



## INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSES



Course	Closing Date	Caving Weekend
<u>JUN 2018</u>	Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> June to Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> July
<u>OCT 2018</u>	Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> October
<u>NOV 2018 (Overflow)</u>	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> to Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> November

All Courses are available on all weekends and cost **£85** per head, which covers the following:

- Transport to and from the Mendip Hills in Somerset;
- Accommodation at a Scout Headquarters in Somerset;
- All food for the weekend;
- Hire of all Caving Equipment (except personal clothing);
- Cave access fees;
- A Badge and Certificate for those who complete the course.

A non-returnable deposit of **£50** should be sent with the completed application form before the closing date to secure your place. The balance of the course fee must also be received on or before the closing date. If you prefer, the full cost can be paid when booking. **Alternatively payment can now be made electronically for both the deposit and balance.** Please indicate your preference on the form and you will receive emails when payments are due.

Confirmation of your booking will be sent by email, as will joining instructions, and payment requests. **It is therefore vital that the email address supplied on the form is correct and regularly checked.**

Cheques should be made payable to:  
**'Essex County Scout Caving Team'**

Further copies of this form can be obtained by photocopying or downloading from the Team web site at [www.ecsct.org](http://www.ecsct.org)

All Application Forms and deposits should be returned to the Course Co-ordinator:

Mr. Paul Wise,  
Essex County Scout Caving Team,  
Willow Bank, Newbury Road,  
Lambourn, Hungerford,  
Berkshire. RG17 7LN  
Tel. 01488 670388

Details of what you need to bring will be sent out by email after the closing date, along with some safety information. Additional safety training will be given on the weekend prior to going underground.

The Instructor Badges will only be available if there are candidates doing the badge that they wish to Instruct for, and will only be available to invited candidates. The Scout Caver Instructor Course costs **£60** and all subsequent courses attended reduce in cost by **£10** each time to encourage people to attend.

**The phone numbers provided on the Application Form should where possible be Mobile Numbers. Also it is helpful to have numbers for both the candidate and their parents, in case we need to contact you on the Friday evening while on your way to the meeting point.**



You can contact the Team by E-mail at [caving@essexscouts.org.uk](mailto:caving@essexscouts.org.uk) or our website at [www.ecsct.org](http://www.ecsct.org).



Hearing or Speech impaired people can contact the Secretary, Paul Wise, by Fax or Minicom on **01488 670388**.

## General Description

All Courses provided by the Team are based around a caving weekend in the Mendip Hills in Somerset. They are run in accordance with the Scout Association Authorisation Scheme for Adventurous Activities.

Travel is by minibus on the Friday evening to the attractive village of Wrington on the edge of the Mendip Hills. Accommodation for the weekend is in the Wrington Scout and Guide Headquarters, a converted chapel with a well-equipped kitchen and dining room, modern toilets and washing facilities and a hot shower. Candidates are given a cooked breakfast on both days, packed lunches whilst caving, and a cooked dinner Saturday evening.

Caving on the Saturday is in three or four different caves located in Burrington Combe, all of which are 'dry' caves. On the Saturday evening, there is a short exercise covering the theory part of the Badge with questions relating to the topics covered before or during the caving on the Saturday

Caving on the Sunday is in an active 'wet' cave system near the village of Priddy.

Presentation of badges and certificates takes place prior to departure on the Sunday afternoon.

Sleeping arrangements for the weekend are in two halls, adults on one and under 18's in the other. Male and female under 18's will sleep on opposite sides of the hall.

## Outline of Individual Courses

### ***Scout Caver Badge***

For Scouts aged 12 and over, or who have had previous caving experience. Scouts approaching their 12th birthday may be able to attend after discussion with the Course Leader. There is a lot of activity to fill all the Badge requirements in one weekend and we find that younger or less mature candidates get tired very quickly and don't enjoy it.

Caving on the Saturday involves some abseiling, a short ladder pitch and some short climbs with hand lines. Caving on the Sunday includes some short climbs with hand lines and following a live streamway.

### ***Explorer Scout Caving Badge***

For those who already hold the Scout Caver Badge. They do NOT need to be of Explorer Scout age.

