few years I have been running New Year canal trips for Explorers from Blackpool and Eastleigh. My job is to coordinate the units and District Explorer activity across the district, a task which I hope you will see the fruits of over the coming months. I have been to all the Explorer units in the past few weeks met a lot of the Explorer I hope over the coming months to meet with the parents as well, however in the mean time if you would like to discuss anything with me please drop me an email or give me a bell.

District Centenary Camp

2009 is the Centenary year for Eastleigh District. You should all have received a Centenary badge to put on your uniform from your Explorer Scout Leader. We also have a Centenary Camp at Lyons Copse over the weekend of 5-7 June 2009. The cost will be £20 for the weekend. The Explorers will have their own area and the Explorer leaders have been working to ensure that not only do we take part as a District but we also have a program for the Explorer Section. Permission to camp form will come in the near future.

Sainsbury's and Tesco's Vouchers

As you all know the Explorer section is run by the District however we have no district camping equipment. This is something that I want to work on. We can get some FREE camping kit from Sainsbury's and Tesco's. To do this we need to collect the Vouchers they are giving out over the Spring. Can you all persuade your parents to start collecting these vouchers, I've put a box in the canteen at work. Pass these vouchers on to your Explorer Leader and we can see how much equipment we can get. One troop got four hike tents last year so we should be able to get at least eight between us.

Record Cards

Until now the Unit leaders have been maintaining the Explorer Records. This means that we hold different amount of details for each of you. We are now in the process of changing that. You should all have a copy of the Eastleigh District Explorer Welcome Pack'. Inside the middle page is a Scout Record sheet, four pages of A5. Please could you and your parents complete this as completely as you can. This will be passed on to the District Explorer Scout Administrator who will now keep all the records. Please make sure you sign the top section of the back page and your parent signs all three signature sections on the back page. Please ask a parent who pays tax so that we claim Gift aid on your subs – free money so we can buy some camping kit.

Geocaching In New Forest

This is the first of the District activities that I hope will become a more regular event for us. Geocaching is using GPS units to track down hidden letterboxes spread around the country. The cost will be £8 as we will travel there by train. We will meet at Eastleigh Train station at 09:30. Please bring a packed lunch, drinks, outdoor clothing including wet weather kit, footwear that will get muddy. If you would like to go please complete the form on the following page and pass back to your Explorer leader with a cheque for £8 (Eastleigh District Scout Council). This means I can get the tickets ahead of time and ensure I bring enough GPS units. Uniform is NOT required but please wear your District Necker.

Littlehampton Cycle and Camp

This is the second of the District activities. The plan is to take use train, bicycle and foot to have a journey away for Saturday and Sunday of the Bank Holiday weekend, [Saturday / Sunday 2/3 May](#). Beyond this there are currently no plans as I am hoping that a group of Explorers will work with me to organise the activity, this will get them the Scouting Skills badge as well as everyone getting a great trip away and an extra 'night away'. Cost will be about £35 with a lot of this being the train fare however budgeting will be a task for the organising team. Please get your bike in working order and block the dates out in your diary.

Expedition Weekends in the Cotswolds

I will be going to the Cotswolds on 20-22 March and 17-19 April to help run the Gloucestershire Expedition course. This is a two weekend course which covers the Expedition side of Chief Scouts Platinum and DofE Bronze (for those that are registered). The course cost is £50 for both weekends. The first weekend is based in a Cheltenham Scout HQ and covers all the training requirements for the second weekend. This is done in the hills above Cheltenham rather than in a classroom. The Second weekend is the expedition in the Cotswolds with a camp at the County Camp site.

There are Explorers from a good number of units going so it is an opportunity to get away and meet up with others even if you can't get 3 other friends to go along with you. I have four places in my car so if you are interested drop me an email, very very quickly, and I will pass you an application form.

County Cub Football

I have been asked by the Cub section if we could help with administration at the County Football Competition. This competition has been running in Eastleigh for 25 Years so there is every possibility that some of you benefited when you were a small cub. The competition is on Sunday 29th March and we need you between 10:00 and 14:00. Please be in uniform as there will be large numbers of people around and you will need to be seen as part of the team.

If you could spare some time could you let the ADC Cubs (Margaret Patrick) know on her email.

cubs@eastleigh-scouts.org.uk

Alton Towers

Advanced warning Eastleigh Explorers will be having an ultra cheap day out to Alton Towers in August. Dates are being finalised for either Sunday 16 or Sunday 23 August. The cost for the day is only £30 that's cheaper than the Day's ticket for getting into the Park when you get there. We will have the date for the next Phil's points and then you will need to commit yourselves. Again block those dates in your diary.

Phil

Geocaching 4th April 2009

Please pass to your Explorer Scout Leader with a Cheque for £8 payable to 'Eastleigh District Scout Council'
Or send to me Phil Hallett, 52 Dean Road, Fair Oak SO50 7JE

I _____(name) would like to take part in the Geocaching activity in the New Forest on Saturday 4th April. I will be at Eastleigh Train station at 09:30.

My Parents contact during the day is

Their Mobile/ Home Phone is _____

My Email Address is _____

My Parents Email Address is _____

Signature of Explorer: _____

Signature of Parent: _____