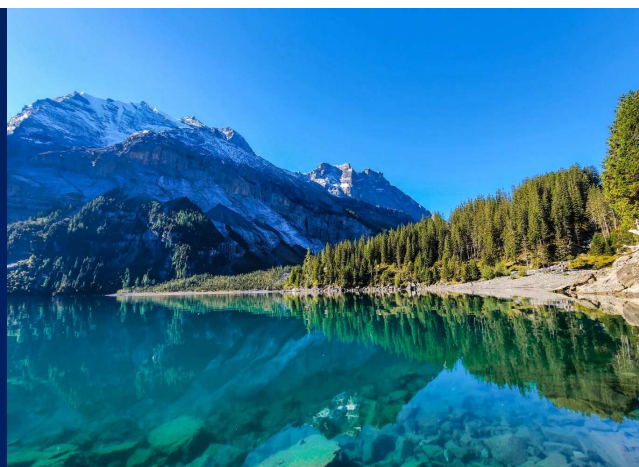


Kandersteg 2026

June Update



Kandersteg
International
Scout Centre



1st Molesey Scouts – Switzerland 2026 Trip Briefing

Welcome

We now have our activities confirmed by the Scout Centre, and all paperwork and official approval has been received from Surrey Scouts.

This briefing provides more information about:

- Where we're going
- What we'll be doing
- Travel arrangements
- Important kit requirements
- Key information for parents and guardians

Newsletters / WhatsApp Group



Please ensure
you've joined the
WhatsApp group:



Scouts 
1st Molesey (Jaguar)





1st Molesey (Jaguar)

Kandersteg 2026 - February Update

The mountains are calling! We are absolutely delighted with the take-up of the trip, we'll be taking a party of nearly 60 people to Switzerland in the summer.

Our trip is getting closer and we have more information to share with you.

Whilst getting everything in place is a big task, it will absolutely be worth it for a trip with memories to last a lifetime and plenty of adventure.

A bit about KISC

Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) has been welcoming Scouts from around the globe since 1923. It's like a permanent mini Jamboree and it will be our base for our time in Switzerland.

On site as well as the camping area you'll find a sports pitch, campfire circle, sauna, shop and chapel as well as the main chalet building. KISC is staffed by volunteer Scouts from all over the globe who will help us make the most of our Swiss adventure.

Situated in the Kander valley, Kandersteg village is a short walk (or a very quick bus ride) from the campsite. A number of cable cars run up from the valley bottom to the mountains – we'll be using some of these during our stay.

Our activities and programme

Our programme for the week will be confirmed in March by KISC. There will also be lots of opportunity during the week to make new friends, explore the Alps, try new activities and to 'Live the Dream' that Baden-Powell envisaged in 1923.

Key stats:

- 60 young people
- The youngest is 9 years
- The oldest is 15 years
- 12 girls, 48 boys
- 2 female leaders
- 6 male leaders

Leaders attending are:

- Max Harvey
- Liam Quinn
- Gareth Mandle
- Giles Andrie
- Tony Palmer-Johnson
- Derek Hall
- Alex Jacey
- Paula Harvey



Scan or click to join trip
WhatsApp group: 





1st Molesey (Jaguar)

Kandersteg 2026 - May Update

97 days to go!

There are some important updates and actions in this update - please get in touch if you have any questions!

WhatsApp Group

- It's really important that at least one parent/guardian per child attending the trip is in the WhatsApp group - please click below to join.
- Feel free to ask any questions there so all families can benefit from the answers. <https://chat.whatsapp.com/C12gPHxvOy77H4h9t6B4u5>

Travel Documents

- Passports need to have an expiry date of at least 3 months after we return i.e. 15th November 2026.
- Please also ensure your child has a valid GHSC card for the trip and you have checked the government travel guidance for Switzerland <https://www.gov.uk/travel/country-guidance/switzerland>.
- After we get to Switzerland, passports and GHSC cards will be stored securely in the KISC safe.
- You must also complete the 'Permission to take a Child Abroad' form which is attached with this newsletter. Please print it off, complete in pen, then keep the hard copy safe as we will need to take this with us.
- To help us in an emergency, and minimise difficulty if a document gets lost, we are asking that you email a clear photo of each of the three documents above to a secure mailbox we have set up for this purpose.

