

Admissions Policy – 27th Cambridge Scout Group

The intention of this admissions policy is to ensure that the admission of members into the group and management of waiting lists conform with the regulations laid out in POR and are seen to be fair when applied consistently.

Mixed Membership

Membership of the Group is open to boys and girls in all sections.

Section Membership Numbers

The maximum number of members in each section shall be set by the Group Scout Leader in consultation with the section leaders and respecting the limits defined in POR.

The 27th Cambridge Scout Group is an extremely popular and successful group, and it is normal for each of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections within the group to run at full capacity. As a result, entry numbers to all sections have to be managed to ensure an even spread of age groups within each section, and to avoid creating surges in pack or troop numbers at a later date.

The 27th Cambridge Scout Group is run entirely by volunteers; therefore it is our expectation that members' families should fully engage in supporting the leadership team with the organisation and delivery of activities and fundraising events.

Admissions from the waiting list into sections shall only be taken after consideration to ensure that places will remain available to accommodate existing sections' members when they move up from other sections. Admissions to the sections will normally occur at the beginning of each term. Exceptions can be made by arrangement with the section leader. Existing members transferring from another group may start at the earliest convenient opportunity by arrangement with the section leader.

It is our policy to offer a smooth transition between sections without children having to experience a break in their Scouting. This means that once a child is in the Beaver or Cub Sections, they are automatically offered a place in the next section when their time for transitions comes round. This may necessitate Leaders having to plan ahead to ensure spaces are available in their Section for these transitioning children. After this process has taken place, the following criteria will be applied (in this order) when vacancies arise:

1. Children of a parent who is or becomes a uniformed Leader/Executive member with key roles within one of the Sections in the Group. At the discretion of the Group Scout Leader, this may be applied in the case of a parent who commits to being a permanent helper. Our priority is to provide enthusiastic adult leadership in each section enabling us to run a balanced and exciting programme for our young people. We are always recruiting new leaders and therefore offer priority to children of leaders and committee members.
2. Siblings of Beavers, Cubs or Scouts currently enrolled in the 27th Cambridge Scout Group.
3. Children living in the catchment areas of Cherry Hinton Primary, Bewick Bridge, Colville and Spinney primary schools (note that the child does not need to attend one of these schools as this refers only to living in the catchment area). Waiting list applicants will

be offered a place, taking into account their time on the waiting list and the impact on the other sections. Young people who do not receive a place in the Section they have applied to will be transferred to the next section's waiting list and placed into the waiting list according to the length of time they have already spent.

4. Children living outside the school catchment areas listed in section 3. Waiting list applicants will be offered a place, taking into account their time on the waiting list and the impact on the other sections. Young people who do not receive a place in the Section they have applied to will be transferred to the next section's waiting list and placed into the waiting list according to the length of time they have already spent.

NB: Young people who move into the catchment area who are already in the Scouting movement will be offered places wherever possible, regardless of the waiting list.

Children with special or additional needs are considered outside of the above criteria and each child will be assessed on an individual basis. Scouting is open to boys and girls. If a young person has special or additional needs, admission will be at the discretion of the Section Leaders, and may be on the basis of a trial period. It should be noted that the Scout Group cannot offer one to one care during meetings, camps, or hikes and if this is the case or becomes the case in the future, the expectation is that the parent/carer will provide/seek this extra support. It is important to remember that all Leaders are volunteers, who give up their time willingly and freely. Whilst all leaders receive training, this does not encompass *specific* special needs and it is expected that parents/carers will be fully supportive and provide leaders with any relevant information or help they may need regarding their child.

Handling of Membership Enquiries

All enquiries for membership will be via the waiting list accessed from the 27th Cambridge website. Contact will be made if/when a place is available. Once a place is offered, parents will have a maximum of 3 weeks from the initial contact to accept the place. If no further communication is received from the parent within this time frame then the child will be removed from the waiting list and the place will be offered to the next person on the waiting list. It is the parents responsibility to keep contact details up to date. If we are unable to contact the parents (for example if an email bounces), the child will be removed from the waiting list.

Please be warned that casual conversations with Leaders, or even seemingly formal agreements, regarding getting children on the Group waiting list are not relevant or valid. The only way to place your child on the waiting list is via the online waiting list form as stated above.

Appeal

If a parent wishes to appeal this policy they are invited to make a representation and put forward their case to the 27th Group Trustee Board where a final decision will be made.

Eleanor Limb
Group Chair, 27th Cambridge

Last reviewed on 30/4/2023