

# ALPS25



# NEWSLETTER

## Bonne année ! i !

We hope you had a fantastic festive break—whether that meant scaling mountains of mince pies, perfecting the art of post-dinner napping, or testing the limits of your central heating. Now, as the tinsel settles and we hurtle towards Easter (seriously, how did that happen so fast?), it's time to shift gears and focus on the adventure ahead.

In this edition of the newsletter, we've got plenty to keep you on track:

- Hillwalking & Kayak Training** – Key details to help you prepare for upcoming sessions.
- All-Participant Webinar in March** – A chance to connect, ask questions, and get fired up.
- Personal Documents and kit** – Some important things to start thinking about now.
- Meet Conor, Our Programme Lead** – Your guide for the journey ahead!

So have a read and get ready for an exciting few months. Before you know it, you'll be swapping Easter eggs for French bread, alpine cheese and tackling the great outdoors!

Phill - Event Lead

## Training update

Thank you all for responding to the training form we sent out a few weeks ago.

We have now received all of the feedback. The next stage is to review all of the requested dates and your comments. We then have the fun job of putting together a schedule of training for you.

The aim is to put family members together (for convenient travel) and where possible explorers from the same units will also be scheduled together, so you will have someone you have met before on training.

Noted, some people cannot attend and others have detailed their extensive (hillwalking / kayaking) experience. The core team and or your leaders will be in-touch to confirm.

By the time you get to Alps25 you will have had kayak and hillwalking training that will give you confidence on the water and in the mountains.

We will be sending your training dates out within the next two weeks, so please keep an eye out for that email.

### Key dates

<b>24 February</b>	Webinar for parents, participants and all delivery team
<b>31 March</b>	Payment 3 to county due Everyone
<b>2-3 March or 22-23 March</b>	Hill walking training (1 day)
<b>31 March</b>	Webinar for delivery team
<b>5-21 April (not 19)</b>	Water training (2 days)
<b>31 May</b>	Payment 4 due
<b>6 July</b>	Dragon-boat fundraising
<b>11 August</b>	Opening ceremony
<b>22 August</b>	Departure day

## Kit

Don't forget that many outdoor shops have a scouting discount so take advantage where you can. The kit list is available on the website [here](#). Buy something you want to use again in the future not just something for this trip. You may be able to borrow from others if you are not sure.

General tips:

Make sure you have a good day pack. Around 35L in size will suit all the activities and act as your travel bag on your journey to France. You will need to carry your lunch, water for walking, personal medication, shoes, hats and towels depending upon your day's activity.

What shoes? how many pairs? We recommend a minimum of three different pairs. Sturdy boots (well worn-in) and ideally waterproof. Water shoes (that are secure and not just slip on) or some old trainers for canyoning and the water activities. Your third pair of shoes needs to work for cultural activities and mountain biking as well as around the campsite so a pair of trainers is best. To help with packing space it's always useful to travel in your biggest shoes.

Waterproofs: we are hoping for glorious weather but cannot book it ahead of time so please ensure you have both trousers and jacket as alpine storms can be fierce.

## Key things to start thinking about!

Travel Documents & Insurance – now is the time to ensure that you have the following items in date and ready to go for our departure later this year:

Valid Passport

Date of issue: Must be after 8th August 2015

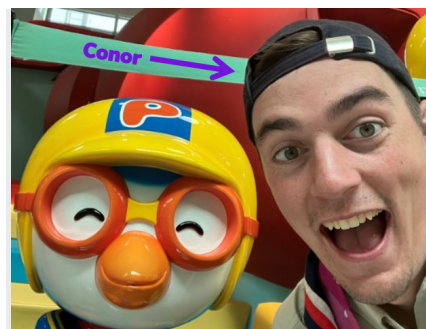
Expiry date: Must be after 25th November 2025

Must have not been in Schengen region for more than 90 days in the 180 days at time of arrival in France.

Please also check it is not damaged in any way. Now is the time to order a new passport if yours doesn't meet the above criteria.

Valid Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) if still valid. GHIC cards can be obtained via the NHS website, they last 5 years and are completely free. If you already have one and it is due to expire in August, you can request a new one now. Find out more about GHIC cards [here](#).

Travel insurance - we have taken out a group policy to cover everyone during travel and all activities. Please take time to review [here](#) as there are some exemptions - if these apply to you additional cover may be required - we are happy to answer questions and support with this.



### Conor Chippendale Programme

Conor Chippendale is no stranger to adventure! As a Cub section leader with 1st Woolhampton and the Youth Lead for Berkshire Scouts, he likes to be in the thick of the action, inspiring the next generation of adventurers. Alps25 marks his fifth international expedition (because once you start, you just can't stop!), and he's fresh off the back of leading a Unit at the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in South Korea and being part of the core team for Malawi 2024 — both experiences that only strengthened his love for adventure, resilience, and questionable dancing.

When he's not busy planning epic expeditions, Conor loves a good walk—whether it's up a mountain, through a forest, or just to the nearest café for a well-earned slice of cake. With his passion for Scouting and knack for keeping spirits high, he's the perfect person to lead the programme charge on Alps25!

## Network

We all need to catch up to discuss travel and training a poll is shared in WhatsApp please respond and do your best to attend in person - or online.