Please email a photo of all three documents to the following email address before Sunday 24th May:
traveldocuments@1stmoleseyjaguarscouts.org.uk

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Leaders attending are:

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- Tony Palmer-Johnson
- Derek Hall
- Alex Jacey
- Paula Harvey



Scan or click to join trip
WhatsApp group: 

Hopefully you've already seen the two update newsletters and have started preparing your kit.

Trip Team



Max



Liam



Alex



Gareth



Paula



Giles



Tony



Derek



Kirsty
(UK Based
Home Contact)



We have a fantastic team supporting the Scouts on their adventure this summer.

- Max (Trip Leader)
- Liam
- Alex
- Gareth
- Paula
- Giles
- Tony
- Derek

Home Contact

Kirsty has kindly agreed to act as our **UK-based Home Contact**.

Her role will be vital in supporting an international trip of this scale and providing a reliable point of contact in the event of any issues.

Many of our younger Scouts will already know Gareth and Paula through their work in Beavers and Cubs, helping ensure everyone feels supported throughout the trip.

Logo and Branded Kit



- Thanks to everyone that entered with their ideas
- We've combined the key features of the logos entered to produce our trip logo



Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas for our trip logo and badge. We combined elements from several entries to create our final trip logo.

Logo and Branded Kit



- UK international scarf
- Union Flag badge
- Hoodie (design TBC)



Every participant will receive:

- A trip hoodie
- A UK international Scout scarf with the trip logo embroidered on the back

Scouts do **not** need to bring full Scout uniform.

The only uniform item required is:

- 1st Molesey Polo Shirt

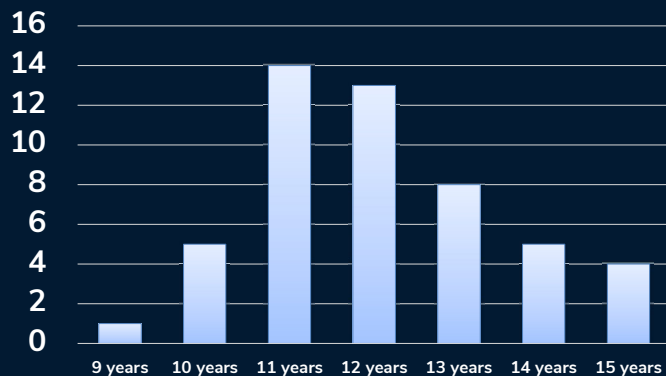
We will travel together wearing:

- Trip hoodies
- UK scarves

When we return, everyone will also receive a **UK International Badge** for their uniform jumper.

Numbers

- 8 adult volunteers
- 50 young people



We are genuinely thrilled by the number of Scouts attending.

As far as we can tell, this is the **largest international trip in the 117-year history of 1st Molesey Scouts.**

The number of participants reflects the tremendous growth and development of the group over the past decade.

Our volunteer team is committed to making sure every Scout has a fantastic international adventure away from home.

We know some Scouts may be:

- First-time campers
- Travelling abroad without family for the first time
- Feeling nervous

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help your child feel more comfortable and supported.

Trip Overview

- Follows our trip with Surrey Scouts in 2023
- Opportunity to do things our own way



← Tents, sleeping bags and roll mats



← Hand luggage and one checked bag (23kg) each

Scouts
1st Molesey (Jaguar)

This will be our second visit to **Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC)**.

We previously attended in 2023 as part of a Surrey Scouts expedition. This time, however, we are running the trip independently.

While this has created additional planning work, it also gives us:

- Full control over the programme
- Greater flexibility
- The opportunity to tailor activities specifically to our Scouts

Advance Party

Saturday 8 August

Liam and Giles will travel a day earlier.

They will drive the group minibus to Switzerland carrying:

Tents
Sleeping bags
Roll mats

Main Party

Sunday 9 August

The remainder of the group will fly from Heathrow.