Caving on the Saturday involves some short climbs with hand lines. Caving on the Sunday includes some short climbs with hand lines, a 20-foot ladder pitch, following a live streamway and the option of going through a short sump.

### ***Instructor Badges (by invitation only)***

Candidates are expected to help out with the training during the weekend. They will also receive guidance on the underground instruction that they will be giving on the weekend away, and will be set a topic on which they are expected to present a supplementary training session on the Saturday night of the caving weekend. It may be possible to use this course as part of the D of E Award Scheme.

During the weekend away they will be expected to...

- Assist with the preparation, distribution and collection of Team equipment;
- Demonstrate an ability to instruct candidates whilst underground;
- Supervise the tests and exercises on the Saturday evening;
- Present their supplementary training module on the Saturday Evening.

### ***Scout Caver Instructor Badge***

For selected Scouts who already hold the Explorer Scout Caving Badge. Candidates undertaking the Explorer Scout Caving Badge are assessed to ascertain if they have the necessary potential for the Scout Caver Instructor Badge, and if so invited back.

### ***Explorer Scout Caving Instructor Badge***

For selected Scouts who already hold the Scout Caver Instructor Badge. Candidates undertaking the Scout Caver Instructor Badge are assessed to ascertain if they have the potential necessary for the Explorer Scout Caving Instructor Badge and if so invited back.

During the weekend away they will be expected to Supervise under the scrutiny of the party leader, the use of the 20-foot ladder pitch on the Sunday.

### ***Scout Network Courses***

Scout Network and adult members of the Movement that would like to try caving are welcome to attend the Badge Courses so long as they have a current DBS clearance. There is no fixed plan for these courses, but if they have not done any caving before, the format will closely follow the plan for the Scout Caver Badge. If there is insufficient space on Badge Courses and there are enough people interested, then a course for that purpose can be arranged.

Depending on the number of instructors available, and the number of people on the weekend, Scout Network / Leaders may join an existing Scout Caver Badge party, or may form a party of their own.

Members of the Scout Network and Leaders with suitable previous experience may join an Explorer Scout Caving Badge party and may be invited back for Instructor training.

### ***Assistant Instructor Scheme***

Instructor Badge holders are eligible to become Team Members and are encouraged to assist with a variety of Team activities.

Scout Caver Instructor Badge holders may act as an assistant Instructor on two Scout Caver Badge courses before they are required to gain the Explorer Scout Caving Instructor Badge. To encourage them to do so the cost of each successive trip is reduced.

Explorer Scout Caving Instructor Badge holders may act as an Assistant Instructor on any number of courses for Scouts / Explorer Scouts. To encourage them to do so the cost of each successive trip is reduced.

It is the Team's policy to provide additional training and experience to Explorer Scout Caving Instructor Badge holders to enable them to progress to obtain a Caving Permit as part of the Assistant Instructor Scheme.

## SAFETY POLICY

The Essex County Scout Caving Team exists to provide good quality caving for members of the Scout Association, which is both fun and educational, but above all, caving that is safe.

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It is the Team's policy only to take members of the Scout Association caving after they have received appropriate training above ground. Such training to be provided in written form sufficiently in advance to allow people to purchase any clothing required and additional Training is given before going underground.

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The Team undertakes to ensure that every person it takes underground is properly clothed and that safety helmets are worn at all times. The Team provides safety helmets for this purpose.

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The Team provides purpose made electrically operated helmet lamps with appropriate batteries for every person it takes underground. It is the Team's policy that every party going underground carries with it at least one spare headset and one spare set of batteries.

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Every party going underground carries a suitable first aid kit and at least one survival bag and one survival blanket. Emergency food is carried when appropriate.

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It is the Team's policy only to use equipment suitable for its purpose and to properly maintain and regularly check such equipment for damage or wear. All ropes are marked with their length at both ends, so it is apparent if a rope has been shortened. Any rope showing unacceptable signs of wear, deterioration or damage is immediately destroyed to prevent its accidental use.

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The Team provides instructors on the basis that every party it takes underground will be supervised by a suitably experienced and properly trained instructor holding a current Scout Association Caving Permit appropriate to the grade of cave being entered in accordance with the Rules of the Scout Association. In addition to the party Leader a suitably experienced Assistant Instructor will also accompany every party.

