

The Group

15th Fife (Freuchie) Scout Group, like almost all other Scout Groups, now has a waiting list policy so that the process of allowing children to join the Group is done as fairly and transparently as possible across all sections.

In the past, almost every village had a Scout Group with a steady supply of adults who were prepared to run Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Over the years, a number of Scout Groups have closed locally which has put more pressure on the Groups that are still running. All volunteer Leaders would like to allow more children to join their sections but should never be in a position where they feel pressured into increasing numbers over what is manageable.

15th Fife (Freuchie) Scout Group has lasted 110 years due to the efforts of adult volunteers. 3 years ago we had 9 uniformed Leaders and 2 regular helpers. We currently have 6 regular Leaders and 1 regular helper. More uniformed Leaders would allow more children to join the Group. Section sizes can only grow, or duplicate sections started, if more Leaders are available. The reality is that there will always be a maximum number of children that we can safely have in the Scout hall and be able to deliver high quality Scouting for.

We currently have 3 sections in the Group:

- Beavers: 6 – 8 years old (-¼, + ½ year flexibility)
- Cubs: 8 - 10½ years old (+/- ½ year flexibility)
- Scouts: 10 ½ - 14 years old (+/- ½ year flexibility)

Joining the Group

If a child wishes to join 15th Fife (Freuchie) Scout Group, parents should complete the online form at <https://15thfifefreuchie.org.uk/join/>. The earliest children can be added to the waiting list is one year prior to the minimum age for the appropriate section.

Adding a name to the waiting list is not a guarantee of eventually being given a place in the Group. When a child is able to join the Group they will be offered a place within the relevant section, provided there is a strong likelihood that there is sufficient space in subsequent sections for all members of the Group (e.g. a child of Beavers age will be offered a place in Beavers if it is expected that there will be space for them in Cubs and Scouts when they are due to move up).

One waiting list will operate for the entire Group, with spaces being filled from the list when section Leaders advise that they have one or more spaces available.

Waiting List Priorities

Spaces within the Group will be allocated from the waiting list in the following order of priority:

1. Children of uniformed Leaders who help regularly.
Note - parents who join the Group need to commit to taking up their role regularly before their child is accepted.
2. Children who are moving up from a lower section due to age.
3. Children of frequent Helpers.
4. Children of Executive Committee office bearers.
5. Children for which Freuchie is the nearest Scout Group.
6. Children who have siblings already within the Group.
7. Children transferring from other Scout Groups outside North East Fife.
8. Children who have been on the waiting list for the longest time.

If, in the opinion of the relevant section Leader, the child at the top of the list is deemed too old to benefit from joining the section (e.g. will only be a member for less than 12 months) they will not be offered a place.

Children will remain on the waiting list until they either choose to leave the waiting list or when it is clear that no spaces will be available while they are in the Beaver/Cub/Scout age ranges. If a child has been on the waiting list for 12 months, their parents will be asked if they wish to remain on the waiting list.

It should be noted that membership of the Group can also be removed in extreme situations (e.g. serious or repeated poor behaviour).

Any comments, questions or complaints about this policy or its implementation should be directed to the Group Scout Leader (GSL@15thFifeFreuchie.org.uk) in the first instance.