

Parent Helper FAQ

What is a Parent Helper and why do you have them?

All adults in Scouts are volunteers. Sometimes it's not possible to get enough volunteers to undergo the training etc required to become a Leader. In these situations we are able to ask Parents to come and make up the numbers and help by supervising young people and helping with the activities. You do not become a full member of the Scout Association.

We would normally try to ensure that you don't actually spend too much time with your own child since the aim of Scouting is to promote independence. We would therefore ask that you engage with your own child as little as possible and certainly leave any discipline matters to the leaders; even if your own child is involved.

What skills/knowledge do I need?

The main skill is that of a parent... an ability to keep young people safe and encourage their involvement in the activities.

What training do I need?

You don't need any training. Your role is to help supervise and ensure the safety of the young people. The Section Leader and his/her team will support you during the evening.

Will I need a Disclosure Check?

If your helping out less than once a month and you will not have unsupervised access to young people then you **do not** need a disclosure (DBS) check. This is normally the case for Parent Helpers.

How big is the commitment?

It all depends on how much help the Section Leader needs. And that depends on the activities being arranged and how many adults have stepped up to a more permanent role like Section Assistant. Discuss with your Section Leader, but a rota would normally mean you attend a meeting night once or maybe twice a year.

Is it compulsory? What if I don't want to help?

All adults in Scouting are volunteers and we can only provide the amazing program of activities for your young person thanks to these volunteers. If the Section Leader has set up a Parent Helper rota it is usually because no body will step forward to help on a more permanent basis. We would therefore need you to discuss with the Section Leader and/or Group Scout Leader why you don't feel that you can help.

What if I have to drop out at the last minute?

Firstly, please contact your Section Leader immediately. We can usually work things out. But it may be that the activities planned require a minimum young person to adult ratio so the Section Leader may ask you to either reconsider or help find an alternative adult to attend in your place.