**Chiltern Challenge**

Phasels Wood Scout Activity Centre, Kings Langley, Herts, WD4 9NA

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**What is Chiltern Challenge?**

Chiltern Challenge is Hertfordshire Scouts very own Explorer Scout Competition. Chiltern Challenge runs over a weekend, where teams of five pit their wits against a series of challenges designed to show their skill, ingenuity and team working. Chiltern Challenge is split into two parts: the day challenges which are undertaken around Phasels Wood Scout Activity Centre; and the night challenges where teams navigate a course in the countryside around Hertfordshire.

Chiltern Challenge has been running since 1978, and the event has flourished. It is run by the Scout Network for the Explorer Scout section. Chiltern Challenge now attracts entries from around the UK.

**What happens when the teams arrive Saturday morning?**

When the teams arrive on Saturday morning usually between 09:00 and 10:00 they report as a team to the Reception area where they will be checked in and shown to the camping area. They will then need to pitch their tent in the allocated area before heading off for the opening ceremony and the start of the Day Challenges. During the day, teams undertake an assault course (mud will be provided!) and a series of team challenges around Phasels Wood Activity Centre. Lunch is not provided so make sure they bring it with them. Start times for the Assault course will be provided in their welcome pack.

**Chiltern Challenge**

**2020**

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**7-8 March 2020**

**Then on Saturday evening they head off into the surrounding countryside?**

Not quite. After a hot meal which is provided, each team reports for a full kit check where every single item is scrutinised before the team sets off. Teams receive a final safety briefing before being allowed out onto the night course. This year teams will mark up their maps as part of the day challenges before being collected into to be checked and scored. The course is approximately 20 km around the countryside of deepest darkest Hertfordshire. They have a set amount of time (usually 6 hours) to visit as many bases and checkpoints as possible, before returning to Phasels Wood.

**So, after the start nobody sees them until they reach the finish?**

No. During the night, teams will head to manned bases of which at least one is mandatory to visit. Their arrival time, departure time and next location is recorded. This information is passed back to base camp where the current locations of all the teams are recorded on a map. Each team is asked to provide two mobile numbers, and if the team is not seen for a while they will be called to ensure everything is ok. The teams are also provided with a contact telephone number so that they can call us if they get really lost. Roving marshals walk the course to keep an eye on the teams as they navigate their way around.

**What happens Sunday Morning?**

On Sunday morning teams will be provided with breakfast before they strike camp and put on their uniform ready for the closing ceremony where the winners are announced. The competition usually finishes around 10:30 and parents / guardians are welcome to join us.

We know that everyone who completes the challenge has a great time, and hope you will encourage your Explorer Scout to take part.

See You there!

The **Chiltern Challenge** team

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If you are interested in your child taking part in this event then please complete and return the below slip to your Explorer Scout Leader.

Please return to:       by

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** (Child’s Name) is interested in taking part in Chiltern Challenge 2020, Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 March 2020.

Please find enclosed a cheque for £     , made payable to ‘     ’.

Signed Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Print: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_