

## Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of the Lincs County Bulletin. This is issued on the first Friday of each month. The bulletin will be sent to all adults registered on the membership system and distributed widely. To submit material for the bulletin please email [howard.nelson@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:howard.nelson@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk).

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## From the County Lead Volunteer

### Happy New Year!

Despite the long nights and cold weather, January is never dull in Lincolnshire Scouts, with lots going on to inspire you for 2026. Over the Christmas period, it was fantastic to see local Scouting highlighted in the media, shining a light on the number of young people waiting to join Scouting across Lincolnshire. If you have something you would like to shout about please contact Abigail at [Abigail.Jodhan-Singh@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:Abigail.Jodhan-Singh@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk)

January is also census time. An accurate census is not just about County income; it is also vital in helping us understand where additional support is needed – whether that is due to long waiting lists or sections with fewer than 12 young people. This year's census includes additional questions that will help us identify where units may be struggling, enabling us to offer targeted support through the Growth and Communities team where appropriate. There will be opportunities to help support growth and adult recruitment – but only if we know where the need is. Please also remember to speak with your District Lead Volunteer, who can help signpost available support.

Lincolnshire Scouts has a full and exciting programme of events, training and expeditions planned for 2026. Please share these dates widely within your Groups, Districts and Networks, and encourage early planning and bookings where required.

- County First Response Course -Saturday 10 January, Grantham
- County First Response Course- Sunday 11 January, Gainsborough Sea Scouts
- Nights Away Assessor (Module 25) Training - Sunday 25 January – 3:00pm start
- Silver Expedition – First Training Weekend, Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 February
- Lincs Progfest 2026, Sunday 1 March, 10:00am – 3:00pm
- District Lead Volunteers Meeting- Wednesday 11 March, 7:30pm – 9:00pm
- Silver Expedition – Second Training Weekend (including Skills Assessment), Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 March
- Practical Skills Day - Adult Leaders Course - Saturday, 21 March '26 9am – 5pm GMT at Sudbrooke Scout Campsite
- Tomahawk Throwing For Young People - Adult Leaders Course - Sunday, 22 March '26 9:30am – 4pm GMT at Sudbrooke Scout Campsite
- Silver Practice Expedition, Friday 17 – Sunday 19 April
- Stamcamp 26 Friday 1 May – Monday 4 May
- Silver Qualifying Expedition, Saturday 2 May – Monday 4 May
- Nights Away Training, Friday 8 May, 6:00pm – Sunday 10 May, 6:00pm, Sudbrooke Campsite
- WOW 2026 - Saturday 13 June, 9:00am – Sunday 14 June, 5:00pm
- District Lead Volunteers Online Meeting - Wednesday 24 June, 7:30pm – 9:00pm
- Lincoln Archery and Shooting Tournament - Saturday 4 July – Sunday 5 July
- Cubs on the Water – Day 1, Saturday 4 July, 9:00am – 4:00pm, Day 2, Sunday 5 July, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Further details, booking information and any updates will be shared via the Lincolnshire Scouts website, County bulletins and direct communications. Please ensure leaders and young people are aware of relevant opportunities and deadlines.

I look forward to hearing about your many adventures across Lincolnshire in 2026.

Howard Nelson

Lead Volunteer – Lincolnshire Scouts

## BushScout Practical Skills Day - Adult Leaders Course

### Saturday, 21 March at Sudbrooke Scout Campsite

Learn simple, safe and successful practical skills techniques that your young people of all ages will love, in a supportive, low-ego environment, with experienced volunteers and plenty of time to practise, ask questions, and build confidence. Modules include fire lighting, knives, axe and saw, campfire cookery and tarpology.

#### Details

Are you a leader lacking confidence in Safe use of Knives? Do you need to demonstrate competence to convince your GLV to allow you to teach Beavers Fire Lighting? Are your Cubs saying “no more s’mores!”. Come along to a Bushscout Skills Day and we will teach you skills around traditional practical skills that your Young People will love to learn. We will show you safe techniques, as well as progression that will allow you to apply these skills to all ages.

Bushscout.UK, delivering safe Practical Skills, is running a course on 21st March 2026 at Sudbrooke Scout Camp Site, Sudbrooke, Lincoln LN2 2QZ

The day will cover:

- Fire Lighting
- Axe & Saw
- Tarpology
- Knife Safety
- Campfire Cooking

Come along and see why Bushscout is the fastest growing trend within UK Scouting. The day will cost £40 per person. You will need a packed lunch and suitable clothing for being outdoors all day.

Tea/Coffee will be provided.

Booking details at <https://www.bushscout.org.uk/courses>

## BushScout Tomahawk Throwing For Young People - Adult Leaders Course - Sunday, 22 March at Sudbrooke Scout Campsite

#### Overview:

Our Tomahawk Throwing Course is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of tomahawk throwing techniques, knowledge, skills, and confidence to safely deliver this exciting activity to our young members at The Scouts.

**Course Highlights:**

- Rules - Prioritise safety as you learn the fundamentals of safe tomahawk handling and throwing techniques.
- Types of hawks - Learn how to choose the right tomahawk for your needs and how to maintain it for optimal performance.
- Targets & Stands - Explore different target and stand types and what wood to use.
- Activity area - Understand what you need to do to create a safe and effective range.
- Risk assessments - It's not all play, understand the risks and how to mitigate them.
- Duration and session types - Adapting your training for different ages is an important part of running the activity.
- Games - Engage in friendly competitions and games that challenge your accuracy and enhance your tomahawk throwing abilities.

You will receive a certificate of attendance at the end of the course.

£40 per person

The course will start at 9:30am and finish at 4pm.

