

16th March 2020



Dear Somerset Scouting Colleagues,

THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION'S CURRENT RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

You will have received the formal announcement from HQ, following this evening's government briefing. We now have a clear directive to suspend all face-to-face Scouting, which includes meetings, activities, camps, expeditions and events. This applies to adults and young people with immediate effect and until further notice. There are no exceptions.

We are very aware that this will be a huge blow to 4314 young people in Somerset, as well as to our dedicated adult volunteers. There will be significant disappointments, as events and activities that have been planned and anticipated for many months will now have to be cancelled or postponed. We currently live in unprecedented and challenging times and can only hope that by diligently following official advice and direction, that we will minimise the impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) for those in our communities who are most at risk.

As the global and national situation develops, Somerset County Scouts Management Team (your County and District Commissioners) will continue to follow official guidance from the government and the Scout Association. The most important consideration for us is the safety and well-being of all our members (young people and adults).

Whilst our youth members are unable to attend their regular section meetings, we know that you will be keen to encourage them to continue Scouting at home. To support this, the County and District teams are now working together to produce a new resource for volunteers. Every week, new programme activities (suitable for use by individual young people at home) for each section will be published on the County website

www.somersetscouts.org.uk

During this difficult time, please address all queries and concerns to your relevant District Commissioner.

Dawn Wilson	dc-mc@somersetscouts.org.uk
Pam Gaines	dc.blackdown@gmail.com
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Paul Bentley	dc-east@somersetscouts.org.uk

Your dedication and hard work with and for young people in Somerset Scouting is much appreciated.

My best wishes to you all. Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Henderson".

Elizabeth Henderson
County Commissioner
Somerset
cc@somersetscouts.org.uk
www.somersetscouts.org.uk