

Scouts Census – Information for Parents

What is the Census?

Every year, The Scout Association undertake an annual census of its members to collect statistical information across the UK. All the information collected is anonymous.

What information do we collect?

We collect the numbers of young people in Scouting, their age, gender and which Section they are in and what top awards have been gained. We also collect details of ethnicity, religion and disabilities. Some Groups/Districts collect this information via online systems, others collect it directly from parents.

Why do we conduct a census?

This information is collected as it can be used locally and nationally to provide a clear understanding of Scouting. It helps us to:

- Develop a clear understanding of our membership, its make-up and where it happens
- Identify where we need to create or improve guidance, support and training offered
- Better understand potential barriers to accessing Scouting
- Measure our progress towards Scouting For All, enabling us to recognise successes
- Budgeting and planning for the upcoming year and beyond
- Negotiate appropriate insurance cover for all members of the Scout Association.

How can you help?

The Scout Association is currently working towards our strategic plan, Skills for Life. To help in delivering and measuring the success of this plan we need to collect accurate information about genders, ethnicity, religion and disabilities. Whilst we have collected this in previous years, we are aware that the information is not as accurate as we would have hoped and would like your assistance to make it more accurate.

To this end I would invite you to complete the gender, ethnicity, religion and disability form and return it to your child's Leader so the details can be collated. For all three questions, we provide the options of 'I prefer to self-identify' or 'I prefer not to say'. Your Leader will arrange for the forms to be collected anonymously and the details added to the Census.

Thank you for your help with this information which is important to us to help our continuing work to develop Scouting for the future.

What about data protection?

All of the data collected is anonymised so there are no data protection concerns. The form we use to collect ethnicity, religion and disability information is collected locally and destroyed once the information is collated. The only exception to this is that we request the contact details for the person completing the Census return. This data is kept for so that they can be contacted if there are any questions that need to be answered in regard to the return. This personal data will be removed from the Census website no later than the January 2026. Details of the Scouts Data Protection Policy can be found on the website scouts.org.uk

Additional Information

You can get assistance from the Scout Support Centre by email support@scouts.org.uk or you could try [Live Chat](#) which can be found on our website.