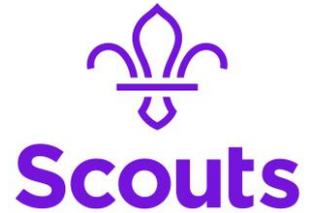




**STEVENAGE SCOUTS**

Website : [www.stevenagescouting.org.uk](http://www.stevenagescouting.org.uk)

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## DISTRICT NIGHT HIKE Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021

14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Scouts, Explorers & Parents,

The District Scout Night Hike will be held during the afternoon/evening of Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Teams of 4 to 7 Scouts and an adult walking leader navigate their way around the route of approximately 7 miles. Walking will be broken up by some small challenges to complete along the route. A food base part way around the route will provide burgers, soup and a selection of savoury and sweet treats as well as hot drinks.

If you have taken part in the Night Hike previously, you will find it somewhat different to previous years, as we have made some changes in order to mitigate the risks posed by COVID-19. For example; in order to avoid large groups coming together, we will **not** be sleeping overnight when teams return and as such, we will start mid-afternoon (between 3pm and 4:30pm). The first part of the route will be in daylight for all teams. Scouts will need to be collected at the end of the hike. Pick-up time will be advised to your Leader the week before the event, but will not be later than 10pm. Staggered start and finish times will reduce the number of people at the start and finish.

Rather than the usual incident bases, there will be challenges provided to the team when they set-off. There will be some check-points to keep track of teams' progress and assist with timing, but these will be socially distanced. The decision not to have the traditional incident bases is to avoid sharing equipment and reduce teams meeting up. The usual trophies will be up for grabs to the team completing the hike in the fastest time and scoring the most points on the challenges. One of the challenges will be First Aid related (no practical) with the team scoring the highest on this challenge being awarded the First Aid trophy. Trophies will be given out on your Troop/Unit night.

Teams will start from Lannock Farm, Weston (a map will be supplied) at their allocated time on Saturday afternoon. After the hike, parents will need to collect Scouts from Lannock Farm at the time advised on Saturday evening. The teams adult walking leader will have parents contact details so they can call you in good time, in the unlikely event they are running late. Where possible this year, the adult walking leader will be from your Scout Group. All Scouts must have **walking boots, waterproofs and adequate warm clothing**. Your walking leader will ensure you have these items when you are dropped off. A kit list will be provided with the final arrangements letter.

We are asking all Scouts and leaders taking part to take a COVID Lateral Flow Test (at home) within 48 hours of attending the event. As secondary schools are asking pupils to take an LFT twice a week, you maybe able to take one that covers both needs. I'm sure it goes without saying, but anyone showing COVID-19 symptoms, must not attend the event. Please let your Scout Leader know if you can't attend.

The cost is £5 per Scout/Explorer. **Cheques should be made payable to 'Stevenage District Scout Council'**. If you would like to attend please return the completed Activity Information Form to your Leader with the £5 as soon as possible and by **no later than Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November**. Please note that this is a team event and your Scout or Explorer Leader will arrange the teams for each Troop/Unit. If you have any questions on the event, please ask your leader or contact myself using the details above.

Yours in Scouting,

*Neil*