Because of our early flight, we will need to meet at Heathrow at approximately **6:00am** (further details will be shared closer to departure).

During the week

We will spend:

Five full activity days based at Kandersteg International Scout Centre

Return Journey

Saturday 15 August

We will depart Kandersteg and travel back to Heathrow.

Current estimates suggest our flight will arrive at approximately **7:30pm** (final confirmation will be provided nearer the time).

Liam and Giles will return with the equipment vehicle on Sunday, after which kit can be collected from the Scout Hut.

Kandersteg

- Kandersteg is located in the valley of the river Kander.
- It is 1,200m above sea level and on the northern side of the Bernese Alps.



Kandersteg is located in the valley of the River Kander in the Swiss Alps.

The village sits at approximately **1,200 metres above sea** level. That is almost as high as Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK.

This means that:

- Every hike starts at altitude
- Scouts will genuinely be exploring mountain terrain
- The scenery is spectacular

KISC

- Founded in 1923 the centre hosts over 11,000 Scouts every year.
- Large campsite and buildings including the chalet.
- Run by volunteer staff from around the world (the pinkies).



Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) is one of the most famous Scout centres in the world.

Every year, thousands of Scouts visit from across the globe.

The centre is supported by volunteers known as the **Pinkies**, named after their distinctive pink shirts.

They help with:

- Activities
- Catering
- Site operations
- Supporting visiting Scout groups

Outward Travel (Sunday 9th August)



London Heathrow (T5)
Arrive 06:00 for 08:20 flight (BST)

↓
Geneva, Cointrin
11:00 (CET)

BA742 (53 passengers) BA744 (3 passengers)



Geneva Airport

↓
Bern

↓
Kandersteg Station

↓
Walk to KISC (arrive around 5pm)



Travel Arrangements

Outbound Flight

Date: Sunday 9 August

Airport: Heathrow Terminal 5

Flight Time: 8:20am

Meeting Time: Approximately 6:00am

We will arrive in Geneva around 11:00am.

From there we will travel by train to Kandersteg.

Train Journey

We will travel from Geneva Airport

Change trains at Bern

Continue to Kandersteg

Swiss trains are reliable, spacious and comfortable.

Booking as a group should allow us to have a reserved carriage.

Return Travel (Saturday 15th August)



Walk to Kandersteg Station

↓
Bern

↓
Geneva Airport



Geneva, Cointrin
18:00 (CET)

↓
London Heathrow (T5)
18:45 (BST)

BA751 (51 passengers)



Return Journey Saturday 15 August

We will:
Walk to Kandersteg Station
Take the train to Bern
Change trains for Geneva Airport

Departure from Geneva is approximately **6:00pm**
Arrival at Heathrow is expected around **7:00–7:30pm**

Campsite

- Large open space with some wooded areas
- Permanent toilet and shower blocks all over the site



Scouts 
1st Molesey (Jaguar)

Accommodation

The campsite at KISC is excellent and very well equipped.

Facilities include:

- Permanent toilet blocks
- Shower facilities
- Large camping areas
- Plenty of open space

We will use our lightweight four-person tents.

Tents

- Our large 4-man tents
- 2 Scouts in each tent with their bags
- Tent sharing will be worked out in advance
- We will ensure everyone is happy with the arrangements, and adjust things until they are



Tent Arrangements

To provide extra space only **two Scouts** will sleep in each four-person tent.

This allows plenty of room for kit and belongings.

Scouts will be asked for tent-sharing preferences on the confirmation form.

We will continue adjusting arrangements until everyone is comfortable and happy.

Insurance

- We have taken out Overseas Travel Insurance for everyone on the trip.
- Our provider is Unity Insurance Services.
- Unity specialise in insurance for UK Scouts so they know our activities and how we operate well.
- We recommend you look at the policy document and the fine print here:



All participants are covered by **Unity Insurance Services**.

This specialist provider works extensively with Scout groups and understands the nature of Scouting activities.

Please review the policy information previously shared in the newsletter.



Our activity programme has now been confirmed, so we can give you a bit more details on what we'll be doing.



