

Welcome to

53rd St Barnabas

Cub

Pack

53rd History

The 53rd started in 1958 by Mr George Beavers at the request of the boys in the school where he was then Headmaster. The first unit to appear was a Cub Pack with six cubs and gradually increased to twelve. It was necessary to start a Scout Troop as the original Cubs were now old enough to become Scouts.

At first, an old manor house was used by the Group as a meeting place and it was not until 1962 it moved to St. Barnabas Church. A Scout Hut was built for the 53rd next to St Barnabas Church. In September 1967, the Group moved to NAAFI complex in the form of a 40x18 feet Nissan hut. The Group closed when the Turks invaded Cyprus in 1974. It re-opened briefly after the Turkish invasion, becoming a multi-national Group running the British scheme and eventually closed in 1975. The Group was re-opened in 1981 by Ben Whelan and the group became the first mixed Scout group on the Island for boys and girls. The program included camps, Horse Shoe Hikes and challenging activities which set a trend for many years to come. The group followed the British Scout Scheme until 1986 and had a leading role in the WSBA District, the group also took part in activities with Cypriot Scouts in Limassol.

In 1986, two new Leaders were appointed by the Limassol District Scout Association to run the Group. They were succeeded by John Stavrinidies in 1988 who led the group with Peter Elton and Richard Vlamis, two old scouts trained by Ben Whelan. The group carried on meeting at St Barnabas Church until 1992 when it was asked to leave. Homeless, Richard Vlamis (the Group Scout leader) moved the Group to its present -day location. Over the next few years, the Group obtained two containers and a room in the District Building. In 2001 a new Group Scout Leader was appointed, Alexi Chrysostomou. He led the group until summer 2004 when it closed. The Group was re-opened by Richard Vlamis in March 2005 and is now fully functional.

How Scouting Began

The scout movement was started by Robert Baden Powell also known as B_P. and was born on 22nd February, 1857. He was not very good at school but he did enjoy drawing, acting and rifle shooting. He often went hiking and sailing. B_P left school, joined the army, became a very good soldier and was promoted quickly. He trained his men with competitions and games. In 1889, B_P and his men were surrounded by the enemy in Mafeking in South Africa. By using clever tricks and allowing the boys to carry messages, they survived the siege of seven months. When B_P came back to England, he was a national hero.

B_P wrote a book called Aids to Scouting about training the army. Many people were interested in his book so B_P began to think that the same ideas could also be used to train boys. To try out these ideas, he held a camp for 20 boys on Brownsea Island, Dorset, in 1907. They swam, signalled, hiked and played games. B_P wrote his ideas in a book called 'Scouting for Boys', which came out as a magazine in 6 parts. All over the country, boys formed themselves into Patrols and asked adults to lead them. In 1909, 11,000 Scouts met at Crystal Palace to display their Scouting skills. B_P became known as Chief Scout.

In 1916 B_P started the Wolf Cubs to provide fun and adventure for boys aged 8-11. Wolf Cubs learnt to light fires, use a compass, give first aid and keep themselves fit and healthy. In 1913 scouting began in Cyprus. By 1920, Scout Troops had been formed in many countries. A huge meeting of Scouts, 8,000 from 34 different countries, was held in London in 1920 in the first World Jamboree. At the closing ceremony, B_P was acclaimed Chief Scout of the World. In 1929, B_P became Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell. He travelled all over the world visiting Scouts. He died in 1941, in Kenya at the age of 80. The movement he started provided adventure for boys and girls of all ages. In 1967 Wolf Cubs had become Cub Scouts, but the fun and excitement of Cub Scouting stayed the same as ever.

The Cub Pack and its organisation

The Cub Pack

The Cub Section meets in a group called a Pack. (Similarly the Scouts as a Troop and Ventures as a Unit). The term Pack comes from the fact that much of the structure of the Cub Section is loosely based on the Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling. In the Jungle Book a boy called Mowgli became a member of a wolf cub pack. The wolf cubs had a kind leader called Akela. Akela and the wolf cub pack looked after Mowgli through the many adventures he had in the Jungle.

Sixers & Seconders

In a Cub Scout Pack the cubs are divided into smaller groups called Sixes. Of course each Six normally has about 6 cubs in it. The Sixes are often given a colour to identify them and each Six wears a different colour woggle on their scarf.

