

# Squirrels



Squirrels in a  
nutshell: a guide  
for parents and  
carers



Scouts

# Squirrels: the newest branch of the Scouts family tree

Welcome to Squirrel Scouts, a place for 4 and 5 year olds to learn new skills and join the fun for the very first time.

Squirrels meet in groups called Dreys. Each Drey is part of a Scout group with Beaver Colonies, Cub Packs, and Scout Troops, which means there's plenty of support and space for each young person to grow.

Read on to find out what Squirrel Scouts get up to, why it's good for young people and grown ups, and how we keep everyone safe.



# A place where adventures never end

Squirrels have fun and make friends while developing skills they'll use for the rest of their lives. We worked with the experts to design an achievable and ambitious programme full of laughter, adventure, and chances to ask 'why?'

Squirrels get outside and explore. They tell stories and play games. They learn about themselves and others. And they figure things out one question, game, or activity at a time.

Become a Brilliant Builder. Try some Exciting Experiments. Go Wild. Let's Celebrate. Find a Local Superhero. There's something for everyone.







# Our badges



Chief Scout's Acorn Award



All About Adventure



All About Me



All Together



All Around Us



Be Active



Brilliant Builder



Exciting Experiments



Explore Outdoors



Feel Good



Get Creative



Go Wild



Let it Grow



Let's Celebrate



Local Superhero



Story Time



Super Chef

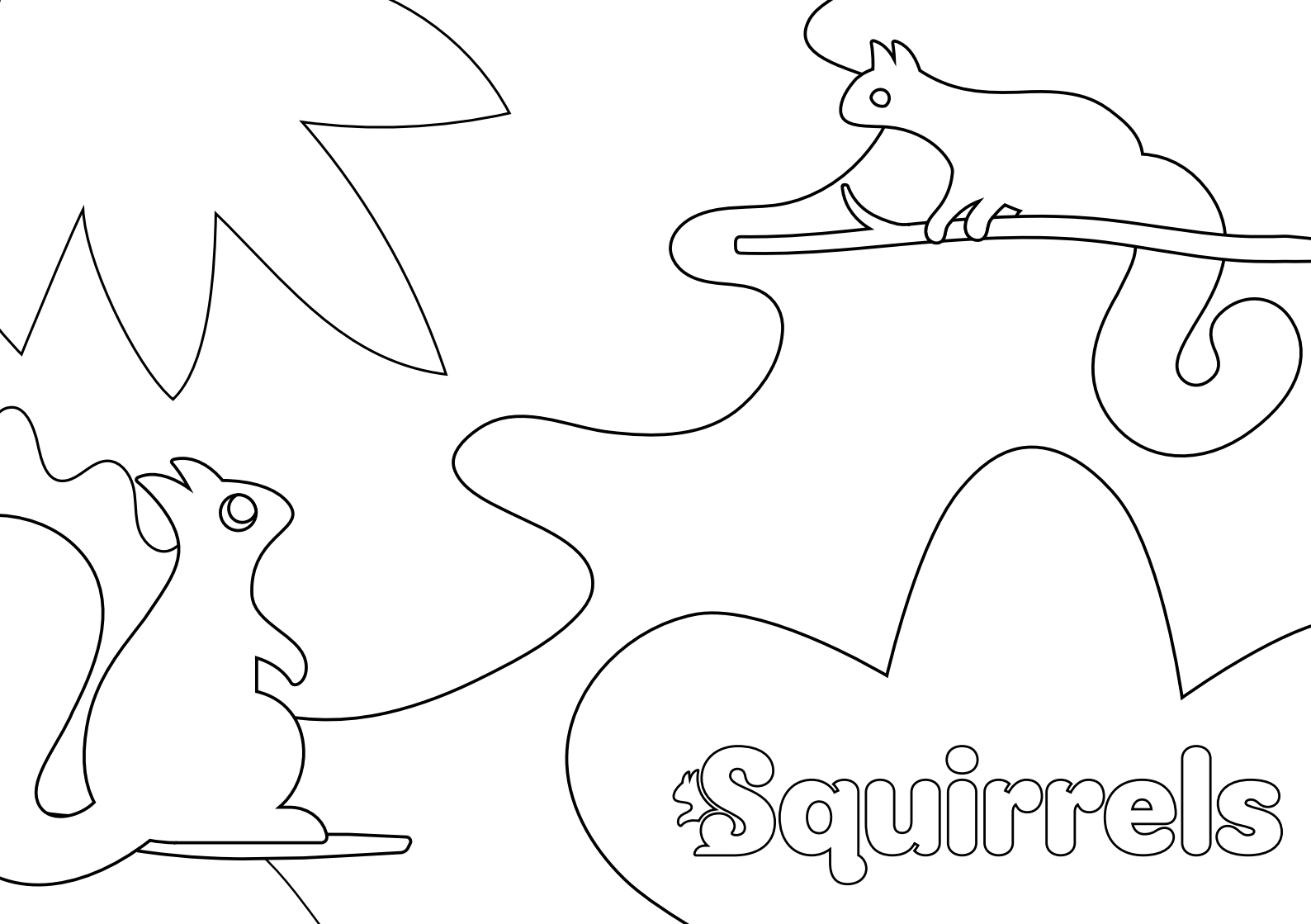
# Celebrate who you are


As well as enjoying plenty of adventures, being a Squirrel is about exploring who you are and what matters to you. These are big ideas for our smallest Scouts, so we start with a simple Promise.

There are eight different versions of the Squirrel Scout Promise so everyone can choose one that means something to them. All the versions focus on things that Scouts agree on, like doing your best and helping others.

