Welcome to Pegasus
Dear Explorer Scout and Parent / Career

I would like to welcome you to Pegasus Explorer Scouts. Pegasus is a relatively new Explorer Scout Unit and was set up in 2011 to provide a wide range of adventurous activities to the young people of Astley. We are fed by 4th Tyldesley, 1st Astley Scouts and other groups in our local area.

We have already been on a wide range of activities and a successful Duke of Edinburgh Award program. To date our activities have included:

- Survival camping
- Sailing
- Rock climbing
- Amateur radio
- Hill walking
- Mountain biking
- Ghyl Scrambling
- Ice Skating
- Archery
- Shooting
- Canoeing
- Escape and Evasion exercises
- International expedition to Switzerland

Through our activities we aim to foster leadership and social responsibility skills within our Explorers.

Please be assured we have a fully inclusive open door policy and we will not tolerate bullying in any form, this includes a ban on initiation ceremonies etc.

We currently meet:

Friday 7:00pm – 9:00pm (weekly)
Lilford District Scout and Guide Headquarters,
Shuttle Street, Tyldesley Manchester

This may change in the future when a new building is ready in Mosley Common.

**Items to be brought to each weekly meeting**

Uniform either purple polo shirt or formal Explorer Shirt and necker (no jeans or shorts)
Trainers can be worn in the building, outdoors hiking boots must be worn unless otherwise specified.
Waterproof jacket
Pen and notepad

**EXPLORER SCOUT LEADER: CARL THORP**
**MOBILE: 07740 411 787 • EMAIL: CARL.THORP@PEGASUSEXPLORERSCOUTS.UK**
**WEB: WWW.PEGASUSEXPLORERSCOUTS.UK**
Please note we do spend much of our time outdoors and Explorer Scouts must Be Prepared to go outside in all weathers.

Unit Structure

Whilst we are based linked to 4th Tyldesley Scout and Guides and take an active part in many of their activities but we are administered by Lilford Scout District. Hence, we have a different coloured necker to the rest of 4th Tyldesley Scout. The District Commissioner for Lilford District is based at the District HQ, Shuttle St, Tyldesley.

Within the unit we have the following structure:

- Explorer Scout Leader - Carl Thorp
- Assistant Explorer Scout Leaders - James and when available Karen Thorp, Matthew Thorp, Ben Green, Izzie Rigby and Gemma Higson
- Senior Explorer Scouts – This is typically our eldest / most responsible Explorer Scouts who are key to the running of the Unit
- Parent Fund Raising Co-ordinator - Vacant
- Treasurer - Vacant
- Helpers - Any parent can volunteer to be a non-uniformed helper.

The majority of our parents help out in a variety of different ways. We would be grateful if you could consider joining the Friday night rota. The more participants on it, the better, as this as reduces the frequency each parent on it attends. If you don’t want to go onto the rota then perhaps you could help with fundraising etc. Please speak to one of the uniformed leaders for more details.

Believe it or not all our Leaders are volunteers and receive no payment for what they do and usually end up out of pocket. In return for their dedication we expect both Parent and Explorers to treat them with respect and be understanding when due to personal circumstances plans change or there are errors in communications etc.

We are not formally part of 4th Tyldesley Scout Group and do not come under its management. However, they are one of our key feeder groups and we will work very closely with them through our Partnership Agreement.

When our Explorers turn 18 they have to leave us and become District Network Scouts. We find that most of them don’t want to leave us and where possible we accommodate them as trainee leaders. Please remember they are trainees, are young and will make mistakes. If anyone has any problems with the Network Scouts please speak to Carl.

Parades

Having a faith is an important part of being an Explorer Scout. Whilst we don’t make a big thing of this we do encourage our Explorer Scouts to attend as many Church Parades as possible.

Church Parade venue	Holy Family Church,
Chaddock Lane
Held	To be confirmed approx. 2 – 3 times a year

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Meet at Church
Time To be confirmed
approx. 2 – 3 times a year

We do not insist Explorers attend Church Parade except on special occasions and we welcome them to join 4th Tyldesley Scout Group on parades. We are a multi-faith organisation and if you prefer your Explorer to attend another denomination or religious faith please contact one of our uniformed leaders.

Please do not be put off by this we find ways to accommodate everyone and its now fully recognised by the Scout Association that not all Scouts will share a specific faith.

