

EXPLORERS



Banderlogs Unit Report 2022-2023



The following is a summary of Banderlogs activities in the last year:

- Badges awarded in the last 12 months;
 - 1 Young Leader Belt
 - 2 Young Leader Missions
 - 1 Queen's Platinum Jubilee
 - 18 Coronation of HM King Charles III
 - 2 Survival Skills; 1 Leadership; 4 International; 1 Pioneer
 - 1 Mountain Biking; 1 Navigator Lvl 3
 - 3 Nautical Skills Lvl1; 4 Paddle Sports Lvl1; 5 Time on the Water (Lvl 1-2)
 - 12 Hikes (levels 2-20); 6 Nights Away (levels 4-100)
 - DofE Silver was awarded to Lexi Grinstead.

Summer Term 2022

- The highlight of the summer term was Group Camp. This biannual event for the troop was held at Garner's Field. Over the weekend, Explorers could enjoy lots of activities including archery, pistol shooting, climbing, paddleboarding, laser tag and hiking. The weather was great, so most chose to sleep in bivouacs rather than tents. They all went home with lots of fun memories.



- Explorers had an energetic evening doing a Top Gear-style bicycle vs running orienteering race at Alice Holt woods. We also recreated the Indian festival of Holi and enjoyed making mandalas.



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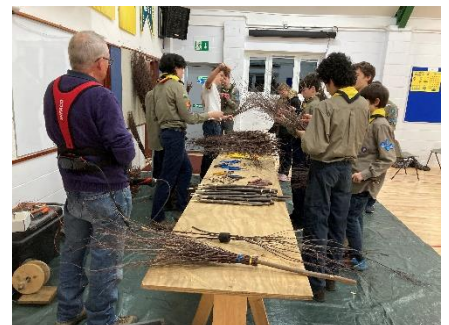
Autumn Term 2022

- Autumn term was full of the usual activities Explorers love coming for; wide games, local hikes, chippy seek, supplemented with core Scout skills such as pioneering (yurt building 😊) and navigation.
- For Halloween, Explorers were asked to bring in pumpkins for carving and as we sat around the campfire, we were really scared by the results!



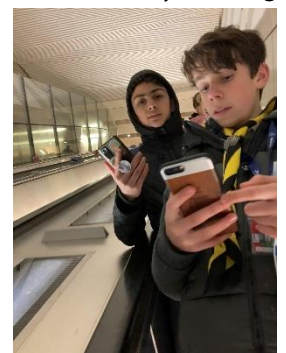
Spring Term 2023

- Explorers had a range of activities in the Spring term which was bookended by campfires. We enjoyed a visit from Chris Letchford who specialises in the ancient craft of broom making. Following his instruction, we all had a go at making besom brooms out of birch twigs.



- The Explorers were each challenged to present a talk to their fellow Banderlogs about something they were interested in or wanted to share. Chris and I were really impressed with the quality of the talks, ranging from gymnastics, a mountain biking masterclass, astronomy, kayaking in Germany, American football and what Charlie trod on that ruined the family walking holiday in Majorca.

- A trip to Alton Food Bank was an educational event and it was pleasing to see how the Explorers interacted whilst preparing a food package for a family.
- Monopoly Run was popular again. The Explorers did well, navigating around London by tube and bus with the event becoming more competitive each year.



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Summer Term 2023

- We toasted the King at the beginning of May as we held a Coronation Campfire to mark the event.
- Explorers enjoyed a pleasant afternoon hike from Bentworth to Alton for this year's Jamboree on the Trail, covering about 8 miles.



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- Banderlogs membership currently stands at 18. We had a lot of Explorers move on after turning 18 in the last year, so it is pleasing to see numbers are still good.
 - Several of our Explorers have been on trips at District and County Level in the past year:
Oscar, Noah, Carl, James and Thomas cycled their way around Normandy for District's annual cycle camp, visiting the war graves and trying out automatic baguette vending machines.
Fyn and Max attended a winter mountaineering week in the Cairngorms in February.
James, Ben and Carl went with HSX to the Lake District at Easter, hillwalking England's finest peaks.
Fyn Duncan has been on training camps with Hampshire Scouts for the 25th World Scout Jamboree taking place in South Korea in August. Have a great trip Fyn!
 - The Banderlogs leadership team consists of Chris Duncan and myself with help from Steven Boardman from District, and Joe Duncan.
 - Finally, my thanks go to Matt, Anna and the other 3rd Alton leaders, and to the committee members and parents, who have helped to support Banderlogs in the past year.

Best Regards,
Graeme Robinson
Banderlogs

