**4th EFS Sea Scouts Chief Scout Gold Award Programme**

**Year One Programme Update**



Scouts who have had a good attendance record so far this year will already have completed a good number of elements of the gold award and these can be tracked by looking at the Scouts record in OSM.

This letter provides details of the additional activities Scouts should complete between now and the end of this Scouting year, where possible.

Please also don’t forget the ongoing activities that can be completed at any time.

All letters and attachments can also be found on the 4th EFS website - links to which are in the covering email.

**Additional Independent Activities - Year One**

The additional activities for Scouts in their first year are as follows:

a. Regularly take part in physical activities over a period of four to six weeks. Keep a record showing your improvement. Your goal could be to develop in an activity or successfully complete a challenge.

b**.** Take part in an activity that shows you understand your own faith or beliefs. What values do we share as Scouts? Which Scout value means the most to you?

For most Scouts we find these activities can easily be completed through normal school work/clubs or outside clubs and by religious activities that many Scouts will anyway undertake. Scouts must write up the activity which needs signing off by a relevant teacher, leader, coach or other relevant adult. Activities completed in the past (but after the date of joining the Scout troop) may also count.

Please speak to a leader if you have any questions or think that either of these activities might be difficult to achieve.

*The relevant self completion Pro-formas are available alongside this letter in the email but are also found on the 4th EFS website.*

**Summer Camp**

A Scout who does not attend at least one (but usually two) Summer Camps is not going to be able to complete the Chief Scout Gold Award as the Outdoors Challenge can only be completed by attending Summer Camp.

It can be difficult to complete all elements of the award during one camp and as there are many leadership elements to this award only Scouts who attend a Summer Camp at the end of their second or third years with the troop will be given the opportunity to complete the 'team leader' elements of the Outdoors Award.

**We would encourage as many Scouts as possible to attend Summer Camp. It is usually an amazing development opportunity for most Scouts as they are given a good degree of independence and have to learn to manage themselves, their clothes and their possessions in a way not many have done before. The opportunity to play and have fun in the outdoors (woods, fields, on the water etc) is also something many Scouts don’t get that often and they always enjoy it immensely.**

We appreciate that fitting family holidays alongside Scout camps may be difficult and so we alternate the dates of Summer Camp each year to try and provide as many chances as possible to attend to as many Scouts as possible. Summer Camp always takes place at some point in July and we can generally be flexible about late joiners and leavers.

**Chief Scout Gold Award Programme**

This letter forms part of the framework leaders provide to help Scouts manage the independent work, but it can be carried out at any time. The full details of the award requirements can be found on the main Scouts website [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) and also on the 4th EFS website (see links in covering email).

**Please also don’t forget the ongoing activities that Scouts should be trying to complete in their own time.**

These are detailed on the next page.

**Challenge Awards**

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| The core element of the Gold Award is the requirement to complete the 9 Challenge Awards.  Many of the award elements are covered by our Thursday evening programme but some elements will need to be undertaken independently.  Four of these are listed below. They can be undertaken at any point but we would recommend getting these signed off as soon as possible. These are:   1. Additional Activity Badges; 2. Adventurous Activities; 3. Creative Activities; 4. Taking part in a performance. | C:\Users\David\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Word\Challenge Badges.jpg |

Don’t worry if these elements are not all completed within the first year with the troop, they can carry across to next year as well.

**Activity and Staged Badges**

There are also a great many activity and staged badges Scouts can complete.

Details on how to complete each badge on the Scouts website www.scouts.org.uk

The lower stages of some of the 'staged' badges are completed during Thursday evening sessions (Swimmer, Time on Water, Emergency Aid, Nautical Skills, Paddle Sports, Sailing) but if these badges cover an area of deep interest please speak to a Scout leader about the higher stages.