

Berkshire Scouts Waterways Challenge



Scouts who complete the Waterways Challenge are eligible to receive and wear this occasional badge (available from the County Office)

Inspired by our various waterways across Berkshire, some gifting their names to our Districts, all Scouts, Troops and Districts are invited to participate in our Berkshire Scouts Waterways Challenge.

- All Scouts who complete all three challenges listed below are eligible to receive their Berkshire Scouts Waterway Challenge badge and certificate – a template will be shared with the leader for local completion.
- Programme ideas and supporting resources are signposted below, including many potential badge links (Leaders may flex and summate the activities so long as the total duration is achieved).
- A selection of photographs and a listing of Troops completing the award will be included on the County website.

The badge can also be found and tracked on OSM – search for 'Berkshire Scouts Waterways Challenge'

Observation & Conservation of our Waterways Environment	Water Recreation	Water, Flood and Ice Safety												
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Participate in one or more practical activities adding up to at least 3 hours, observing our inland waterways and helping with a conservation initiative</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Participate in multiple different activities adding up to at least 3 hours on or near the waterways</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Complete safety training of at least 2 hours, including The Water Safety Code, to help Scouts learn about the risk of cold water, ice and floods</p>												
<p>Scouts should research and participate in a project to help conserve their local waterway habitat. This may be led by the Scout leaders or other adults with appropriate knowledge, or be part of a more formal project with one of their local conservation organisations. Whether they're litter picking, reducing river-bank erosion or clearing ditches to help water flow, it's important that the Scouts get involved in saving and improving the local environment.</p> <p>A range of ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploring activities with local conservation groups e.g. Action for River Kennet, Friends of Maidenhead Waterways, The Loddon Catchment Partnership, Canal & River Trust or South East River Trust - Interviewing a local ecologist or environmental agency specialist - Find out about the risks of sewage dumping and microplastics in our waterways. Discover how to find out what the quality of the river is at any point in time. 	<p>On the water, Scouts can achieve this aspect of the challenge by participating in activities including:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Dragon boating or Bell boating</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Paddle boarding</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Canoeing or Kayaking</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Traditional Rafting or coracle building</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Sailing</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Inflatable adventure course</td> </tr> </table> <p>Or....near the water, Scouts can achieve this aspect of the challenge by participating in activities including:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Fishing, or Crayfish trapping</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Investigate ways to filter and decontaminate river water</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Bridge building</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Interviewing a lock-keeper or fishery</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Litter picking (maybe from a paddleboard!)</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Leaders must ensure they have the relevant license, permission, risk assessments, and activity leaders or Scout permits in place for whichever activities are chosen.</p> <p>Contact your local District Activities Team or Sea Scout Group to see if they could lead a Scout troop session, or one of the commercial or charity centres. See the directory of activity centres on the County Website https://www.berkshirescouts.org.uk/activities/activity-centres/</p> <p>This section is not restricted to activities done locally: you could add them to your Summer Camp programme</p>	Dragon boating or Bell boating	Paddle boarding	Canoeing or Kayaking	Traditional Rafting or coracle building	Sailing	Inflatable adventure course	Fishing, or Crayfish trapping	Investigate ways to filter and decontaminate river water	Bridge building	Interviewing a lock-keeper or fishery	Litter picking (maybe from a paddleboard!)		<p>Did you know..... Over 700 people drown in the UK and Ireland every year with many more suffering injury, some life-changing, through non-fatal experiences – more than from domestic fires or cycling accidents (Ref: www.rlss.org.uk).</p> <p>A great range of downloadable resources and interactive activities are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - River, lake and canal safety videos and games published by the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service - The RNLI Lower Secondary educational resources - through video and discussion, Scouts can learn how to plan for a trip near water, what to take and what to do, how to identify possible dangers by rivers and lakes as well as the sea, survival techniques in cold water. - The Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service publish guidance regarding Ice Safety and can visit section meetings to demonstrate techniques and equipment. - Take part in the annual Drowning Prevention Week campaign - Discuss and develop a flood safety plan (see the National Flood Forum) - Flood emergency packs produced by the Environment Agency - Scouts resources including Water Safety Ship-Tac-Toe, River Rescue, Break the Ice, Water Safety Charades
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<p>Potential Badge Links: Community Impact, Environmental Conservation, Naturalist, World Challenge 5: Take part in an environmental project, World Challenge 7: Find out about an international issue</p>	<p>Potential Badge Links: Activity Centre Service, Angler, Dragon Boating, Pulling, Water Activities, Nautical Skills, Paddle Sports, Sailing, Time on the Water, Adventure Challenge 1 to 3: Take part in four adventurous activities, show how you have developed expertise, show you understand any environmental impact and how to reduce it</p>	<p>Potential Badge Links: Lifesaver, Angler</p> <p>Outdoors Challenge: 9: Find out what accidents and incidents can happen outdoors or during your camp.</p>												