

Dear Parents / Guardians

Important - Gift Aid Declaration

From April 2000 the Chancellor of the Exchequer extended the benefits of the 'Gift Aid' scheme to allow charities to recover, from the Government, the income tax paid by people making donations and paying subscriptions on all payments made (it used to be only on 'one off' payments over £250) – yes they are actually trying to help on this one!

It is our intention, as a registered charity, to maximise our possible income by taking full advantage of this scheme by reclaiming this tax on all subscriptions paid by you.

What does it mean to your tax affairs – absolutely nothing, we do not seek or receive any information whatsoever on your private income or tax details, we do not even need to know any of your personal tax or National Insurance reference numbers.

What do you have to do? – Provided that you are a taxpayer, all that is required is that you make a simple declaration to us, either written or orally. A copy of the declaration is included with this letter for you to fill in. You do not even have to sign it. If you give your consent orally, we will fill in a form and send you a copy.

What does it mean to the Group? – It means that for every £1 you pay we can recover, direct from the tax man, a further (currently) 25p i.e. an additional £3.00 each month for every subscription paid. This is a potential £4000 additional income to the Group every year to help with activities, badges, books, bills, equipment, hall maintenance, etc. Importantly it will also help to keep any subs increase to a minimum.

Please help us by filling in the simple form attached and returning it to your child's section leader as soon as possible to allow us to start claiming – from the Government for a change!

If you need any further information, please ask about the Scout Association Fact Sheet or speak to me or any leader for clarification – if we do not know the answer we will find out.

Yours sincerely

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Group Scout Leader

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