



**County  
Backpack**  
The Incident Hike by Essex Scouts

# FAQ's

## **How many Scouts are in a team?**

Teams must have a minimum of 4 Scouts and a maximum of 7.

## **Can young leaders walk with assisted teams?**

Yes, provided you believe they are competent. Ideally, there should be two young leaders if no adult leaders are walking with the team.

## **Can I change the number of Scouts in my teams or change the category they are walking under?**

Yes. Please email any changes to [backpack@essexscouts.org.uk](mailto:backpack@essexscouts.org.uk).

## **Is there any catering provided?**

No. This year's event is a self-catering event.

## **When do I need to pay?**

Once your booking is received, you'll receive an email with links to the health forms and payment details. Payment is due as soon as possible after that and must be received by 20th March.

## **I want to walk with my scouts and don't have enough leaders to help with cooking?**

We are proposing that groups within districts cater together. This will help reduce the amount of equipment required and lower the number of leaders needed to support catering.

To further simplify arrangements, we suggest the following options:

- Young people eat before arriving on Friday evening.  
We will provide hot water so groups can offer hot drinks and cakes as a light supper.
- Breakfast options could include croissants and pastries, or porridge pots (hot water will be available).
- Lunches to be supplied by parents for both days, rather than just Saturday as has been done previously.

- Dinner options could include sausage and chips, pizza from a local takeaway, or a pre-prepared spaghetti bolognese, meaning food would only need reheating with pasta cooked on site.

**Can I set up my camp earlier than Friday night?**

Yes. Leaders may arrive on site from midday on Friday to set up camp. Young people are not permitted on site until 18:00.

**I'm local — can I set up my camp on Thursday?**

No. The organising team will not be arriving until Friday. We also need to ensure the required 5-metre separation between cooking tents and sleeping tents is maintained, which will be managed on Friday.

**Will there be any spare gas hoses on site?**

No. Please ensure you check the expiry dates on all gas hoses before you arrive and replace them if necessary.

**Do we need to have a Nights Away Permit (NAP) holder? Why is there not one for the whole camp?**

Due to there being no central catering option this year, we are unable to operate under a joint Nights Away Permit. Each group that is catering for itself must therefore have its own Nights Away Permit holder in place, to ensure all NAP requirements are met.

**I have a Scout with a disability — can they take part?**

Yes, of course. Please email [backpack@essexscouts.org.uk](mailto:backpack@essexscouts.org.uk) with further details, and we can advise on what support or adjustments can be put in place to help them participate.

**When do health forms need to be submitted by?**

Health forms should be completed as soon as possible after they are issued. Please emphasise to parents how important it is that these are completed promptly and accurately.

**If a health form has been submitted and something changes, what should we do?**

Please submit a new health form with the updated information. This can be done right up to the day of the event.

**When will we receive the maps and base grid references?**

Maps and details of the first bases will be issued at check-in on Friday night.

Information for the remaining bases will be issued when teams set off on Saturday morning.

**Do teams need to carry everything on the kit list?**

Yes. Kit checks will be carried out at the first base, so teams must carry all items listed. This forms an important part of the event's safety management, and there will be no kit available to borrow on the day.

**What is the car parking situation?**

There is limited car parking available on site, so groups are asked to minimise the number of vehicles where possible and to car share for drop-off. Where possible, please drop off and depart rather than remaining on site. Please follow the instructions of the event team on arrival and only park in designated areas. We are also exploring options for off-site parking and will provide further updates as soon as more information is available.

**Can we have open fires?**

Groups may have open fires only if they have completed the appropriate risk assessments and have received permission from the campsite. Please ensure fires are managed in line with Scout rules and site guidelines, and that consideration is given to other groups and campers nearby.

**What tentage can I bring?**

Please bring tentage that is appropriate for the size of the group you are bringing and catering for. For example, a 20-ft marquee would not be suitable for a team of six. Space on site is limited, and all groups must follow campsite layout guidelines. In line with Scout rules, all cooking areas and kitchen tents must be positioned at least 6 metres away from sleeping tents and any other tents. Groups should also take into account neighbouring camps when setting up.