

# FACTSHEET



## How to join SSAGO

FS: 07

### Introduction

This factsheet aims to explain how to join SSAGO, whether it's through an existing club, as an independent member or through starting up a new club.

### Who can join?

Anyone who is at an Institute of Higher Education (university or college) can join SSAGO. You do not need to have ever been a member of The Scout Association or Girlguiding UK to join and do not need to join them to be a member of SSAGO.

### Locating and joining an existing club

The SSAGO executive committee endeavours to keep the 'club directory' found on the SSAGO website up to date. If you are going to or at a university listed on this directory it is hoped that you would find the club at freshers' fayre. If this is not the case then there are a few ways to find the club, try emailing club\_(name of university)@ssago.org.uk (eg club\_swansea@ssago.org.uk) as this should get through to the club. Also, try looking and asking within your Students' Union. The SSAGO national executive will also do their best to put you in touch with your nearest club (there may be one in your town but not specifically at your university/college). The Members' Officer can provide the most up to date contact information and help to locate clubs (members@ssago.org.uk).

Once you are in touch with your local club if you wish to join you will be required to pay a membership fee, (part or all of this will come to SSAGO to provide insurance) plus complete a Criminal Records Check (CRB/DS/AccessNI), see 'Child Protection' Factsheet for more information about this.

Once paid your club committee is responsible for putting you onto their list of members and paying the appropriate fee to SSAGO. The SSAGO Members' Officer can confirm if you are listed as a member. Clubs should fill out the SSAGO membership form found in the resources section of the SSAGO website and send it to the Members' Officer with appropriate membership fees to ensure their members appear in the SSAGO members database.

Those wishing to continue to be a member of SSAGO each year have to pay membership annually to the organisation, usually through club membership.

### Joining as an Independent Member

Those wishing to join SSAGO as an Independent Member, where no club exists in their town or they do not wish to join that club, should contact the SSAGO Members' Officer (members@ssago.org.uk). They should fill out a membership form found in the resources section of the website and send this, along with their membership fee to the Members' Officer.

The SSAGO executive committee will provide help to Independent Members

in order that they can complete the necessary CRB/DS/AccessNI check to enable SSAGO membership.

### **Joining as an Associate Member**

Those wishing to join SSAGO as an Associate Member need to appear on a club membership form, found in the resources section of the SSAGO website. Anyone wishing to join as an associate member must have a valid reason to join (such as staffing a national event) which should be noted on the membership form. Associate members are responsible for paying the appropriate membership fee to the club they are associating themselves with. The club is responsible for ensuring they have the necessary CRB/DS/AccessNI check completed for SSAGO.

Associate membership is granted at the discretion of the National Executive. If a good reason is not provided as to why someone would like associate membership, or a club lists an excessive number of associate members membership may be denied.

### **Starting a new club**

Full details about starting a new club can be found in the 'Starting a New Club' factsheet. The best place to start is to email the SSAGO Members' Officer who should be able to provide the necessary SSAGO information. Once up and running at your university/college it is a requirement that SSAGO receives a membership form from the club detailing all members. This form can be found in the resources section of the SSAGO website. For the first year of membership, fees are not required to be paid to SSAGO. Clubs will have to carry out the necessary CRB/DS/AccessNI checks on all members as detailed in the 'Child Protection' factsheet.