



# Easter Hillcraft 2020

Gravesham District

8th to 13th April 2020

## Hillcraft Course

**Wednesday 8th April 2020 to Monday 13th April 2020**

The District Easter Hillcraft Course is open to all Scouts (who are in year 8 or above at the time of the event), all Explorer Scouts, Scout Network members and Leaders from all sections. This annual activity, run by experienced and qualified Leaders, begins with Gravesham Winter Camp & ends with a challenging 5 night camp in the Lake District in April.

The course is based at Rydal Hall (OS Map Ref: NY 365 063). This attractive campsite is in the heart of the Lake District, close to Rydal Water, and approximately 2 km northwest of Ambleside which is at the head of Lake Windermere. The site has its own tea room and there are many shops in nearby Ambleside. Participants must be self-sufficient for the duration of the camp, providing all equipment (see list overleaf) and food and cook for themselves. Throughout the stay a series of challenging walks in the hills are undertaken. Many peaks of over 600m and some of over 900m are included, with more experienced parties having the chance to camp out overnight en-route. Walkers are organised into parties (which will be organised at Winter Camp) and each party will have a Party Leader responsible for their walking and safety in the hills.

Transport will be by mini-bus or vehicle sharing, final travel plans are made following the precourse meeting at Winter Camp.

**Departure will be early (around 4am) on the 8th April from Hope Hill Campsite enabling the young people to do their food shopping and an acclimatisation walk on the afternoon of arrival. The option to stay over at Hopehill on Tuesday 7th April is available, details will be available at Winter Camp.**

## Winter Camp + Training

**Friday 31st January to Sunday 2nd February 2020**

Training starts with this challenging 2 night camp. We meet on Friday at 8pm (you can arrive from 6pm to put up your tent). Tuition is given in First Aid, campcraft, cooking, emergency procedures, navigation, equipment, etc. You could use this camp to try out the equipment you intend to use in the Lakes as Kent in early February can be a little like Cumbria in April! Attendance at Winter Camp is compulsory for all Scouts and all other first-timers who are intending to come to Hillcraft. Information and booking for this will be issued by Darren Stanford (ADC Scouts).

## Pre-Course Meeting

**Sunday 2nd February 2020**

Everyone attending Hillcraft should meet at Hopehill at 09.20 (Finish 12.45) for the Pre-Course Meeting. Candidates meet their Party Leaders and arrange further training. Applicants should wear uniform and bring along a notebook and pencil, compass and AA Walkers Map 2 (Central Lake District) or Outdoor Leisure Maps 4, 5, 6 & 7 if available. Parents are welcome to attend the sessions from 10:40am..

Starting at 10.40 until 11.40 there will be a presentation on the range of equipment suitable for lightweight camping and hill walking in the Lake District. This presentation is for everyone attending Hillcraft and candidates' parents are also welcome, especially those of first timers. We do have some spare second hand kit that first timers are able to borrow, please speak to one of the leaders at the end of the morning. The equipment talk takes place in the Barnes Wing.

Following on from the Equipment Presentation there will be a short briefing for parents, mainly for the parents of first time Scouts and Explorer Scouts, but all parents are welcome. This will be starting at 11.40am, straight after the equipment presentation. This takes place in the Lion's Wing. During this time the participants will be looking at routes with their party leaders.

## Shakedown Hike

**Arranged by Party Leaders**

Party Leaders will arrange separate training sessions with the members of their walking parties, to include an all day or overnight hike, probably locally in the North Downs or possibly further afield, to check equipment, and develop navigational and hiking skills. Participants will get contact information for their party leader at Winter Camp.

## Course Fee

Course fee is **£95** and includes all camp fees and travel to/from and during the event. There is a separate fee payable for Winter Camp.

Payment should be made by bank transfer by Thursday 30th January 2020.

Bank transfers to Gravesham Scouts 08-92-99 65638514 quoting HC-(Surname) as a reference.

Email [treasurer@graveshamscouts.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@graveshamscouts.org.uk) when payment made.

If paying via Explorer Standing Order or you need to discuss other means of payment, please email **Sue Livett** at [treasurer@graveshamscouts.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@graveshamscouts.org.uk) before 30th January 2020.

Any surplus or deficit will be paid to or taken from General funds.