Sunday 9th

- Arrival Day
- Kit van arrives at KISC 12pm
- Main party expected to arrive at Kandersteg Station at 16:30
- Evening: tent set-up, dinner in the restaurant





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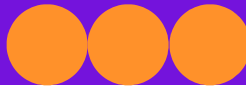
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Monday 10th

- Kandersteg local day
- Relaxed start
- Walk into Kandersteg and explore
- Visit Kandersteg pool
- Site activities
- International BBQ

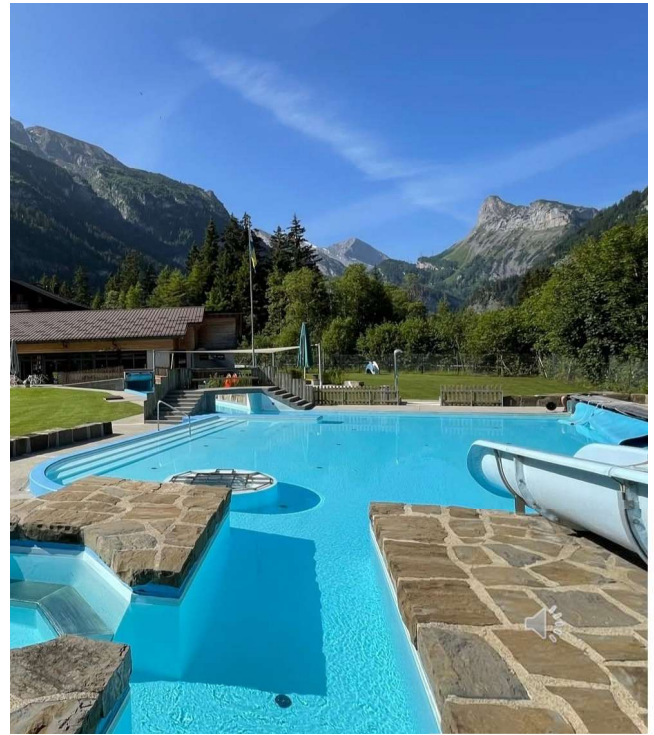
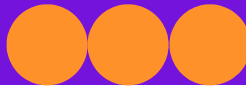
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Scouts 
1st Molesey (Jaguar)





Tuesday 11th

- Adelboden Adventure Park Day
- Bus journey from Kandersteg
- Zip lines, climbing, adventure trails
- Back for dinner
- Light trail

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1st Molesey (Jaguar)



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Wednesday 12th

- High Hikes Day
- Early start
- All Scouts will complete a challenging hike
- Some of these are above terrain 0 – expert led
- Mixture of Bunderspitz, Cheesery and Gemmipass booked
- Swiss culture night

Scouts 
1st Molesey (Jaguar)



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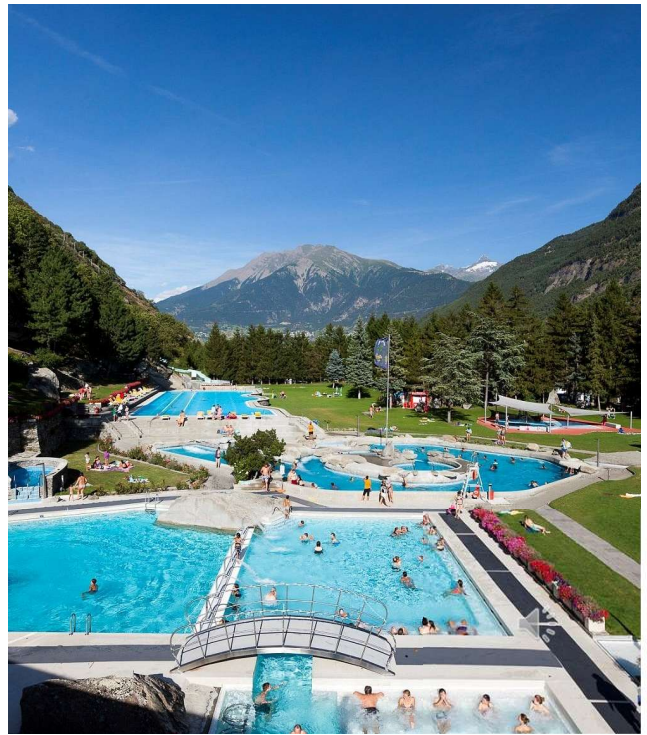
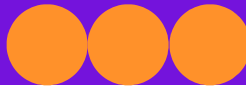
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Scouts 
1st Molesey (Jaguar)

