



Starting a Squirrel Drey Checklist

Before your Squirrels adventure truly begins, here's the ultimate checklist to make sure you're as prepared as possible for opening a Squirrel Drey.

Things you must do to open a Squirrel Drey

- Get the District Lead Volunteer's support for opening the Drey.
- Make the Group's Trustee Board aware of the Drey opening and get their support.
- Find a suitable venue and when it's available.
- Check the [Squirrel ratios](#) and identify the Section Leadership Team for running the Drey.
- Make sure the Scout Group has an up-to-date bank account.
- Agree a budget with the Trustee Board to set up the Drey for the first six months.
- Work out how you'll communicate with families easily, such as setting up a Group email address or WhatsApp group.
- Speak to the Beaver Team Leader to set up succession plans for Squirrels who'll move up to Beavers.
- Submit the [Expression of Interest \(EOI\) form](#).

More things to consider

- Identify a project lead in the Group/District to support the Drey's set up.
- Once your Expression of Interest form's been accepted by the District Lead Volunteer, join the 'Welcome to Squirrels' webinar delivered by the Early Years' team.
- Select Cohort sessions to help the Drey run smoothly.
- Find, welcome and support Young Leaders.
- Use the [Furthering Reach Toolkit](#) to support inclusivity of Squirrels and volunteers.
- Check the [information on grants](#) to support your Drey opening.
- Agree a budget with the Trustee Board to support the Drey for the next two years.
- Check the [Growth & Communities](#) section opening support if you need more help.
- Encourage a minimum of ten Squirrels to join, so you can run a sufficient and balanced programme.
- Check out the [Squirrels programme](#) and activities on the Scouts website.
- Arrange a check in with your Group Lead Volunteer to update them on how it's going and ask for any further support you need.