Once a new Squirrel's settled into their Drey, they'll talk to their parents and carers and choose which version of the Promise is right for them. When a new Squirrel makes their Promise for the first time, their Drey comes together to welcome their new friend in a big celebration called an Investiture.





 Squirrels

# The Squirrel Scout Promise

## **The Squirrel Scout Promise for members who are Atheist or of no faith background**

I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful, and to love our world.

## **The Squirrel Scout Promise for members who are Buddhist**

I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful, and to act with love towards everyone.

## **The Squirrel Scout Promise for members who are Christian**

I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful, and to love God.

## **The Squirrel Scout Promise for members who are Hindu**

I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful, and to love the world.

## **The Squirrel Scout Promise for members who are Humanist**

I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful, and to love our world.

## **The Squirrel Scout Promise for members who are Jewish**

I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful, and to love God.

## **The Squirrel Scout Promise for members who are Muslim**

I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful, and to love Allah.

## **The Squirrel Scout Promise for members who are Sikh**

I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful, and to love Waheguru.

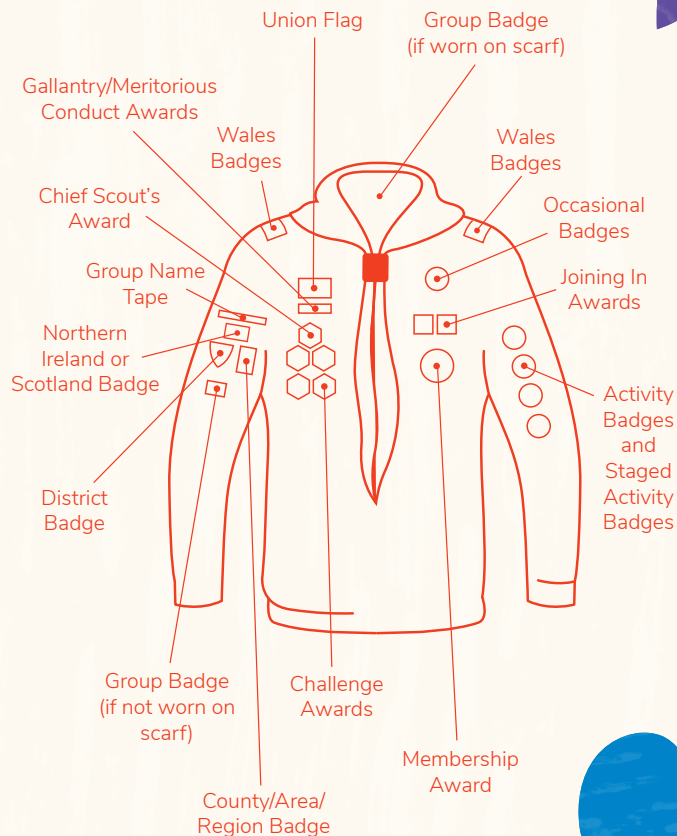


# What to wear

Just like their older friends in Scouts, Squirrels have a uniform to be proud of. It's comfy, practical, and designed to get messy. Wearing a uniform makes 4 and 5 year olds feel part of a team and helps to make sure no one's left out.

Squirrel Scouts wear a bright red jumper. As they get stuck in, they'll earn plenty of badges for you to sew (or stick) on. Scouts also wear a colourful scarf (called a necker) that shows which group they belong to, and some people choose to buy other items like hats or trousers too.

We want Scouts to be open to everyone. If you're worried about the cost of uniform, please chat to an adult volunteer. They'll be more than happy to help.



# Safety and safeguarding

Squirrels is just the start of a young person's journey through Scouts; we're serious about keeping them safe every step of the way.

Every awe-inspiring, horizon-widening adventure is led by a team of adult volunteers who have had references, interviews, and disclosure (police) checks. Every volunteer is trained in the essentials (like child protection and safeguarding), and there'll always be someone with first aid training there too.

All of our volunteers follow the Yellow Card – a code that tells adult volunteers what they must (and must not) do. We also have Anti-bullying, Equal Opportunities, Safety, and Child Protection Policies that our volunteers follow to help them do things right.

We know that dropping your 4 or 5 year old off might feel daunting for both of you, so parents and carers are more than welcome to stay for the first few Squirrels meetings and join in the fun. If you want to stick around regularly, speak to a leader to find out how to get involved.

# Make the leap together

The early years are amazing. Squirrels fills lives with wow and wonder – and it wouldn't happen without our amazing adult volunteers. When people like you play their part, it changes young people's lives. But volunteering's not just about them.

Volunteering is also about doing something that's good for your health and happiness, good for developing skills, and good for making friends.

At Scouts, we're all about flexible volunteering. Some people love the routine of weekly meetings, while others prefer to pop along as and when they can. Whether you're ready to explore the great outdoors with young people or you feel more at home behind the scenes with a spreadsheet or a dustpan and brush, your local volunteers will help you find a volunteering opportunity that works for you.



# For more information

Contact your local leader directly  
or visit the Scouts website:  
[scouts.org.uk](https://scouts.org.uk)

You can also call the Scout Information  
Centre on 0345 300 1818 (local rate)

**By email:**  
[info.centre@scouts.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scouts.org.uk)

**By post:**  
Scout Information Centre, Gilwell Park,  
Chingford, London, E4 7QW

**Follow us at:**  
**Facebook:** @scoutassociation  
**Twitter:** @scouts  
**Instagram:** @scouts



# About your Drey



**Group name**

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**When your Drey meets**

.....

**Meeting place**

.....

**Leader's name**

.....

**Contact number**

.....

**Email address**

.....



[scouts.org.uk/join](https://scouts.org.uk/join)  
**#SkillsForLife**

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