Thursday 13th

- Brigerbad Day
- Train to Brig
- Bus to Brigerbad Water Park
- Explore Brig
- Return by train for dinner (possibly at a local restaurant)

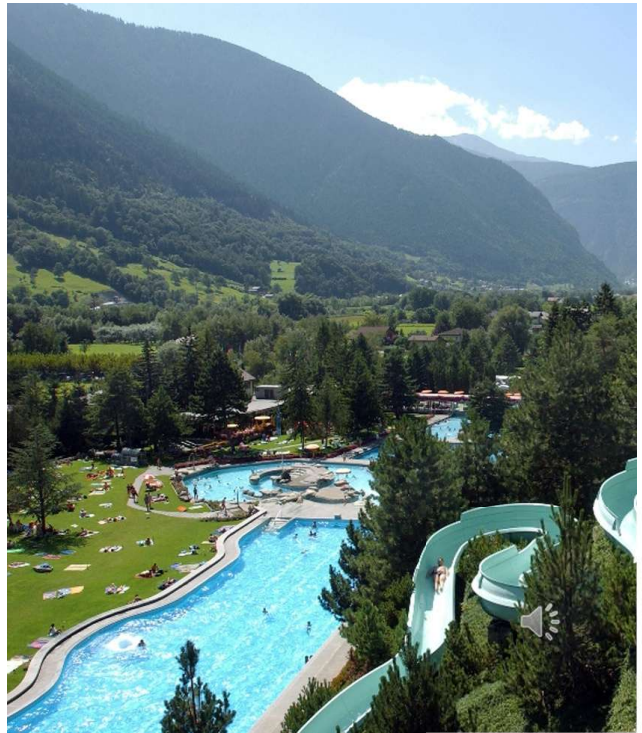
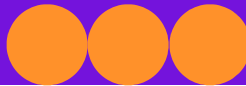
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Scouts 
1st Molesey (Jaguar)





Friday 14th

- Oeschinensee Day
- Cable car up the mountain
- See the lake
- Ride the Rodelbahn (mountain coaster)
- Hike back down the mountain
- International campfire in evening

Scouts 
1st Molesey (Jaguar)



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Saturday 15th

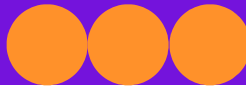
- Departure Day
- Pack down tents
- Walk to Kandersteg station around 12pm

Scouts 
1st Molesey (Jaguar)

Campsite

- The campsite is large and has lots of space for games and socialising with other Scouts.
- We will take some activities with us, but we are keen to hear any ideas.
- We have tried to minimise unstructured free-time, by booking some evening activities that KISC run.

Scouts 
1st Molesey (Jaguar)



Food

- Packed lunch will be needed for the first day (likely an opportunity to buy food at Geneva airport)
- We are fully catered for in the KISC restaurant after we arrive

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
A buffet-style breakfast that includes a few different types of cereal, yoghurt, fruit, bread, meat and cheese, butter and jam. For a beverage, you can get water, juice, tea, coffee and hot chocolate. Fruits are available as well.	Packed lunch includes up to 3 sandwiches with different fillings, such as cheese, meat, vegetables, and sauces together with a bag of crisps, a chocolate bar and fruit.	A hot meal with a starter or dessert depending on the day's menu, and a small salad buffet. Some days there will only be a vegetarian option. For a beverage, you can get water, syrup, tea, coffee and hot chocolate. Fruits are available as well.



You must bring a box for your sandwiches.



- KISC are aware of the dietary requirements on OSM at time of booking – please email us if in doubt



The Scout Centre will provide all meals throughout the week.

