

Challenger Troop 2014-2015

This year has been quite a transient year for the troop, scouts have left us, and we have quite a few new faces! We have also tried really hard to allow the scouts of our troop to have a go at shaping their own programme- we have learned a lot from this too.

We are still struggling to cope with leadership numbers, which we feel can limit our programme somewhat, most evenings we have just enough leaders available to run the meeting.

The badges and awards system was rejuvenated at the beginning of the year, and we are still coming to terms with the new structure, with some of our scouts on the old gold award system, and some have started on the new one. This year so far, we have awarded 47 badges, we are still waiting for some badges to be delivered.

Challenger by name, challenger by nature! We have marched on cheerfully regardless! This year, just some of the activities we have completed: we have learned how to make macrame owls, spray painted t-shirts, discussed the emergency response for the Nepal earthquake, taken selfies around ferry meadows, tracked each other on the school grounds, discovered a few knots, learned emergency aid, tried our hand at cooking pancakes(not all so successfully!), we learned how to walk in form for St George's day, survived the norovirus at summer camp and built our own platform to escape the attack of the killer ants!

A few of our scouts are enjoying the weekly canoe club, and have taken part in overnight activities with Apollo troop. I am personally trying to obtain my nights away permit, by being assessed for the running of this years summer camp, we hope this will in turn mean many more nights away in the future for Challenger and Apollo troops if I am successful, although the scouts have managed to complete 61 nights away between them this year!

I am very proud of my scouts. I think they are an amazing group of young people. Sure they have their problems, but the way in which they build bridges, and accept each other for who they are will always be an inspiration to me.

I am also very proud of my leadership team and parent helpers, that despite working and family commitments manage to be there to ensure that the troop can continue to meet week in and week out! Without their enduring levels of patience and understanding, I don't think that the bond that the scouts have with each other, would be as strong as it is today.

Hayley 'Chippie' Hindle
Scout Leader
Challenger Troop

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