

THE WOODCRAFT FOLK - LISS DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

The Woodcraft Folk are a national voluntary organisation for boys and girls. The principles of co-operation, equality, peace and social justice are emphasised throughout our activities. The Woodcraft Folk are a registered charity. No. 1073665

Organisation

Liss District Woodcraft Folk comprises of five groups of ascending age: -

Woodchips	under 6's
Allsorts Elfins	approx 6-8 years
Kestrel Pioneers	approx. 9-11 years
Powerzone Venturers	Senior school upwards
3 rd Place includes DF's	13years and over

Each group has a co-ordinator with overall responsibility for organising its activities. There is also a Chairperson, a District Treasurer, a District Secretary, a District Health and Safety Officer, a District First Aid Officer and a District Membership Secretary/Child Protection Officer. The District will review its policies on Child Protection, Local Planning, Internet access and Health and Safety annually.

The district will be organised through a minimum of six planning meetings per year, once every half term including an AGM. All adults involved in the district's activities will be encouraged to attend district-planning meetings.

In the spirit of co-operation and to ensure the safe and proper running of the district's activities appropriate support from all parents of child members is necessary and should be actively sought and encouraged.

Membership and Subscriptions

Membership is conditional only on appropriate conduct and leaders will do all they can to encourage and guide children to behave in a way that reflects the principles of the Woodcraft Folk.

No one will be excluded from activities for any other reasons (e.g., financial, disability etc.) and any special difficulty will be addressed with the utmost discretion. Any approach to a group leader on any matter will be treated in strictest confidence.

Subscriptions for the term are due on the first evening of the term. Weekly payments are at the discretion of the group leader.

Parents will receive reminders about subscriptions and the subsidy scheme through the district newsletter. The district will endeavour to pay the annual membership fee for adult members who lead groups or help frequently. Parent helpers will be encouraged to become members.

Events and activities

At any Woodcraft Folk activity or event there are: -

- a) Those supervising and directly responsible for the children
- b) Parent helpers

All of these must read the district's Child Protection Policy. Adults who are supervising and are directly responsible for children must be full adult members of the Woodcraft Folk and vetted through the Criminal Records and registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

All events and activities require an adult to child ratio of 1:6 (dependent upon the age of the child) and a minimum of two adult members to be present for the duration.

During term time each group will hold one group meeting per week of activities consistent with Woodcraft Folk principles.

A parent from each family will be expected to help on an occasional basis with the weekly meetings, either by attending or helping with preparation and programming. This assistance is to be mutually agreed with the group co-ordinator according to circumstance. No child will be denied a place due to the parent's inability to help.

Extra events will be held throughout the year, some of which will involve other groups, subject to the availability of sufficient adult members and helpers. There must be at least one familiar, recognised leader from each group and the conditions of the Child Protection Policy must be met. The District should endeavour to hold at least one district event per year, which meets these conditions.

Due to the pressure on places in the groups and the need to maintain viable weekly group meetings, it is expected that children will attend regularly in order to keep their place in the group. The group co-ordinators will contact parents when three weeks non-attendance is unexplained.

Children and adults attending any event are expected to stay for the whole event unless the event co-ordinator is informed. Visitors to an event are welcome at the prior discretion of the event co-ordinator and subject to our child protection regulations.

On residential activities or outings, event co-ordinators will allocate subsidised adult leader places as are deemed necessary and appropriate to the event. Someone can only take a subsidised place with working responsibility. All other places must be paid for prior to the event.

Arbitration

In the event of a dispute of any nature, the first recourse should be with the group co-ordinator and the district chairperson. The district has appointed Mike Deadman as an independent arbitrator to whom complaints can be made if the district fails to deal satisfactorily with a dispute. Mike's telephone number is 01730 893859.