Breakfast

Buffet-style continental breakfast including:

Cereal
Fruit
Yoghurt
Bread
Meat
Cheese
Drinks

Lunch

Packed lunches including:

Three sandwiches
Crisps
Fruit
Chocolate bar

Dinner

A hot meal including:

Starter
Main course
Dessert

The centre caters very well for:

- Allergies
- Vegetarian diets
- Other dietary requirements

Please contact us immediately if dietary information on OSM is incorrect or incomplete.



Weather

- Being in the mountains the weather in Kandersteg can change very suddenly – most times we have been we get plenty of sunshine with the occasional rainy day.
- Temperatures are likely to be between 15 and 20°C during the day with night time down to about 10°C.



Weather in the Alps can change very quickly.

We may experience:

- Hot sunshine
- Heavy rain
- Cold evenings
- Rapid temperature changes

Scouts must bring all items listed on the kit list to prepare for these conditions

Kit

- 1x checked bag of up to 23kg (per person)
- Your Scout must be able to carry their bag
- Sleeping bags and roll mats will go in the minibus
- We suggest a 60L or 70L rucksack and careful packing
- Your Scout also needs a day-bag e.g. small 20L backpack which will be their hand luggage and also used on hikes – please check airline requirements/security rules on this



Main Luggage

Each Scout has:

- One checked bag allowance of up to 23kg

However, they **must** be able to carry their own bag independently.

We recommend 60–70 litre rucksack

Sleeping bags and roll mats will travel separately in the minibus.

Day Bag

Each Scout should also bring a small backpack (approximately 20 litres)

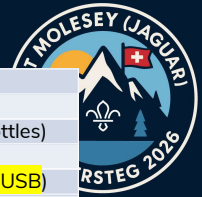
This will be used as:

- Hand luggage
- Day-hike bag

Kit List

- Trip hoodie to travel in (we supply)
- International scarf to travel in (we supply)
- Sleeping bag and roll mat (goes in van)
- Fleeeces/warm layers
- T-shirts/sports tops (ideally no cotton)
- Shorts and trousers (no jeans)
- Socks/underwear (including 3 pair hiking socks)
- Good waterproof jacket/trousers (essential)
- Swim-wear (multiple trips to swimming pools)
- Warm hat and gloves (essential)
- Sun hat/sun glasses (essential)
- Trainers
- Flip-flops for shower
- Hiking boots (essential, wear them on plane)
- Plastic bags for dirty clothing
- Towel
- Shower gel

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Sun cream (50 SPF)
- 2L water carrying capacity (e.g. 2 water bottles)
- Day sack/small backpack for trips out
- Torch/spare batteries (we can recharge by USB)
- Games/books/playing cards for downtime
- Scout badges for swapping (ordered logo ones)
- Passport and GHIC (see first page)
- No crockery/cutlery needed
- Watch
- Packed lunch box for day bag
- Badges for swapping



Scouts 
1st Molesey (Jaguar)

Important Kit Updates

Water Capacity

Scouts must be able to carry: **2 litres of water**
This is a requirement for instructor-led hikes.

Torch

- Bring torch or head torch
- Spare batteries if required
- Rechargeable torches can be charged onsite.

Watch

A simple watch is recommended because Scouts will not have mobile phones.

Lunch Box

A hard lunch box is needed to stop sandwiches being crushed.

Badge Swapping

Scouts may bring badges from previous events to swap with Scouts from around the world.



Essential Equipment

Roll Mat

Required:

- Foam roll mat, or
- Lightweight self-inflating mat

Not allowed:

- Inflatable air beds
- Large blow-up mattresses

Walking Boots

Walking boots with ankle support are mandatory.

Scouts without suitable boots will not be allowed to participate in hikes.

Boots should:

- Be broken in
- Comfortable
- Previously worn

We recommend wearing them for travel.

Waterproofs

Essential:

- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers

These are compulsory for mountain activities.

Warm Clothing

Required:

- Warm hat
- Warm gloves

Temperatures can become very cold at altitude.

