



INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSES



Course	Closing Date	Training Day	Caving Weekend
<u>JUN 2010</u>	Fri 4 th June	Sun 13 th June	Fri 25 th to Sun 27 th June
<u>OCT 2010</u>	Fri 17 th September	Sun 26 th September	Fri 8 th to Sun 10 th October
<u>NOV 2010</u> (Overflow Only)	Fri 22 nd October	Sun 31 st October	Fri 12 th to Sun 14 th November

All Courses are available on both weekends and cost **£75** 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 required (except personal clothing);
- Cave access fees;
- The local Training Session and printed notes;
- A Badge and Certificate for those who complete the course.

A non-returnable deposit of **£45** should be sent with the completed application form to secure your place. You will not receive confirmation of your booking until around a week before the Training Day, if you require a receipt before then, we require an Email address or a stamped addressed envelope, which should be enclosed with your application.

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**

All Applications and deposits must be received prior to the closing date. The balance of the course fee must be received on or before the training day.

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

Mr. Chris Harley,
Essex County Scout Caving Team,
27 Grosvenor Gardens,
Queens Park, Billericay,
Essex. CM12 0UF
Tel. 01277 625102

The Training Day is a compulsory part of the course. For safety reasons, we can not take you on the Caving weekend, if you have not attended the Training Day. Details of the Training Day will be sent out a week or so in advance. **If you book a place and do not attend the training day, you will loose your deposit.**

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 Caver Stage 1 / Scout Caver Instructor Course costs **£50** and all subsequent courses attended reduce in cost by **£10** each time to encourage people to attend.



You can contact the Team by E-mail at caving@essexscouts.org.uk or our website at www.ecsct.org.



Hearing or Speech impaired people can contact the Secretary, Paul Wise, by Minicom on **01702 558015**.

General Description

The Caving Badge Courses provided by the Team consist of two parts, firstly a compulsory training day in Essex, and secondly, a caving weekend in the Mendip Hills in Somerset. The Badge Courses are run in accordance with the Scout Association Authorisation Scheme for Adventurous Activities.

The compulsory training in Essex is normally held on a Sunday two to three weeks prior to the caving weekend. The training for the Scout Caver Badge Course is half a day in duration whilst that for all other badge courses is a whole day.

For the caving weekend, 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 written test and an exercise covering the theory part of the Badge with questions relating to the topics covered on the training day.

Caving on the Sunday is in an active 'wet' cave system near the village of Priddy, returning to the hall during the afternoon to sort out and pack the kit.

Presentation of badges and certificates takes place prior to departure late on the Sunday afternoon. Return to Essex by minibus is on the Sunday evening.

Outline of Individual Courses

Scout Caver Badge

The Scout Caver Badge Course is for Scouts aged 12 and over. Scouts approaching their 12th birthday may apply to go on the Course providing they will reach the age of 12 by the date of the caving weekend.

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

The Explorer Scout Caving Badge Course is for those who already hold the Scout Caver Badge.

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.

Scout Caver Instructor Badge

The Course for the Scout Caver Instructor Badge is 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. Only those assessed as suitable are invited to undertake the Scout Caver Instructor Badge. It may be possible to use this course as part of the D of E Award Scheme.

Candidates are expected to help out on the training day and assist in the presentation of the training modules. 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.

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

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

Explorer Scout Caving Instructor Badge

The Explorer Scout Caving Instructor Badge Course is 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. Only those assessed as suitable are invited to undertake the Explorer Scout Caving Instructor Badge. It may be possible to use this course as part of the D of E Award Scheme.

Candidates are expected to help out on the training day and present one of the training modules. 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. This will be related to the rigging and use of ladder pitches.

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

- Assist with the preparation, distribution and collection of Team equipment;
- Demonstrate an ability to instruct Caver - Stage Two Badge candidates or those taking the caving option under the Explorer Scout Mountain Activities Badge whilst underground;
- Supervise the Caver - Stage Two Badge / Explorer Scout tests and exercises;
- Present their supplementary training module on the Saturday Evening;
- 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. 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 Explorer Scout Caving 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 Explorer Scout Caving Badge party, or may form a party of their own. All courses for members of the Scout Network and adult members of the Movement will be run in accordance with the Scout Association Authorisation Scheme for Adventurous Activities. The Team does not use the provisions in POR for 'adult only' groups even if no one under the age of 18 is involved.

Members of the Scout Network and Leaders with suitable previous experience may act as Assistant Instructors on the courses, and may be invited to join the Team and come on Team trips to other caving areas. At least one such trip is run each year.

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 an Adventurous Activity Permit for Caving 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.

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 sufficiently in advance to allow people to purchase any clothing required. Training days for Badge Courses are provided in Essex for this purpose. It is also the Team's policy to welcome parents who would like to attend the training day with their children.

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.

The Team provides purpose made dual bulb electrically operated hat-lamps with rechargeable battery packs 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 fully charged spare battery pack.

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.

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.

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 / Form Cave appropriate to the grade of cave being entered or by a suitably experienced and properly trained person duly authorised by a Form Cave holder 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.

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.

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.

It is the Team's policy to limit the size of parties going underground to a maximum of 7 people including the Leader and Assistant Instructor.

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.

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

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.

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.

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			
Your details will be held on computer for use only by the ESSEX COUNTY SCOUT CAVING TEAM to produce mail for this and future courses.			
Name			
Address			
Post Code			
Telephone			
Email Address			
Date of Birth		Sex	M / F
Group			
District			
Your Section Leader's Details			
Name			
Address			
Post Code			
Telephone			
Signature of Section Leader			
District Commissioner if outside Essex			
Name			
Address			
Post Code			
Telephone			
Your Choice of Course			
Course Level:			
CB = Scout Caver Badge;			
C2 = Caver Stage 2/Explorer Scout;			
CI = Caver Instructor Badge;			
C2I = Caver Stage 2 Instructor Badge;			
NL = Scout Network / Leader;			
AI = Assistant Instructor;			
Preferred Dates			
Alternative Dates if preferred dates full			
Signature of Applicant			

Consent Form (for Parent / Guardian)		
Any known Allergies or Sensitivities? (e.g. Penicillin) and remedies.		
Disabilities? (Claustrophobia, Travel Sickness, Asthma, etc.) and remedies.		
Any special diet to be followed during the trip?		
Vegetarian? Yes or No (If yes, does he / she eat dairy products, fish or eggs?)		
Tetanus Immunisation in the last three years? Yes or No		
<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 required 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.</p> <p>On occasions, Team members may take photographs during caving activities for use by the Team in Publicity or Training material 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>		
Will you be attending the Training Day with your son / daughter?		
Signature of Parent Guardian		
Date		WEB

**PLEASE ENSURE ALL ENTRIES ARE LEGIBLE!
BLACK INK AND BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE**