**5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts – Our Vision for 2030**

**Foreword**

The purpose of scouting, as defined by [Scouts.org.uk](https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/learning-development-and-awards/training/trainers/delivering-the-modules/delivering-training-for-all-appointments/fundamentals-of-scouting-module-5/fundamentals-details/the-purpose-of-scouting/) is:

*‘Scouts exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.’*

5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts vision, mission, and values have been created to align with those of the wider [Scouting movement](https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/strategy/), enabling us to fulfil the purpose of Scouting.

In collaboration with our leaders and young people, our group trustees have set Our Goals to focus our energy into the realisation of Our Vision (aspiration for the group) and Our Mission (what we currently do) over the coming years to 2030. Our Values will guide the way we work with each other and wider society during this time, to deliver against Our Mission and Our Goals.

Mark Bell, Chair, 5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts.

**Our Vision**

By 2030, 5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts will have served the community for 58 years. We will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing volunteers, who themselves are supported by the wider group, in delivering inspiring programmes. We’ll be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people, supporting our volunteers, making a bigger impact in our communities, and delivering our programmes from an HQ that will enable us to continue for at least another 58 years.

**Our Values**

As Scouts, we’re guided by the common and global set of Scouting values, which are:

* **Integrity:** We act with integrity. We’re honest, trustworthy and loyal.
* **Respect:** We’ve self-respect and respect for others.
* **Care:** We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
* **Belief:** We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
* **Cooperation**: We make a positive difference. We co-operate with others and make friends.

**Our Mission**

We will actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

**Our Goals**

To achieve our mission and vision, we will focus our energy on eight key goals, which are supported by commitments that will focus the energy of our trustees and leaders.

**Goal 1 - Growth**

Our group has grown in the last 5 years, expanding to include one squirrels, two beavers, two cubs and two scouts’ sections. We have also actively supported Deben District in the delivery of their Explorer programme. Despite this growth in scouting supply, demand for the programmes we provide is still growing. As of late 2024, our waiting list was at 287 people, up from about 200 in 2019.

To help meet this demand for our groups’ programmes, our growth goal includes the following time bound commitments.

By the end of 2025 (and beyond):

* G1.1 - Maximum Section Size - We will ensue that all sections offer the maximum number of spaces that or HQ can hold. The current ideal section size fore the size of our HQ is 24 young people.
* G1.2 - Waiting List - We will continue to set expectations about the size of the waiting list with the parents of young people interested in joining the group.
* G1.3 - Explorers Unit - We will continue to work with Deben District to secure the future of the Debenside Explorer Unit.

By the end of 2027:

* G1.5 - 2nd Explorers Unit - We will support Deben District if they decide to open a 2nd Explorers section.

**Goal 2 – Inclusivity**

Scouts is open to all. As of November 2024, we had 121 male and 65 female young people in our group, an approximate 2:1 ratio. We also had 39 male and 41 female leaders supporting our group, an approximate 1:1 ratio.

By the end of 2025 (and beyond):

* G2.1 - EDI - We will create an EDI policy and strategy for the group, sharing via our website.
* G2.2 - Family Support - We will continue to support young persons and parents from less fortunate backgrounds by offering ad hoc support with reduced subscription amounts.
* G2.3 - Waiting Lists - We will maintain an open approach to joining, by providing a fair, rules-based approach to managing our waiting list.
* G2.4 - Inclusivity Training - We will encourage all section leaders and volunteers to take Suffolk Scouts inclusivity training.

By the end of 2027:

* G2.5 - Ratios - We will aim to maintain or improve our male to female ratios for both young people and leaders, based on a baseline of our November 2024 ratios.

**Goal 3 – Volunteers Supported**

Our volunteers are a crucial element to our groups sustained existence. They volunteer in a variety of roles, performing activities such as leading programme delivery, working on our boats, minding our stores, managing our finances, and maintaining our buildings.

By the end of 2025 (and beyond):

* G3.1 - Training - We will ensure our volunteers are adequality trained to perform the activities associated to their roles, by:
	+ Ensuring their mandatory training is completed.
	+ Understanding, and where relevant, funding extra training.
	+ Ensuring x10 water permits are acquired by leaders from across all group sections.
* G3.2 - Annual Celebration - We will run the first annual group celebration event, where we celebrate our group, and show thanks to our volunteers.
* G3.3 - Expand Volunteer Team - We will spread the current load from our volunteers, by recruiting further volunteers, and creating focused working groups. Future volunteer roles will include:
	+ Section administrators, to support section leaders with administration work.
	+ A group permits holder.
	+ A group fund raising lead.
	+ A group community engagement lead.
	+ A group marketing lead.
	+ A group EDI person.
	+ A group young leader co-ordinator.
	+ A group well-being champion
	+ A 2nd to the group Bosun.
* G3.4 - Succession Plans - We will ensure there are succession plans for all trustee, operational and section leader roles.
* G3.5 - Open, Equitable Operation - We will ensure the operational running of sections is equitable, by creating and embedding operational strategies into the group to encourage the retention of volunteers, including
	+ Encouraging sections to implement parent helper rotas.
	+ Encouraging a fair, and transparent route for parent volunteers to move between sections.
	+ Encouraging the retention of volunteers in the group, by offering opportunities to easily change volunteering roles.