A Sixer is a Cub placed in charge of a particular Six. Each Six has a Sixer and a Seconder. The Sixer is normally an older experienced Cub who can help the members of their Six as they progress through Cubs. The Seconder is there to assist the Sixer in his duties.

The Sixer and Seconder are given extra duties and responsibilities in the Pack and help Akela and the other leaders in many ways. To show that they have earned a place as a Sixer or Seconder they are given a stripe to wear on their uniform.

Who is Akela?

Akela was the leader of the wolf cub pack that looked after the boy Mowgli in the Jungle Book stories. In a Cub Scout Pack the leader in charge is usually called Akela. Other leaders in the Pack will normally take the names of other characters in the Jungle Book. Look at the Jungle Book pages for a long list of names. Some common examples of leaders names are Bagheera, Kaa, Chil, Hathi, Raksha, Rama and Baloo.

Flag Ceremonies

There is usually a Flag Ceremony at the beginning of the meeting. The whole Pack will face the Flags and the designated Cub will walk to the flag. For the opening ceremony the Cub will pull a string to 'raise' the flag (let the flag fly freely). Everyone then salutes the flag at the same time as this Cub to show their loyalty to their country they are living in. For the closing ceremony the Cubs face the flag while standing at alert while it is lowered.

The Salute and the Scout Sign

All members of the Scout Movement use the same salute. The salute is made with the right hand and is only used when you are standing at Alert. It is used as a greeting and as a sign of respect. Scouts salute with three fingers to remind you of

...your promise to do your duty to your God, and to your country and to help other people...

The Scout Sign is similar to the salute but you hold your hand at shoulder height. It is only used when someone is making or renewing their Promise.

The Handshake

Scouts greet each other in a special way. They always shake hands with their left hand. The origins of this custom come from when Baden-Powell was a soldier in Africa. He saw lots of tribal chiefs who carried spears and shields. He noticed that it was a sign of great trust to offer your left hand when shaking hands. This is because if you shake with your left hand you will have to put down your shield while the other person still has a spear in their hand!

How to stand

Cub Scouts have two special ways of standing. One is called 'Alert' and the other 'At Ease'.

A Leader or a Sixer will call out the commands. If a Leader or a Sixer calls Pack Alert or Six Alert you should stand up straight with your arms smartly by your sides. You move your left leg to put your feet together.

When a Leader calls 'Pack at Ease' you move your left leg until it is apart from the other, standing comfortably with your hands behind your back.

The Scout Motto

The Scout Motto is Be Prepared. Are you prepared for anything? Now that you are a cub Scout, you must be prepared to try new activities, learn new skills and make new friends. As you learn new things you will be prepared to look after yourself and to help other people.



The Cub Scout Promise and Law

When you are invested as a Cub Scout, you will have to know the Cub Scout law and make your Promise in front of the pack. You must do your best to keep your promise and to obey the law every day. It is a good idea to learn them by heart.

The Cub Scout Promise

**I promise that I will do my best,
To do my duty to god and to my country,
To help other people,
And to keep the Cub Scout Law.**

The Cub Scout Law

**Cub Scouts always do their best,
Think of others before themselves,
And to do a good turn every day.**

Your Investiture

You become a Cub Scout when you are invested. You will make your Cub Promise to a leader in front of the pack. You may be invested with a group or on your own. It is an important ceremony and you will need to practise it with a leader.

The ceremony might go something like this.

Your sixer will bring you to stand at the alert in front of the leader.

Leader: Do you want to be a Cub Scout?

Cub: Yes I do.

Leader: What is the Cub Scout Law?

Cub: Cub Scouts always do their best,
Think of others before themselves,
And to do a good turn every day.

Leader: Are you ready to make your promise?

Cub: Yes I am.

Leader: Pack make the Scout sign.
(you repeat the Cub Scout Promise after the leader
A little at a time. The leader then exchanges a left
Handshake with you)

Leader: I trust you to do your best to keep this promise.

You are now a Cub Scout and one of the worldwide brotherhood Scouts.
The leader will give you your group knecker and your six woggle. You then Salute the pack before returning to your place.

Congratulations you are now a Cub Scout!

Your uniform

Your Cub scout uniform summer is:

Yellow T shirt, knecker, green shorts with belt, green socks with yellow band, black shoes and Yellow bass ball cap.

Your Cub Scout uniform winter is:

Yellow long sleeved shirt, knecker, green shorts with belt, green socks with yellow band, black shoes and Cub cap. If extra cold Cub Scout track suit may be worn.

Always try to look clean and smart.