

Training Information for Section Assistants

Thank you for volunteering as a Section Assistant, your role is important and has a direct impact on the Scouting that young people enjoy. As you will hopefully be aware there is training associated with your role, which is intended to be informative and of direct use to you. Please find below information about the training, answers to common questions and some useful links.

Why do I need to train for my role?

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development. As Section Assistants we are part of helping them to enjoy great Scouting programmes based on the values of Scouting, which build skills and confidence; and offer challenge, reward and risk in a safe environment.

Being a Section Assistant doesn't require us to take the same responsibility as a Section Leader, nor therefore does it require us to have quite the range of skills and knowledge, but we do need to do some core training.

All adult members in Scouting are required to undertake mandatory **Getting Started** training within **five months** of starting the role. This ensures, as much as possible, that we understand our role and responsibilities and that we are confident to take our first steps.

What is validation?

Validation is the way that we show that we know something and that we can use it in practice. Sometimes validation is covered as part of the learning, as with most of the online Getting Started Modules, at other times it is a separate process from the learning and is carried out through discussion with a Training Advisor. For eLearning, always keep a copy of your certificate so that you can share it with your line manager/TA/LTM at an appropriate time.

Where do I go for Getting Started training?

Getting Started training is largely accessed online through eLearning. If you cannot use online learning, please contact your Local Training Manager who can support you with alternative access. After each piece of eLearning, you will be able to print out a certificate, which shows that you have covered the content shown and that you understand it. This certificate should then be sent to your Local Training Manager.

To complete the Getting Started training you will work with a Training Adviser. They will validate module 3 with you. If you do not already know who this will be, we recommend you contact your Local Training Manager (see contacts below) to arrange this.

What Getting Started training does a Section Assistant require?

All Section Assistants are required to do the following Getting Started training units.

Module 1 – Essential information covers:

- The structure and organisation of Scouting
- Sources of information and support for members
- The Purpose, Values and Method of Scouting
- Some key facts about our history

[Go to the Module 1 eLearning](#)

Safety covers:

- The Safety policy of The Scout Association
- Our role in keeping adults and young people safe

[Go to the Safety eLearning](#)

Safeguarding covers:

- The Safeguarding policy of The Scout Association
- Our role in safeguarding young people

[Go to the Safeguarding eLearning](#)

GDPR (Data Protection) covers:

- The rules around what information we may collect
- How we keep information
- How we dispose of information

[Go to the online GDPR eLearning](#)

Module 3 – Tools for the role covers:

- The key features of the Section
- The roles in a Section
- Programme methods and Youth shaped scouting
- Promoting Positive Behaviours

[Go to the Module 3 eLearning](#)

How long do I have to complete my Getting Started training?

We are required to complete our **Getting Started** training within **5 months** of taking on a role.

Is my training complete once I have done Getting Started training?

Yes, is the short answer, as a Section Assistant your training is complete once you have done **Getting Started**. Please note though that some parts of the training need to be renewed, normally every three years.

Whilst your training is complete, you are very welcome to attend any training that you feel would be of value to you. Any learning and/or validation you complete will be added to your training record, and will count towards a Wood Badge (see next page) should you decide to work towards one in the future.

Dorset Learning Hub

On the county website is a [Learners Hub](#). It brings together resources on The Scouts website and local resources that we've created to support all learners.

Who can help me?

Your **Group Scout Leader** (GSL)

A **Training Advisor** (TA) There are lots of training advisors in the County, most will have other Scouting roles so are likely to be near to wherever you are Scouting. If you are struggling, make contact with an LTM, they will be happy to help.

A **Local Training Manager** (LTM) supports TAs in a District. If you want help, advice or to find a local TA, an LTM can help. Please see the list below for contact details.

The **County Training Manager** will also be able to answer questions and offer support.

District LTMs	Name	E mail
Bournemouth	John Bradley	ltmbournemouth@dorsetscouts.org.uk
Christchurch	Debbie Darby	ltmchristchurch@dorsetscouts.org.uk
Dorchester and West	Denise Hunt	ltmdorchesterandwestdorset@dorsetscouts.org.uk
East Dorset	Trevor Middleton	ltmeastdorset@dorsetscouts.org.uk
North Dorset	c/o Jackie Dawson	ltmnorthdorset@dorsetscouts.org.uk
Poole	Clive Farley	ltmpoole@dorsetscouts.org.uk
Wareham and Isle of Purbeck	Mark Hillman	ltmwarehamdandpurbeck@dorsetscouts.org.uk
Weymouth and Portland	c/o Jackie Dawson	ltmweymouthandportland@dorsetscouts.org.uk
County		
Training Manager	Jackie Dawson	trainingmanager@dorsetscouts.org.uk
Training Administrator	Jackie Gregory	trainingadministrator@dorsetscouts.org.uk

Wood Badge

The Wood Badge is an internationally recognised Scouting Training award which we earn when we have completed all of the training for our role. It signifies that we have the appropriate knowledge and skills for the role; and that we are able to apply it to our Scouting.

In completing a Wood Badge we explore many aspects of Scouting, including but not limited to: Planning and running programmes, promoting positive behaviour, Nights Away experiences, practical skills, international Scouting and working with adults. This training helps us to feel competent and capable of delivering fantastic Scouting for young people and to really enjoy doing it.

Leaders have three years to complete our Wood Badge from the point that we take on the role. Section Assistants may choose to undertake any or all of this training, but are not obliged to and therefore don't have any time constraints.