

Mobile Phone Policy

This Policy relates to **all** Sections of 5th Carlton Scout Group, and reflects the Central Notts. District Scout Section Policy, July 2013, the main aim of which is to control communication between Scouts (and possibly Cubs) and their parents/guardians and the wider community during Scouting activities. For the purpose of this Policy, '**activity**' means any event, meeting, camp or scouting activity provided by 5th Carlton Scout Group; '**Scouts**' means any person under the age of 18 years (including Young Leaders or other Explorer Scouts) under our care at the time of, and for the duration of the activity.

Mobile phones are not permitted on Group activities for the reasons outlined below:-

- The Scout Association has an established and proven home contact ('*InTouch*') procedure in the event of illness/accident/emergency which is operated by the Group. If home/parents/carers need to be contacted, this should be done by the activity/event Leader or with the activity/event Leader's knowledge/approval.
- Scouts should report any issues or problems to a Leader who will decide if home should be contacted, in full knowledge of the events that have taken place. Scouts should not then be contacting home directly in such circumstances. Mobile phones may compromise this.
- If a parent/carer needs to contact a Scout for any reason, this should be done through the activity/event Leader. This ensures Leaders are aware of all eventualities with the young people on their event/activity. Mobile phones may compromise this.
- These devices need to be charged and may get lost, broken or stolen. This can create issues between the owner of the device and their peer group, and for Leaders, parents and carers.
- In meetings, on activities or events, mobile phones can be a distraction. When a Leadership Team has spent time organising/planning an activity, such a distraction can be annoying and/or disruptive.
- Many phones incorporate a camera which means that photographs can be quickly posted on social networking sites or on the internet. This can create issues between Scouts, Leaders, parents/carers that could cause disruption to the activity. It could also create Child Protection issues.

If Scouts bring mobile phones to an activity where they are banned, Leaders may collect them in and return them when the activity is finished. Please avoid this by making sure a phone doesn't come with the Scout to the activity in the first place.

The assistance of everyone in making this policy work will be appreciated.

Steve Baker – Group Scout Leader
On behalf of 5th Carlton Scout Group Executive Committee