We do expect our Explorer Scouts to attend St Georges Day and Remembrance Day parades and encourage them to join in the annual Carol service. These are very important events in our calendar as St George is the patron saint of scouts as well as England, and we pay our respects to those who have served their country on Remembrance day. If you want to be invited to the Christmas party and other key events you must attend these Remembrance and St Georges Day.

Uniform
Explorer Scouts must attend meetings wearing either:
1. Parade uniform - Explorer Scout shirt, necker and blue / black scout activity trousers or hiking trousers. On formal occasions this includes school shoes or hiking boots.
2. Informal Uniform - Purple iScout shirt necker and blue / black scout activity trousers or hiking trousers. This uniform along now also includes the option of blue Pegasus hoody.
3. Travelling to and from events – Unless otherwise specified we expect Explorers to travel in formal shirt, necker, and blue or black hiking trousers. School trousers can be worn but please note we often have games or activities where school uniform might get damaged. The parade uniform is compulsory for all Explorers. The informal uniform is not compulsory but gives the option of Explorers of wearing a polo shirt when we are not on parade. Details of the polo shirts can be obtained from a leader. Explorers MUST wear uniform from the options above.

For formal parades e.g. church, St Georges day etc. please wear the formal parade uniform described above with clean school shoes and either a scout or plain black belt.

Unless advised otherwise we have a standard kit list for weekend camps and adventurous activities. Details can be found on:
http://astleyscouts.org.uk/pegasus-explorer-scouts/explorers-library-2/

Code of Conduct
Several years ago a previous Scout Troop that our Leaders ran was suffering from bad behaviour and discipline issues. It had a very bad reputation within the District and was struggling to survive. We introduced a strict code of conduct and we are proud to say we turned the group around and it became one of the biggest Scout Troops in the District.

To carry this on we have adopted a very similar code of conduct for the Explorer Unit. We see this as a very important policy to ensure that your Explorer can achieve great things in an environment that is safe and free from bullying. You Explorer will soon be coming home with...
a copy and we require that parents and Explorers sign the code before we take them away to camp. The page that parents sign explains the rules by which we operate the Code. The code can also be found on the web page above.
If you have any questions about its operation or the frequency at which we issue Red and Yellow cards (not often) please speak to Carl Thorp.
The code applies to Leaders and Helpers as well as Explorers.

**Duke of Edinburgh's Award**
As well as progressing through the Chief Scouts Award badges your Explorer will have the opportunity to work towards their Duke of Edinburgh's award. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain a qualified valued by colleges, universities and future employers. The Explorers will be supported by the leaders as they progress through the award system, but they are expected to put effort into gaining the awards and to manage their own progression.

Please note all awards are externally validated before being approved. We are required by the validators to maintain a high standard and it is not in our power to change this.
However, we find that that Explorers struggle to complete the mandatory records. We would like to ask parents / guardians to help keep their Explorer organised and on-track ensuring that they document and record activities as they go along.

**Subs and Fundraising**
The Explorer Scout Unit has to be entirely self-funding and we get no funds from the Scout Association, district or the Government. We support the Units activities by a mixture of subs, grant applications and fund raising.

Subs are to be paid quarterly (£40) either by check or direct into our bank account. Subs pay towards the following:
- Each year the unit has to pay an amount per head to pay to the Scout Association and District for insurance etc. This amount is typically announced each January, payable in March by the unit.
- Part of the weekly subscription is also a contribution per head towards the maintenance of our Scout and Guide head-quarters.
- The remainder goes towards maintaining the units tents, cookers and other equipment.
- Full subs are to be paid regardless of attendance.
- Subs will be reviewed at least annually and are subject to change.

**We receive NO OTHER FUNDING except that which we raise ourselves by sponsored walks, bag packing, applying for grants etc.**
We carry out additional fund raising events that raise funds specific to the Explorer Unit. This money is used to purchase new equipment, subsidise camps / activities etc. In order to keep the costs that we pass on to parents to a minimum it is critical that Explorers attend these events.
events. The more money we raise the less that parents have to pay for. These events have included sponsored walks, bag packing, scrap metal recycling, car boot sales, cake sales etc.