You will need to bring a packed lunch with you, Tea and Coffee will be provided.

Booking details at <https://www.bushscout.org.uk/courses>

Please note: to attend a Bushscout.UK course you must be a current adult member of The Scout Association. Group bookings are welcome, but all attendees must be named at the point of booking. Placeholder bookings will be cancelled.

## International Scout Pen-Pal Scheme

Sign up to be part of an International Pen-Pal Scheme lead by the Youth Team:

The idea behind this scheme is to connect people from different places, with different experiences in scouting. We want to make this a free, accessible way to globalize your scout journey and meet scouts from around the world. If you're interested, please apply through the form below. This will be on a first-come, first-served basis pairing people up so get your application in!

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QyFEsSceqkGXT\\_kCaIBQ3tMpbnNAbK1PkS\\_VE\\_rTBfbBUNDJTn1JMMUilVIUzNDA4SDI5M1IyTVlLTC4u&origin=QRCode](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QyFEsSceqkGXT_kCaIBQ3tMpbnNAbK1PkS_VE_rTBfbBUNDJTn1JMMUilVIUzNDA4SDI5M1IyTVlLTC4u&origin=QRCode)

Wishing you a happy new year from the Youth Team (Caitlin, Emma and Jess) and please feel free to contact us on [YouthTeam@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:YouthTeam@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk) if you have any feedback or questions about youth opportunities this year!

Caitlin Hall  
(Lincolnshire County Youth Lead)

## Lincolnshire Programme Event – Progfest

Calling all section based and programme support volunteers!

This Spring, our amazing Programme Team will be running a support events for you, our Section Team Members!

This event will give you an opportunity to:

- refresh your programme basics including running a quality programme and keeping our young people safe;
- pick up tools, resources and programme ideas; and
- tell us about the programme support you need to offer exciting and adventurous activities and enable all our young people to achieve their section top award.

We would love to see as many of our Section Team Members as possible in attendance.

The event is designed for Section Team Leaders and Team Members (formerly Section Leaders, Assistant Section Leaders, Section Assistants) as well as District Programme Support roles (formerly Assistant District Commissioners District Explorer Scout Commissioners and teams).

The event is being held at The Stanhope Hall in Horncastle. Address is The Stanhope Hall, Boston Road, Horncastle, LN9 6NF

**JOIN US: Sunday 1 March 2026 – Arrival 9.30am for 10am start. Departure 3.30pm.**

## Duke of Cornwall Awards Ceremony – June 2026

Liam Nelson, Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Officer for Lincolnshire, has confirmed that the Duke of Cornwall Awards ceremony will take place on 13 June 2026 at Waddington Training Centre, running from 0900 to 1300 hours. Any changes to arrangements will be communicated in due course.

The ceremony provides an opportunity for young people who have completed the Duke of Cornwall Award during the year to enjoy a morning of blue-light service activities and to receive their certificates from the Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire and the Chief Fire Officer.

Due to the popularity of the event, a cap on numbers may be required depending on demand. Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Liam is asking groups to confirm whether they have young people wishing to attend, along with approximate numbers by award level (Home, Neighbourhood, Community), as early as possible to support planning.

Contact:

Liam Nelson, Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Officer

Email: [Liam.Nelson@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Liam.Nelson@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Office: 01522 843401 | Mobile: 07711 17714

## Nights Away Assessors Training Course

We're pleased to confirm that a Nights Away Assessor (Module 25) training course will be taking place on Sunday 25 January 2026.

This course is ideal for volunteers who want to support high-quality residential experiences across the County by becoming accredited Nights Away Assessors.

The session will cover everything you need to confidently assess leaders working towards their Nights Away Permit, including: understanding permit requirements, what good practice looks like on residential, safety and safeguarding considerations, and how to carry out assessments in a supportive, developmental way. It's also a great opportunity to meet others involved in residential Scouting and share ideas, experiences, and challenges.

Full joining details, timings, and the venue will be circulated shortly. If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please get in touch with the Training Team.

If your section or district is expanding its residential offer in 2026, this is an excellent time to strengthen local assessment capacity—so please do share with any volunteers who may benefit. To book a place use this link <https://forms.office.com/e/2ZrcuJX604>

## Soft Fencing Course Update

I now have 4 dates for the soft fencing course and will be contacting venues to check availability today. Proposed dates are

25th Jan	Market Deeping Scout HQ
31st Jan	Lincoln (Checking)
7th Feb	Lincoln (Checking)
7th March	Earlsfield Rd HQ, Grantham

Everyone who contacted me about the courses will be getting individual emails this weekend with a suggestion of your closest course and further details.

If anyone else is interested, please get in touch with [carolyn.greig@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:carolyn.greig@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk) and I will try to fit you in.

## Archery Course

There are 8 spaces available for a GB archery course on 21st & 22nd June at Spilsby Scout HQ. Costs for the course are likely to be £230 pp which can be supported by group, District or County funds if necessary.

More details once final HQ and mileage expenses are known but please contact Barrie Jenkinson at [tomahawk@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:tomahawk@lincolnshirescouts.org.uk) for further details.

## Save the Date, It's our Birthday!

Sunday May 17th at Boston Wings Meadow, we are looking to hold the first of our Birthday bashes for Squirrels who are 5 years old, Beavers who are 40 and Cubs who are 110 years old. We are looking at running more events over the year across the county but hope you will join in celebrating these 3 big birthdays with us.

## Lincoln Target Tournament.

On 4th and 5th July, Lincoln Archery will be running their target tournament again featuring Archery and Tomahawks. Cost is £6 per person, per sport to be held at Sudbrooke Campsite. Entries open this month so watch social media for more information coming very soon.