



STEVENAGE SCOUTS

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Colonel Woods Stevenage District Scout Patrol Camp Datchworth

15th to 17th May 2026



Thank you for joining us for the Colonel Woods Patrol Camp. This information will help you prepare for the camp.

Kit and Site

Each Patrol will have a 12m (40') square on the field adjacent to Datchworth Scout HQ in which to set-up camp. A suggested camping kit list is provided below, but feel free to bring any additional items you feel will be useful:

- Sleeping tent
- Store tent
- Cooking / dining shelter
- Stove & fuel (2 to 4 rings is ideal)
- Cooking billies / pots / pans
- Cooking utensils / chopping boards
- Wind break for stoves
- Washing up bowls x 2
- Wet and dry pit
- Strong bags for wood collecting
- Sisal
- Rope
- Scout staves / broom handles (min 6, more would be better)
- Tent pegs / mallet
- Matches
- Washing up brush, cloth etc.
- Groundsheet
- Polythene sheets
- Table & bench / chairs
- 2 Fire buckets & blanket
- Light
- Bush saw
- Food storage boxes
- Cold box

Times and Check-In

Patrols can arrive any time between 6pm and 8pm on Friday 15th May. Please can Scouts arrive in their uniform shirt and scarf. A map and directions to Datchworth Scout HQ is included in this information pack. Please follow any directions from the District leadership team. Parking is likely to be in the bottom of the field, entrance off Rectory Lane (**not** the village Hall).

The following must be handed in on arrival (if not already handed in before the event):

- Completed health form for each member in the Patrol.
- Any medication.
- Bush saws (please ensure they are labelled)

Family of those camping are most welcome to visit on the **Saturday evening between 8pm and 10:30pm.** A camp fire will be lit during this time and hot drinks will be available.

The camp will finish at **2:30pm on Sunday 17th May** with pick-up from Datchworth Scout HQ.

The emergency contact number during the weekend will be: 07535 613770.

Colonel Woods Programme

This year Colonel Woods has the **option** for some competitive elements, for those teams that would like to compete for the Colonel Woods and Outdoor Cooking trophies. For Scouts who would rather not compete that's absolutely fine and leaders will be available to help you gain experience of Patrol Camping; however, all teams will be marked on camp tidiness and cleanliness! The emphasis is on having fun, picking up new skills and practicing camping & back-woods style cooking; with the option to be judged if you wish.

Each Patrol will need to plan a balanced menu within the guidelines below. Unless otherwise stated, Patrols will need to bring the ingredients for the meals and have suitable food storage while at camp. As well as a cool box (ideally 2, one for raw meat and one for dairy etc.), suitable 'animal proof' dry storage will also be required (wooden box with catch or similar).

Colonel Woods Menu Criteria

Friday supper:	Supper supplied and cooked by District. Sausage in a bread roll and a hot drink.
Saturday breakfast:	Free choice, ideally including something cooked.
Saturday lunch:	Ingredients supplied by District , cooked by Scouts. Beef meatballs in a tomato sauce & rice, cooked in foil bags over a fire (vegetarian option available if requested in advance). Cake, chocolate bar & fruit.
Saturday dinner:	Free choice. 2 courses, main must be hot.
Saturday supper	Supper supplied by District. Cake and a hot drink.
Sunday breakfast:	Free choice, ideally including something cooked.
Sunday lunch:	No cooking (sandwiches/rolls/cake etc.) To be prepared after breakfast so site can be cleared down during the morning. Lunch eaten later as a packed lunch.

Colonel Woods Programme

Friday

18:00 – 20:00	Patrols arrive and check-in at Datchworth Scout HQ A site will be allocated and Patrols can start pitching camp.
20:00 – 21:00	Continue setting up camp. (Sleeping tent, store tent and cooking area.)
21:30 – 22:30	Wide Game.
22:30 – 23:00	Supper (Sausage in a roll and a hot drink).
23:30	Lights out!

Saturday

7:30 – 8:00	Get up and wash.
8:00 - 9:30	Prepare, cook, eat and clear away breakfast. Judged for competing teams.
10:00	Flag break. Site inspection for all teams.
10:15 – 11:00	Walk to Harmer Green.
11:00 – 14:30	Fire lighting, lunch preparation and cooking in the woods. Beef meatballs in a tomato sauce & rice, cooked in foil bags over a fire (vegetarian option available if requested in advance). Cake, chocolate bar & fruit.
14:30 – 15:00	Walk back to Datchworth.
15:00 – 15:30	Drink and biscuit break.
15:30 – 16:30	Surprise Patrol challenge! Site inspection for all teams.
16:30 – 19:00	Prepare, cook and eat your dinner. Judged for competing teams.

- 19:00 – 19:30 Washing up and clearing away.
- 20:00 – 22:00 Campfire. Each Patrol encouraged to provide a camp sketch or similar entertainment.
- 22:00 – 23:00 Supper (Cake and hot drink) **Site inspection during campfire for all teams.**
- 23:30 Lights out!

Sunday

- 7:30 – 8:00 Get up and wash.
- 8:00 – 10:00 Prepare, cook, eat and clear away breakfast. Start making lunch if time permits.
Breakfast judged for competing teams.
- 10:00 Flag break.
- 10:15 Patrols to finish making lunch and pack away for later.
- 10:30 onwards Strike camp.
Field games and challenges once sites are clear.
- 13:00 Lunch. **Final site inspection for all teams.**
- 13:30 Packing of vehicles with camp kit.
- 14:15 Flag down.
- 14:30 Departure.

Advance Preparation

The following items should be prepared before the weekend:

- Menu and shopping list.
- Any recipes required for your menu.
- Think of an idea for a camp fire entertainment (sketch or song etc.) lasting between 2 and 5 minutes.

Suggested Personal Kit List

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| • Uniform shirt, scarf and woggle | • Suitable footwear (boots are ideal) |
| • Rucksack / kit bag | • Sun hat |
| • Sleeping bag (and possibly a blanket) | • Sun cream |
| • Roll mat | • Wash kit and towel |
| • Waterproof jacket and trousers | • Tea towel |
| • Night clothes | • Torch ideally with spare batteries |
| • Handkerchief / tissues | • Plate, bowl, mug, knife, fork and spoon |
| • Warm jumper | • Carrier bags for wet / dirty clothes |
| • Any Items your Patrol Leader asked you to bring! | • A few clothes pegs (labelled with your name) |
| • Two complete changes of clothes (please don't bring jeans as they are very cold if it's wet or windy) | |

Please note that we have some hiking boots available for Scouts to borrow for Scout events. There is no charge, however a £20 deposit is taken which is refunded when the boots are returned clean. If you wish to borrow a pair, please email Neil the size required using the email address above, ideally at least 2 weeks before the event. The boots will then be available to collect from the District HQ Shop (adjacent to Poplar Sainsbury's) between 7:45pm and 8:45pm on Monday evenings (term time).

Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries.

I look forward to seeing you at camp,

Neil