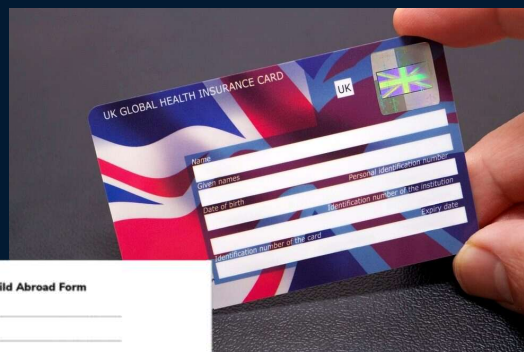
Sun Protection

Required:

- SPF 50 sun cream
- Baseball cap
- Sunglasses

These are mandatory for some activities.

Travel Documents



Permission to take a Child Abroad Form

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

I declare that I am the legal parent/guardian of:

Child's name: _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____

Passport Number: _____

Date of Issue: _____

I give my consent for them to travel to Switzerland with 1st Molesey Scout Group between the dates of 9th August 2026 and 15th August 2026. They will be staying at Kandersteg International Scout Centre for the duration of their stay in Switzerland.

Any questions may be addressed to me using the details provided above.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

- These will be kept in the KISC safe during our stay



Travel Documents

Thank you for submitting copies of travel documents.

We still require the original signed: **Permission to Take a Child Abroad Form**

This should be handed in when dropping off sleeping bags and roll mats.

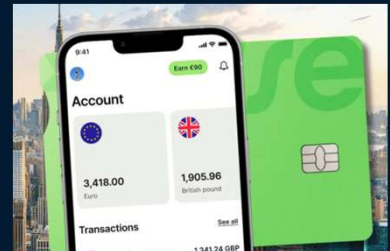
Passports & GHIC Cards

Leaders will manage these during travel.

At KISC they will be stored securely in the centre's safe.

Spending Money

- Kandersteg has a shop, and there will be other opportunities for Scouts to buy souvenirs/ice creams etc
- We are recommending no more than £10 per day so approximately 50 CHF
- It is best if your child has a preloaded card – apart from obvious security benefits you'll be able to monitor/top up the spend if needed
- People have recommended the Post Office and Wise cards. Please check fees etc and let us know if you have any recommendations



Spending Money

Suggested spending money:

Approximately £50 total
(around 50 Swiss Francs)

Recommended payment method:

- Prepaid travel card
- Wise Card
- Post Office Travel Card

Spending Money

- If your child does bring cash, remember it is Swiss Francs!
- It is likely we will operate a 'camp bank' to help your child keep their cash safe, so if you do plan on sending your child with cash please let us know in advance so we can plan accordingly



Cash is acceptable but must be Swiss Francs.

A camp bank may be operated if required.

Mobile Phones

- Not allowed
- We've thought carefully about this
- If your Scout wants to bring a camera, that's fine, but it's at their own risk and charging will be very limited
- We promise to take loads of photos for you, and do updates on the WhatsApp group



Mobile Phone Policy

This will be a **phone-free trip**.

Reasons include:

- Encouraging engagement
- Security concerns
- Charging limitations
- Roaming costs
- Age profile of participants

Scouts may bring cameras at their own risk.

Parents will receive:

- Daily updates
- Regular photographs
- WhatsApp communications

WhatsApp Group

- Please join it



At least one parent/guardian per child must join the WhatsApp chat.

Scout Values / Expectations

- We expect everyone on the trip to demonstrate the Scout values
- If a Scout's behaviour on the trip consistently falls below the expected standard, or puts themselves or others at risk of harm, they will be asked to leave the trip
- In this situation a parent/guardian would need to fly out and collect them, within 24 hours

Integrity
Respect
Care
Belief
Cooperation

Our values

As Scouts we live by the values of Scouting.
They underpin everything we do,
how we act and the way we treat each other.



Behaviour Expectations

All Scouts are expected to uphold Scout values throughout the trip.

If a Scout:

- Consistently behaves below expectations, or
- Places themselves or others at risk,

they may be asked to leave the trip and be collected by a parent or guardian within 24 hours.

