

Banderlogs

Explorer Unit AGM Report 2024-2025

Summer 2024

- Explorers have enjoyed hiking in new areas of countryside around Alton and learning orienteering and map work at the same time. The challenge to complete an orienteering challenge by foot or bike at Alice Holt has become a favourite event!
- pioneering challenge
- A night hike is a good achievement, this time navigating around Kingsley common.
- We played many Wide games, and a Chip run. Always good! If Explorers make it without being caught, they get free chips!
- This year we came together with all the sections of the 3rd Alton for a group camp at Garners Field. Archery, shooting, kayaks and other stuff all carried out in the Banderlogs way! A lot of fun with Explorers!
- Call it a life skill or just a passion? The Explorers like to cook and so they do with varying degrees of taste and menu choices available!
- Scouting is a great movement, and we spent some key time revisiting the Scout Law and Promise. This helps us focus on the important role we have with each other and in society.

















Autumn 2024

- We started with a good old campfire at the Den for explorers to catch up after the summer break.
- An evening checking out bikes and how to keep them working was hosted by Velo Line at Farringdon. Really helpful guys if you want one or need yours repaired! Then we hiked home.
- We tried navigating skills to create art while being tracked by Strava! with varying degrees of success!
- More cooking became the order of the day and then hiking around Lower Wield was somewhere new. Some comments from leaders on that one!
- From time to time, we attempt to go Bowling which Explorers enjoy. We think more practise is needed.
- As it gets darker in the evenings we always look to improve/challenge our Fire lighting skills which is great when it works!
- In recent years we have taken on entering an Explorer team into the Kudo event which is a district wide night challenge of hiking and tasks to complete. The leaders join in and run a station with an attempt for teams to show teamwork and leadership.
- The good the bad and the ugly was an evening of dissecting what we were good at an perhaps what we weren't
- A final Chippy run and then to close the year off in style we headed down to the Curry night for our last meet.

















Spring/Summer 2025

So back into the fray we set up Scouty challenges to see who could remember what and then back into cooking!

- Sometimes you need to refresh skills, so we picked up with navigating and the best use of maps and compasses.
- After 2 more hikes it became time to do a bit more cooking! Although with a difference as to get the 'Survival' badge we imagined ourselves on a desert island and worked out how to fillet fish and cook plants (edible) over a fire.
- The Explorers thing about pancakes seems to reappear at this time every year and this was no exception....some were ok, but some....
- 'Be prepared' is the scout motto and is sometimes easier said than done and this is why we have Explorers!
- We enjoyed our usual Wide games in various places.
- 'About knives' This evening saw us discuss knives, what's legal and how to safely use them in scouting. To be continued..
- We tackled understanding Leadership and outlining the role Explorers make in planning what they do in Explorers and thinking ahead considering their future study and careers.
- Explorer planning means they get to have their say in what we do.
- More Wide games and joining in with the Trailjam where the Explorers put on good show!















Badges issued

- Outdoor in 24 (11 + 1 to be issued)
- Young Leader Modules (1)
- Physical Recreation (1)
- Hikes (10 + 6 to be issued)
- Nights Away (7 + 1 to be issued)
- Paddle Sports (1)
- Snowsports (7)
- Time on the Water (6)
- Union Flag (2)

The Banderlogs Leadership team consists of Carl Payne, Jamie Kilner-Smith, Lexi Grinstead and Chris Duncan, with the support of Steven Boardman from District.

Thanks to all the 3rd Alton leaders, Matt & Anna and to all the committee members and parents for their support over this year. Thanks also to the Explorers for fun times in scouting!

Chris Duncan