

Reference: **Securing your child's place at Penistone Scouts for 2021**
Date: **11th January 2021**



Dear parents and carers,

I hope you're staying safe and well in these challenging times.

It's the time of year where we need to understand if your child does still wish to keep their place for 2021 as we confirm our membership numbers and we pay our annual fees for each young person, making sure we have sufficient insurance and specialist support for safety and safeguarding.

A different year for us all

Last year's programme wasn't what we planned early on in 2020. However, we've adapted and made sure we kept the experiences and connections going with our young people as much as possible with online meetings and some face-to-face activity too.

Securing your child's place to learn skills for life

Even if your child is unable to attend meetings at the moment, we do need to know if they wish to remain a member and secure their space for the future. To do this, please visit penistonescouts.uk/census2021

We have many young people wanting to join Penistone Scouts on a waiting list, and so we want to make sure we're offering our spaces to as many young people as we can.

Why we still need to pay for essential services

There's a fixed membership fee which we still have to pay for each child each year, whether we're meeting face to face or not. This covers essential services, including insurance, safety and safeguarding, vetting checks, developing new badges, providing essential training for volunteers and so on. Nationally, we're doing everything we can to keep essential services running, including reducing staff levels and selling some properties. However, this alone won't cover the costs.

Some parents have asked if it is feasible to 'opt out' of membership and re-join when face to face Scouting starts again. While we understand this, our membership of Scouts is not pay as you go – unlike some of our extra activity costs. We must pay for those who wish to remain a member to make sure that proper insurance and services are in place.

However, we're very aware that this year has seen many families face financial challenges. If the cost of membership is unaffordable for your family at this time, then please do let me know so we can look at other ways to support your child.

Thank you

A huge thank you for your support this year. We look forward to next year and hope your child will be with us to continue to gain skills for life.

As ever, if you have any concerns please do get in touch with me.

With my thanks and good wishes,

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