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It is the Team's policy that if any member of a party underground shows signs of hypothermia, fatigue, illness, distress or injury, the entire party will be evacuated from the cave at the earliest opportunity.

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It is the Team's policy that every party Leader must be familiar with the particular cave systems into which he or she proposes to take groups of novices.

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It is the Team's policy to limit the size of parties going underground to a maximum of 8 people including the Leader and Assistant Instructor. Smaller parties may be required for some trips.

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Before entering a cave system liable to flooding in wet weather, the party Leader will obtain an up to date weather forecast for the area and must be satisfied that conditions are suitable to enter the cave.

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No party members will be permitted to negotiate a ladder pitch or an exposed rock climb without a safety line.

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It is the Team's policy that Course Leaders for its various courses are drawn from its most experienced cavers and leaders. A Course Leader's decision as to whether conditions on the day are unsuitable for caving, or whether individuals are insufficiently fit to cave on the day, is final for both Course members and Team members.

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Caving from Essex involves travelling considerable distances. It is the Team's policy only to use minibuses with forward facing seats and with all seats fitted with safety belts. All minibus doors, including any rear doors, must be unobstructed to facilitate egress in the event of an emergency. Where necessary, the Team provides a separate vehicle for the transportation of equipment, catering supplies and personal luggage. Journeys will be broken at intervals of approximately 100 miles or 2 hours, whichever is the sooner, in order for the driver to take a rest.

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Where the Team agrees to provide instructors for a single day's caving involving travel from and back to Essex on the same day, it is the Team's policy that such instructors do not drive and that those persons who do drive, cannot take part in the caving activity. This is to avoid safety being compromised either underground or on the road.

## APPLICATION FORM

Your Details			
<b>PLEASE ENSURE ALL ENTRIES ARE LEGIBLE! PLEASE USE BLACK INK AND BLOCK CAPITALS.</b>			
Name			
Address			
Post Code			
Phone (Mobile)			
Email			
Date of Birth		Sex	M / F
Next of Kin Details (Parent/Guardian)			
Relationship			
Name			
Address			
Post Code			
Phone (Mobile)			
Email			
Your Scout Group Details			
Scout Group			
District			
Leader's Name			
Leader's Phone			
Leader's Email			
Signature of Section Leader			
<b>If possible please copy details on OSM to: "Essex County Scout Caving Team: ECSCT"</b>			
<b>District Commissioner if outside Essex</b>			
Name			
Phone			
Email			
Your Choice of Course			
Course Level:			
C1 = Scout Caver Badge;			
C2 = Explorer Scout Caving Badge;			
C1I = Scout Caver Instructor Badge;			
C2I = Explorer Scout Instructor Badge;			
NL = Scout Network / Leader;			
Preferred Dates			
Alternative Dates (if preferred dates full)			

Consent Form (for Parent / Guardian)		
Health Allergies Medication		
Dietary requirements		
Date of last Tetanus Immunisation		
<p>I give my permission for my child to undertake the Caving Course. In so doing I authorise the course leader or any other adult member of the ESSEX COUNTY SCOUT CAVING TEAM acting on their behalf, to sign on my behalf any written form of consent required by medical or other authorities, if the delay to obtain my own signature is considered inadvisable by the authorities concerned.</p> <p>I will inform the course leader if my child has been in contact with any infectious disease within three weeks of the course, or if any medicine, treatment or special diet has to be followed during the course. I will hand any pills or medicines, clearly labelled with name and dose to the course leader or their representative prior to departure.</p> <p>I have no objection to my child's training and progress and other personal data being held on computer to produce mail for this and future courses.</p> <p>On occasions, Team members may take photographs during caving trip for use by the Team in Publicity or Training either in paper form or on the Team web site. Names will not be used in Publicity material. If you have any objection to any photographs that may contain your child being used in this way please let us know before the course.</p>		
Signature of Applicant		
Signature of Parent/Guardian		
Deposit £50	Cheque Enclosed	Pay Electronic
Balance £35	Will send Cheque	Pay Electronic
Date		WEB