



**21st Romsey
(Nursling & Rownhams)
Scout Group**



Membership Fees April 2026 – March 2027

9th February 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are sure that you are aware of, and appreciate, the wonderful experiences and opportunities that Scouting offers to your child. However, unfortunately there are bills to pay! At the February meeting of the Group's Trustees we reviewed the membership fees, taking into account our current financial situation, inflationary pressures and the amount we pay to run Scouting at District, County and National levels.

Consequently, from 1st April 2026 the Group's membership fees will be:

- Each Squirrel or Beaver: £18.50 per month, for 12 months commencing 1st April 2026 (total of £222.00 for the year)
- Each Cub or Scout: £19.50 per month, for 12 months commencing 1st April 2026 (total of £234.00 for the year)

The standard method of payment will be by monthly direct debit, with the request being initiated on the 1st of each month and the payment leaving your account a few days later. If you are unable to pay by direct debit please contact the Group Lead Volunteer to arrange an alternative method that is mutually acceptable. Note that to smooth cash-flow (both yours and the Group's) the fee is split evenly over the 12 months of the year. Consequently, payment is required regardless of how many times the section actually meets in a particular month.

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, our membership database. 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. By receiving Gift Aid we are able to keep our membership fees as low as possible.

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 Lead Volunteer and you will be sent a 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.

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. Normally the child will be allowed to attend one month's sessions free of charge, giving them time to decide whether Scouting is for them. If they decide to stay they will be invested as a member as soon as possible. However, since investitures can be unavoidably delayed, payment of fees will commence after the four weeks trial period, irrespective of whether a formal membership ceremony has been conducted.

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 Lead Volunteer. 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 Lead Volunteer Leader rather than leader of your child's section.

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