Where possible we apply for grant funding for the purchase of equipment etc. If you are aware of any grants made available by employers or other funding bodies, please let us know. We are not very good at applying for grants and would welcome any assistance you may be willing to provide to complete application forms etc.

Unit Joining Fee

The joining unit fee is covered in the first quarters subs. However, all Explorers have also to join the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme which costs an additional £21.

As the Explorer progress through the Silver and Gold DofE levels a separate fee is levied by the DofE for each level. Silver is £21 and Gold is £28.

Camp and Activity Fees

At a set date prior to an event or activity Explorers will be required to let leaders know if they will be attending. The deadlines are set so budgets can be calculated, activity sessions booked etc. If they miss this deadline we will not be able to offer them a place on the activity.

We have previously lost money when Explorers drop out at the last minute as we have to pay a non-refundable deposit for most activities. Please note that most activities have to be paid by the unit in advance and if your Explorer drops out of an event we cannot guarantee to be able to refund remaining balance of the camp the fee and you will remain liable for the full costs of the place.

Final Camp and Activity fees are payable either two weeks before an event or as otherwise requested by Leaders.

Camp and Activity fees may be charged to cover items such as site fees, food, specialist equipment, outward bound instructors, leaders expenses, etc.
Activity Forms
Please be aware any activity that takes place outside of our scout hut and on occasion activities at the scout hut require an activity form to be signed by parent or guardian. This is Scout Association policy and is required to make sure your scout is insured and if in the event of an accident or sudden illness can receive prompt medical attention. Wherever possible we send forms out in advance but due to pressure of work etc. this may not be possible.

Unless informed in advance you should assume that a form will need to be signed and any Explorer turning up without either a proper signed form or with parents / guardians to sign a form will be sent home.

We are sorry to sound heavy handed, but as leaders we have to conform to Scouts Policy, Organisation and Rules and cannot put either our Scouts or ourselves at risk by not having permissions signed off.

Attendance
In return for all of the hard work that leaders put into planning and preparing meetings / activities we ask that Explorers attend as many as possible.

Please turn up prompt, on time at the start of the announced event time ready to go.

Key training nights flagged as DoE or Expedition training will not be repeated if missed. It is critical that for an Explorer to progress to expeditions etc. that these are attended. To ensure the safety and welfare of our Explorers if they are not attended then they will not be able to go on expeditions.

We do recognise that Explorers have many other interests, school work and family responsibilities so we don’t expect you to attend every activity or meeting. We ask that as soon as you know you are not going to be available for a meeting or activity you let Carl know and if possible copy our other leaders.

Knowing you are not available well in advance gives us the opportunity to come up with a plan to work around it.

If for any reason you are going to be late for a meeting please make sure you let Carl or one of the other leaders know.

Notices and Newsletter
To reduce costs and save the environment we do not produce regular paper newsletters. We also found that most of our Explorers either did not take them home or would forget to give them to parents / careers. So all of our communications are electronic by:

1. Online Scout Manager – This is our main way of communicating with parents. It includes parents contact details and Explorers Health Information. It is your responsibility to keep this up to date. It also includes our calendar of events and activities and is the primary method by which we will email you updates. You can access OSM on https://www.onlinescoutmanager.co.uk/parents/
2. Facebook - We have two ways of communicating on Facebook. We have a public Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/PegasusExplorers and we also have a private Facebook group. We publish activity updates to the private group. Please reply to them. If you are on Facebook, please find us and ask to be made a member of the group.
3. Twitter - https://twitter.com/PegasusESU Mostly used for sending out photos etc. of our activities whilst we are away.
4. Web site - Our web site contains links useful sites, our library and our programme / calendar [www.pegasusexplorerscouts.uk](http://www.pegasusexplorerscouts.uk)

5. Text message - Urgent information will be sent out by text message

If you are unable to use or receive any of the above please speak to a leader.

Finally we ask that, except in an emergency, you **do not contact leaders on the day of an activity or event**. We are often late because we have to stop to answer last minute queries from parents / careers and Explorers. Please remember we have our own kit to get ready and some us also have children who are Explorer scouts, and the equipment needed by the Unit. We also have day jobs that we have to work hard to keep and trying to work when you have 20 plus people trying to contact you becomes impossible..

So **Be Prepared**, ask in advance.

If you ever have any problems or concerns please please do not hesitate to contact a leader. Thank you for reading this document and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact:

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