Medical / Medication



- We will provide over-the-counter medication (but need your permission)
- If your Scout will be bringing prescription/personal medication (including EpiPens/Inhalers) it must be recorded on their OSM record
- Personal medication must be transported in hand luggage – it is best to keep a copy of the prescription with it
- If there is any extra medical information/things we need to know please either update OSM, or email us



Medical Information

We will carry approved over-the-counter medication, including products such as Calpol.

Permission will be requested through the confirmation form.

If your child uses:

- Prescription medication
- Inhalers
- EpiPens

please ensure:

- We have full details
- Medication is packed in hand luggage
- Prescriptions accompany the medication where possible

Getting in Touch



- In the week before the trip, we'll provide you with 3 mobile numbers of the leaders on site that you can contact if you wish to communicate with us in Switzerland.
- We will post updates on the WhatsApp group as regularly as we can.
- No news is good news! Signal is patchy, and we will be busy!
- Please do not worry if there is a gap in updates.



Communications Plan

Before departure, parents will receive three leader contact numbers for Switzerland

During the trip:

Updates will be posted in the WhatsApp group

Please remember:

No news is good news.

Signal can be limited in the mountains, and leaders will be busy delivering activities.

Contacting us in an emergency

- If you need to contact us in an emergency, you should contact our UK based home contact (Kirsty).
- Kirsty is a 1st Molesey leader and has contact details for all participants and awareness of our travel plans and itinerary.
- Kirsty will also have direct contact with the Surrey Scouts International Team, and UK Scout Association who would help coordinate in any emergency.
- It is very important you check that your details on the Parent Portal are correct and ensure that you will be contactable on these numbers at any time, for the duration of the trip.



Emergency Contact

Our UK-based Home Contact is **Kirsty**.

Kirsty will have:

- Participant information
- Full itinerary details
- Direct links with Surrey Scouts International
- Access to support from Scouts UK if required

Please ensure your emergency contact details on OSM are accurate and up to date.

Thank you for supporting the leaders by:

- Ensuring your child does not bring a mobile phone
- Ensuring you do not contact your child directly without our knowledge whilst they are away with us on the camp
- Contacting us if your Scout does contact you directly about an issue, this will help us resolve it quickly



We appreciate your support with the following:

- Do not send mobile phones
- Do not contact Scouts directly without leaders' knowledge
- Inform leaders immediately if your child contacts you with concerns

This helps us resolve issues quickly and consistently.



Confirmation form



- Hoodie size
- Permissions for medication
- Details of any known personal medication
- Indication on whether your child is likely to be bringing cash
- Any other confirmations we need
- Tent preferences



Confirmation Form

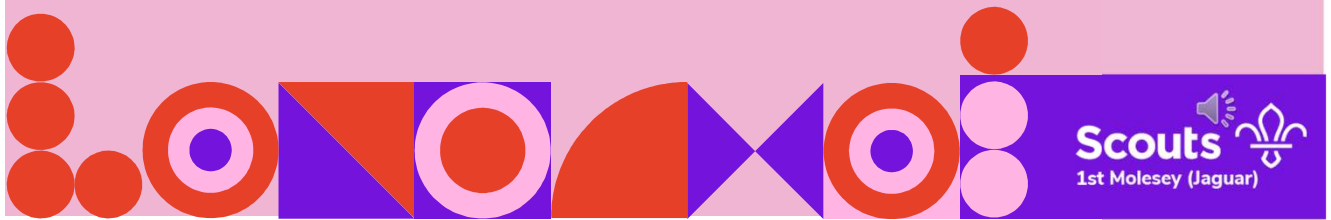
The confirmation form will gather:

- Hoodie sizes
- Medication permissions
- Prescription medication details
- Tent-sharing preferences
- Spending money information
- Final confirmations

Please discuss tent preferences with your child before completing the form.

Thank you

Please complete the confirmation form before
next Sunday 14th June



Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to watch this briefing and read through the information.

We hope it answers the majority of your questions.

If you need anything further, please:

- Email the leadership team
- Ask questions in the WhatsApp group

Finally, please complete the confirmation form by the requested deadline.

We are incredibly excited about what promises to be an unforgettable week in Switzerland and can't wait to share the adventure with your Scouts.

