



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group



Membership Fees April 2023 to March 2024

1st April 2023

Dear all,

We wanted to notify you of the increase in Sub payments. The annual membership fee payable to the national Scout Association has now increased per child. This meant that the amount that the Group has to pass-on from your subscription has increased. Having considered the Group's current financial position, we are unable to take on this cost like we have before therefore Sub payments will increase slightly.

Therefore, the membership fees for 2023 – 2024 will be:

- **Each Squirrel and Beaver: £15 per month, for 12 months commencing 1 April 2023**
- **Each Cub or Scout: £16.50 per month, for 12 months commencing 1 April 2023**

The standard method of payment will be by monthly direct debit, with the payment request being initiated on the 1st of each month and leaving your account a couple of days later. If you are unable to pay by direct debit please contact the Group Scout Leader to arrange an alternative method that is mutually acceptable.

The actions you need to take are summarised below:

All – ensure that we have your current email address and that you are receiving emails from OSM Check your junk mail if necessary and add it to your safe-senders list. If you are not sure, ask the leader of your child's section to send you a test email.

All – Gift Aid the fee if you can

If either you or your partner are a UK tax-payer we hope that you will choose to Gift Aid the payment. This means that for every £1 you pay we can claim another 25p from HMRC at no extra cost to you. For the Group this equates to several thousand pounds a year for hardly any work at all.

If you haven't already completed an authorisation, you will soon be emailed a link from OSM, asking you to accept or decline the option of gift aid. If you have more than one child in the Group you may have to make separate declarations, but don't worry it's very easy to do.

If you wish to decline the gift aid option please use the link to tell us this, so that we don't pursue it further.

If your circumstances have changed, so your previous answer is no longer valid please email the Group Scout Leader (cam – gsl@21stromsey.co.uk) and you will be sent the link to update the declaration.

Those already paying through the OSM-GoCardless system:

You do not need to do anything until your child changes section (see below). Direct debits will continue as normal.

Those changing section (whatever time of year):

As the schedules are section-specific the old one will be cancelled automatically as the young person moves up and you will need to subscribe to the schedule of the new section. A link to do this will be sent from OSM. Membership of Scouting does not cease when moving between sections, so the young person will be added to the new schedule as soon as they have moved up, not when they are invested in the new section.

Scout Association number: 10014441

Registered charity number: 302269

As stated previously, the option of paying termly (4 months at a time) is being phased out. If you currently use that method the new schedule will be for a monthly direct debit.

Those new to the Group:

Further information will be provided, but you will be sent a link from OSM to set up the direct debit.

What if I can't pay?

It is the policy of the Group that no young person should be excluded from Scouting activities on financial grounds. If you are not able to pay please discuss this in confidence with the Group Scout Leader. We can then arrange some subsidy from Group and District funds. Ideally your request should be made before the April payment is due, but we realise that circumstances may change and requests will be considered at any time.

Further information:

Detailed guidance on the payment method and consequences of non-payment can be found in the members' area of the Group website: www.21stromsey.co.uk. If you have further questions about the fees please contact the Group Scout Leader rather than leader of your child's section.

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Bex Fouch (Group Chair)