**Goal 4 - Youth Shaped and Youth Voice**

Over the last four years, there has been a growing momentum to ensure young people are shaping their experiences and taking on leadership roles at Scouts. We want to continue to build on this.

By the end of 2025:

* G4.1 - Programme - All sections will provide a mechanism for their young people to help shape each programme.
* G4.2 - Young Leader Co-Ordinator - Onboard a Young Leader co-ordinator and set a plan to develop young leaders in the group.
* G4.3 - Section Wellbeing Champions - As aligned to Scout HQ’s wellbeing champion drive, all sections will assign a wellbeing champion to acts as an alternative route for raising wellbeing concerns.
* G4.4 - Section Transition - We will support our young people in their transition between sections.

**Goal 5 - Community Impact**

We play a key role in our community, with our societal impact being positively felt by young people and their families over the near to 60 years of our existence. Our impact extends to supporting our young people in positive engagement with the local community.

By the end of 2025:

* G5.1 - Community Engagement - We will continue to work with local community organisations mutually beneficial social, environmental and economic impact.
* G5.2 - Local Events - We will have supported local community events in Woodbridge, including:
	+ River Deben cleanup
	+ Remembrance Day service
	+ Maritime Woodbridge Festival
	+ Music and Arts Festival
	+ Christmas Market
* G5.3 - Other Scout Groups - We will continue to engage with other Scout and youth organisations to share experience and facilities, including directly with 1st Woodbridge Scouts, and indirectly via Deben District and Suffolk County events.

**Goal 6 – HQ Building – Existing and New Build**

As Sea Scouts, we are exceptionally fortunate to own a Scout HQ that is so close to the banks of one of the most amazing rivers in the UK, The Deben. Our HQ is however hard to clean, lacking modern facilities and in need of constant repair. We have started a campaign o design and build a new facility for our group, which will provide a base for our group for the next 52 years of its life.

By the end of 2025:

* G6.1 - Maintenance - We will ensure existing building and grounds are fit purpose.
* G6.2 - Building Condition Survey - We will commission a building condition survey to understand the current state of the building.
* G6.3 - Fire Risk Assessment - We will undertake a fire risk assessment of the current building and customs house.

By the end of 2030:

* G6.4 - New HQ Design - We will have a detailed design for our new HQ.
* G6.5 - New HQ Funds - We will have raised the funds for our new HQ.
* G6.6 - New HQ Builder - We will have procured a builder and confirmed a programme of work for the construction of our new HQ, with a planned to start in 2031.

**Goal 7 – Inspiring Programmes**

Key to the delivery of scouting at 5th Woodbridge Sea Scouts, is the provision of inspiring programmes for young people of different ages, ranging from our beavers to our scouts.

By the end of 2025:

* G7.1 - Term Programmes - We will have ensured all sections have communicated each term’s programme to parents by the start of the term.
* G7.2 - Young Persons Achievement - Section leaders will actively engage with young people in their section encouraging them to reach their bronze / silver / gold potential.
* G7.3 - Recognising Young Persons Success - We will celebrate the successes of the young people in our group who have achieved bronze / silver / gold awards in year by running a yearly awards ceremony.

By the end of 2027:

* G7.4 - Scout Jamboree 2027 - We will support all young people who wish to apply to Suffolk County Scouts programme to join the world Scout jamboree in 2027 in Gdańsk, Poland.

**Goal 8 – Suitable and Accessible Equipment**

Our programmes encompass a mix of land and water-based activities and consequently require a suitable and wide mix of equipment, from camping equipment to a fleet of sailing dinghies, kayaks, canoes, paddle boards and safety boats.

By the end of 2025:

We will:

* G8.1 - Equipment Meets Needs - We will ensure that our land and water-based equipment meets the needs of all sections, within budgetary constraints.
* G8.2 - Equipment Stored - We will ensure that the storage of our equipment is safe, secure and accessible to all sections.
* G8.3 - Equipment Maintained - We will ensure our equipment is well maintained, stowed and accessible from our HQ.
* G8.4 - Equipment Checking In/Out- We will ensure our leaders are trained in the correct practice for checking equipment in and out of our HQ.

**References**

Scouts Purpose - <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/learning-development-and-awards/training/trainers/delivering-the-modules/delivering-training-for-all-appointments/fundamentals-of-scouting-module-5/fundamentals-details/the-purpose-of-scouting/>

Scouts Vision for 2025 - <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/strategy/>

Suffolk Scouts Strategic Plan - <https://www.suffolkscouts.org.uk/about/strategic-plan>

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<https://www.scouts.org.uk/news/2020/september/become-a-wellbeing-champion/>

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