

# Gillingham Scouts Community Month is coming!

**For the entire month of October, Gillingham Scouts wants to focus on getting our profile raised in the community, and trying to build our adult numbers.**

Here is what we want you to do in your groups and sections. Do one, or do all of them. It is your choice, but the more you do, the more successful this initiative will be:

**From the 1st October, set your members the challenge of building a scarecrow** wearing one of our scarves (group or district!), place it somewhere high profile where non-members can see it, doing an activity related to one of our badges - maybe a spot of gardening, cooking on a campfire or sitting on a bike – and then take a photo of it. Put the photo on our Facebook page (maybe if you are out and about and spot a good scarecrow, you can photograph it for us). Make sure you let us know who you are and which group you belong to!

There will be two winners – one for the best scarecrow doing an activity, and one for the most exotic location (please remember to remind your Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Leaders to stay safe wherever they chose to take their scarecrow!). Photos will be judged from the FB page, so make sure they are put on there! The deadline for this competition is Sunday 22nd October, with the winners announced on Saturday 4th November.

**Your second challenge is to host a Beaver Bistro, Cub Café, Scout Soiree, Explorer Espresso bar or 'tea prepared' event.....**invite your parents along for a social evening, chat to them, get them trying a couple of exciting Scouting activities, and hopefully invite them to come along to a further session to help out. Maybe collect any group scarecrows, have a campfire and a chat then...(details for the cub café, beaver bistro and tea prepared can be found on the [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) print centre – search for 'beaver bistro', 'cub café' and 'tea prepared')

**Whilst we are trying to engage parents, why not try and take part in at least 1 'four week challenge'** over the course of the month. Details for this challenge can again be found on the print centre <https://www.n2printcentre.com/UserContentStart.aspx?category=260> - if you need to adapt the 4 week challenge to fit your needs, then do it - the aim is to try and get more adults involved in our leadership teams and executive committees.....let us know how you get on – maybe send any successful stories to Alan to put into GSN? His email is [communications@gillinghamscouts.org.uk](mailto:communications@gillinghamscouts.org.uk)

**Get your members involved in a log chew or forum** – in an effort to be youth shaped, we want ideas from our young people about the sorts of activities they want to do. If they have recently taken part in one for group planning, maybe they can help shape the activities that we put on as a district. If you can email [kerrie.reid@gillinghamscouts.org.uk](mailto:kerrie.reid@gillinghamscouts.org.uk) with the date in October you can hold a logchew or forum, we can make sure that a member of the youth commissioner team, or one of the district team, can come along and help run it. It doesn't have to take an entire evening but we want to be more youth shaped and it may benefit Gillingham Scouting's calendar next year...

**If you have any DIY jobs, or other jobs that need doing** (we know all of us want extra leaders, but we are after executive committee member vacancies, maintenance jobs, someone to buy resources for you, or other things of that nature, rather than leader vacancies!) please can you let Kerrie know what it is that you are after. We are hoping to put together a weekend to recruit adults that can do these jobs, but we need a good list of vacancies to get this off the ground! More details of this initiative will follow at a later date, but in the meantime, send your vacancies to [kerrie.reid@gillinghamscouts.org.uk](mailto:kerrie.reid@gillinghamscouts.org.uk) !!

**Million hands campaign** – this is the month to try and get involved in TSA's campaign! If you haven't already done so, have a look at <https://www.amillionhands.org.uk/> choose an issue and get involved. Don't forget that if you do something for this, send details to GSN and fill in a press release for the KM!!

The district team will be handing out posters and window stickers as we have done in previous years. Can you and your group members put them up for the whole of October.

If you need more information, please get in contact with Kerrie Reid.

