

# Stoke Gabriel Scout Group

Our Scout Group here in Stoke Gabriel is part of Torbay District Scouts. We are all volunteers. Each new Leader has in the first instance to undergo a DBS check, which is then followed by an interview with the Appointments Committee in Torquay. There then follows a training programme that normally takes up to 5 years to complete, also attending a First Aid course every 3 years along with a Child Safeguarding and Safety courses every 5 years. Many of these training modules can be done online but for some its necessary to attend a day course in either Exeter or Torquay.

Our Scout Group has 3 sections:

- Beaver Scouts - from 5 to 6 years
- Cub Scouts - from 8 years
- Scouts from 10.5 years

Once the young people become 14 years of age they are invited to join the Explorer Scout section which is run centrally from Torquay. It is open to young people from Stoke Gabriel, Brixham, Paignton and Marldon and Torquay.

We currently have around 45 children in the Group spread across all 3 sections. This is particularly low number compared to the number of young people we had pre - COVID. Once we re-opened post COVID several young people were too old to return to Scouts and some just didn't want to come back. However, since returning to face to face meetings and activities in June 2022 our numbers are steadily rising. Because Scout groups in both Totnes and Brixham have now closed we take young people from both of those areas.

We have also managed to recruit several new Leaders in both the Cub and Scout sections. They all make up a great team and bring many different skills and abilities with them. The Leaders from each section put together a programme of activities for each term along with the relevant risk assessments. This does take time & effort but has to be done regularly to ensure the smooth running of the section. The Leaders all work hard at putting together a balanced, safe and most importantly a fun programme of activities and events for our young people to be part of and enjoy.