

Working with local Scout and Guide Groups

Introduction

This factsheet is intended to help those who wish to volunteer with Scout and Guide groups whilst at university/college and a member of SSAGO.

Finding somewhere to volunteer

Many SSAGO members volunteer weekly with local Scout and Guide groups whilst at university. Most clubs have a dedicated member of their executive that will help members to find the right group, on the right day and in the right location. If this is not the case the executive should be able to find a contact for the local County/Area Commissioners who will welcome any willing volunteer.

Things to remember when volunteering

- Even though you are a member of SSAGO you still need to pay capitation/census to The Scout Association or Girlguiding UK to be insured as a member whilst volunteering.
- You **must** have a DBS check for your volunteering. A check provided through SSAGO is acceptable to The Scout Association but does not cover Girlguiding UK members in their volunteering roles.
- There are many options for volunteering, some of which do not require a promise to be made, such as becoming a Unit Helper rather than a Guider for Girlguiding UK.
- Your studies are still important! Ensure that your leaders know when you have exams and deadlines so as they don't pressurise you too much at these times; they will understand!
- You may only be at university for three years but this can mean a lot to any group. Your enthusiasm and ideas will benefit a number of young people and you'll learn and gain a great deal in that time as well.

Non weekly volunteering

If you don't have time to volunteer every week then don't worry. You will still have the opportunity to help with county fun days and events and participate in activity training if you wish. There may also be the chance to join activity teams if you have a qualification or interest in a specific activity (such a walking or water sports).