## Application forms

You can book a place on this exciting adventurous event by completing an online booking form by following this link and completing the online form by 30th January 2020.

[Graveshamscouts.org.uk/hillcraft](http://Graveshamscouts.org.uk/hillcraft)

## Site Administration at Rydal Hall

Uniform must be worn to and from the Lake District. During the camp candidates and Party Leaders must inform Base Camp Staff of their movements and plans at all times (both on the fells and in town etc). Party Leaders are responsible for young people in their party. Appropriate behaviour is required at all times; everybody should remember that they are representing the Scouts, whether in uniform or not. Rubbish should be disposed of in the refuse/recycling bins on site. Everyone needs to be self-supporting, using lightweight equipment for the duration of the course and should arrive with sufficient stores for at least the first 24 hours.

## Hillcraft Kit List - this should be considered as the minimum expectation.

### ***personal kit (in a waterproof holdall - max size 100 litre)***

2 pairs walking trousers	4 base layers	underwear (5 sets)	2 mid layers
hiking socks (3 pairs)	Nikwax	spare gloves	shoes for base camp
sleeping mat	sleeping bag	sleeping bag liner (optional)	bag for dirty washing
lightweight stove, fuel, pots	food for 24 hours	cutlery, mug & dishes	washing up kit
wash / shower kit	towel	trousers/jumper for base	sleepwear
tent (shared as required)	bags for rubbish	torch & spare batteries	personal medication
notepad & pencil	other maps - OL4,5,6 - party leaders will advise what maps are required at the briefing meeting		

### ***walking kit (in a rucksack 35 litre minimum or 50 litre minimum if doing overnight expedition)***

rucksack liner	waterproof coat	waterproof trousers	spare fleece jumper
gloves	hats (warm & sun)	suncream	gaiters (optional)
first aid kit	emergency rations	survival bag	whistle
map OL7 / AA2 in mapcase	compass (silva type)	headlamp & spare battery	pencil

drink bottle (2 litre)	thermos flask		
hiking boots & socks (to put on)	camera (optional)	<i>overnight camping kit (if doing overnight expedition)</i>	

### ***travelling kit (in small bag for on bus or being worn)***

uniform shirt & scarf	walking trousers	packed lunch in box	trainers
money (for food & spending)	jacket/jumper		

Mountain walks vary enormously and you and your party leader will decide exactly what you need to carry on the day of the walk. Parties camping out overnight en-route will require extra kit as advised by their Party Leader.

## Food

Training at Winter Camp will cover the types of food needed for Hillcraft, but 4000 calories per day is needed due to the amount of energy used at this event. This is double the normal energy intake. Some ideas are shown below:

**breakfast ideas** = all day breakfast tin, sausage/bacon/egg rolls, chocolate brioche, scotch pancakes, croissants, porridge with dried fruit & honey, all plus a hot drink

**lunch & snacks while walking** = pitta bread, wraps or rolls with spreads (peanut butter, chocolate spread, jam, marmite, squeezey cheese); smoked long life sausage; packet tuna packs; cake bars, dried fruit & nuts, chocolate bars, malt loaf, fruit, biscuits

**dinner ideas** = pasta'n'sauce; smash & sausages (fresh or tinned), tinned curry & microwave rice, tinned potatoes, couscous or noodles with long life sausage / sauces / tinned meat plus cake & custard; pots / tins rice pudding, steamed sponge puddings

## Getting Equipped

Good quality equipment will be required, as conditions in the Lake District can be the toughest that can be met in the UK. Birthdays and Christmas present a good opportunity to get some robust basic equipment. Most Scout Groups will be able to supply adequate tents and stoves etc, so priority should be given to obtaining personal equipment such as boots, waterproofs and rucksacks. Outdoor equipment shops such as Cotswold, Go-Outdoors & Blacks offer discounts and reductions for Scouts. Ask Party Leaders for expert advice on what equipment to buy.

## Further Information

If you require any further information email the leadership team at [hillcraft@graveshamscouts.org.uk](mailto:hillcraft@graveshamscouts.org.uk)

[Dave Norris - Easter Hillcraft Lead](#)

[Kev Missions - Easter Hillcraft Lead](#)

[Pat Duncumb - Easter Hillcraft Admin](#)