

## **Pioneer Scouts Report – Year 2022-23**

Pioneers have had an action-packed year! We have welcomed 3 new leaders in Amy, Andy and Beth. We have also welcomed Izzy and Ted as our young leaders, they are a great asset to the team. We have invested 10 new scouts this year to join the Pioneer adventures.

April and May saw us preparing for May camp as well as completing our general knowledge badge. Plenty of gadget building, tent pitching, cooking and washing up practice. We also had 3 scouts complete their expedition challenge badge which was the final step towards earning their chief scout's gold award. Such an amazing achievement as a huge chunk of their scouting was over the covid period. We also had St Georges day which was a great day and we also invested Amy as a leader.

May camp was at Birchmere and was the first camp for many scouts. We had a great time with a great hike, laser tag and shooting to name a few activities. There were plenty of fun times around the campfire and we sharpened up our knife skills with some whittling. A rainy day didn't dampen our spirits with some craft activities and impromptu dance party in the marquee! We were treated to some wonderful skits by the scouts too.

June and July had a pool party at the wave, a beach barbeque, and a bike ride around Angmering Park. We also had a joint sunset hike with the 2nd Rustington guides on a very hot but beautiful evening. Bivvi night gave the scouts a great experience building their own shelters in the trees at Dappers lane and sleeping out under the stars and we rounded off the term with a sandcastle competition on the beach.

September started with some royal reflection following the passing of Her Majesty the Queen and the gold award team treated us to their presentation. We tested our senses with some one-handed sandwich skills and a blindfolded obstacle course. We also made our own scout news channel with the patrols choosing a local news story to report on. September also saw us off on our travels again when we visited Wilverly for a weekend camp. We made our own tie dye t shirts, tested out some home-made water rockets and had a great time out on canoes on the river Beaulieu.

October was a lesson in all things Jamboree with Gary heading off to Korea in 2023. The scouts learnt all about what happens on a jamboree along with creating their own version of a Korean board game. We had a taskmaster evening and a fabulous fancy dress Halloween party.

November's programme had a night hike and sleepover with some lovely starry sky's when we then headed back to the hall for movies and hot dogs in our sleeping bags. It was also great to see so many scouts in very smart full uniform for remembrance Sunday. We also had a quiz night and began our preparation for the scouts Nativity!

December was a great quirky camp at Flip out, which was years in the making, as Covid had scuppered our plans for a few years! The scouts all had a great time. Our last evening of this term was the long-awaited Scout nativity 'Scouts on a hike'. We went over to the church hall and invited parents and families to watch their performance.

January was a very creative month working towards our artists badge and a cooking evening with the scouts making a fridge cake and some painting of their plant pots. We even had a visit from the wonderful splat and chat with our very own starry night camp scene. We created patrol boards, and everyone made a paracord nametag.

February was all about first aid with a few weeks learning some skills which were then put into practice when the scout hall was turned into a disaster zone! The scouts used their newfound skills to treat the casualties they discovered inside.

Thank you Pioneers for a wonderful year!