

The background is a solid bright yellow. It is decorated with stylized autumn leaves and trees. The leaves are in three colors: red, teal, and dark blue. Some leaves are simple shapes, while others have a more complex, jagged edge. The trees are represented by simple shapes with a small stem. The text "Tree, two, one, go!" is centered in the middle of the image in a red, sans-serif font.

Tree, two, one, go!



Squirrels.
The newest branch
of our family tree.





Why Squirrels and why
now?

- Jump into Squirrels, the latest chapter in our Scouts' story.
- A place where 4 to 5 year olds can join in the fun for the very first time.
- These early years are amazing. Minds are fizzing, energy and curiosity levels are sky high
- This is the time to fill little ones' lives with wow and wonder; to set them climbing the tree – and who knows how far they'll reach?



Jump into Squirrels, the latest chapter in our Scouts' story.

- Positive impact on young people.
- 130,000 new young people and 40,000 new adults in ten years
- A way to reach new communities and a more diverse range of people





One giant leap for Squirrelkind.

- By 2023, 940 new Squirrels sections reaching 12,000 young people,
- 50% in IMD 1-5 and 10% Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities
- Helping to achieve our Skills for Life strategy



What's the plan in
England?

Planning our new adventure.

- Gathering interest through line management so that we can build the right support capacity
- Opt-in at the right time and pace for your County
- Prioritise support for new provisions in IMD 1-5 and with Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities
- Squirrels will grow bit by bit, focusing on underserved communities



Planning our new adventure.

- Cohort approach is central to ensuring quality support – we'll scale cohort approach as necessary
- We'll continue to improve tools and resources based on what we learn through the roll out – it's not the finished product
- There are more projects related to our strategy to come (like the membership system, volunteer experience, improved training)





What can managers do?



Thinking it through at County level...

- CC nominates an 'Adviser' who'll be trained to support local conversations – advocating for reaching new communities but not early years in general
- 'Adviser' supports CC with informed team conversations
- CCs and DCs decides if the time's right to consider Squirrels. If it's a yes:
- CC gives a non-committal estimate of interest to assist with planning (by end of May if possible)
- DCs explore further with Group Scout Leaders (GSLs)


Steps at District level

If it's the right time for Scout Groups to consider Squirrels:

1. DC meets with their GSL to support informed decision making
2. GSL completes the readiness checklist and checks back in with DC
3. GSL completes the online expression of interest form
4. This form notifies the DC who carries out a final review considering if the request will reach new communities, taking into account compliance status (DBS, safeguarding, safety, training) and any other priorities before making a decision whether to approve
5. Approved requests will be contacted and notified when they'll be joining a cohort (which will be sense checked at a County Level)

Let's prioritise those planning to open new provision in IMD 1-5 and/or with Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.



A decorative border featuring stylized floral and leaf shapes in red, teal, and dark blue against a yellow background. The shapes are arranged in a repeating pattern around the central text.

How will the cohorts
work? (and what support
will be available?)

10 Squirrel sections will make one cohort

- Join nine other Scout Groups in a cohort to be supported with final planning and preparation to open a new provision that's safe and delivers a high quality programme
- A Cohort Coach will bring everyone together (online) to share ideas, resources and provide peer support, drawing upon national expertise and learning from early years pilots. (It's different to the role of RST).



As well as District support, Squirrels will get...

- OSM mandated youth data collection
- A simplified, but mandated, approach to the Appointments process
- Support to make sure a Young Leader is part of a Drey's leadership team, and each Drey does an annual Community Impact project



As well as District support, Squirrels will get...

- Digital recruitment tools (online application, reduced administration and appointments process)
- Digital induction tools (automated six weeks welcome comms/training reducing mandatory training time)
- Digital support tools (all aspects of new provision and programme delivery documented online)



What to do now.

- CCs and DCs decides if the time's right to consider Squirrels. If it's a yes, to starting soon:
 - CC gives a non-committal estimate of interest to assist with planning (by end of May if possible)
 - DCs explore further with Group Scout Leaders (GSLs)
 - Adviser' available to support informed team conversations
 - When Groups are ready, requests will go via DCs for approval

See: scouts.org.uk/squirrelsguidance





Leap over to
scouts.org.uk/squirrelsguidance