



# Squirrels

A pack for Leaders



----- Content -----

Introduction.....3

**Uniform**

Squirrel Uniform.....4  
Leaders Uniform.....5

**Running a Squirrel Drey**

Ratios.....6  
Opening and Closing a meeting.....6  
The Squirrel Promise .....7 & 8  
Training.....8  
Risk Assessments.....9

**Programme**

Activity Badge Requirements.....10-17  
Challenge Badge Requirements.....18-21  
Award Requirements.....22  
Staged Activity Badges.....22  
Youshape.....23-24

**Additional Information**

Useful Links and sources of information.....25  
Useful Contacts.....25

## The Northern Ireland Squirrel Association (NISA)

Squirrel Scouts would not be where it is today without the hard work and dedication of the Northern Ireland Squirrel Association. They have been championing pre Beaver Scout groups since the 90's for young people aged four to six years old in the Northern Ireland.

In November 2014 and January 2015, the Squirrel SMILE Badge scheme was launched around Northern Ireland. These badges were based off the aims of the NI Squirrel Association with the idea of 'give a smile get a smile'. There were 4 smile badges: I'm Caring, I'm Friendly, I'm Active and I'm Learning and additionally a squirrel membership badge and attendance awards for 6 months (Grey Acorn) and 12 months (Red Acorn).

The Squirrel programme and activity resources developed by NISA during this time would prove to be a vital tool in developing the Pilot resources and current Squirrel Scouts programme thanks to the collaborative work between NISA, Scouts NI and Scouts UK.

### Early Years

During Summit 17, a National conference attended by Youth, District, County, and sectional commissioner the idea was floated by a number of Youth Commissioners from Scouts NI about bringing the squirrel section to the UK. This happened following a conversation about lowering the starting age of beavers to 5 years.

Extensive research was done into the logistics for the rest of the UK with regard to starting a section targeted at 4 and 5-year-olds and following consultation from leaders and a review of the already existent Squirrel section in Northern Ireland 'Early Years' was added as a Programme of Work in the strategic plan for 2018-2023 with the aim to provide more young people with skills for life.

A number of pilots were developed; Scout Led, Family Led and Partner Led each with varying programmes and means of running. At present 'Squirrel Scouts' (Scout Led model) is the only pilot that has been approved by The Board of Trustees however pilots for the Family Led and Partner Led models continue.

The Programme for Squirrel Scouts was designed to support informal learning and help 4–5-year-olds catch up while providing young people with a positive, safe environment to develop these essential skills for life; working together, communication, and language, as well as creativity and community awareness.

Squirrels get active, explore nature and have fun learning with friends, all while earning badges – just like other Scouts. The Squirrel Scouts programme consists of 12 activity badges, 4 challenge badges and the Chief Scout's Acorn Award.

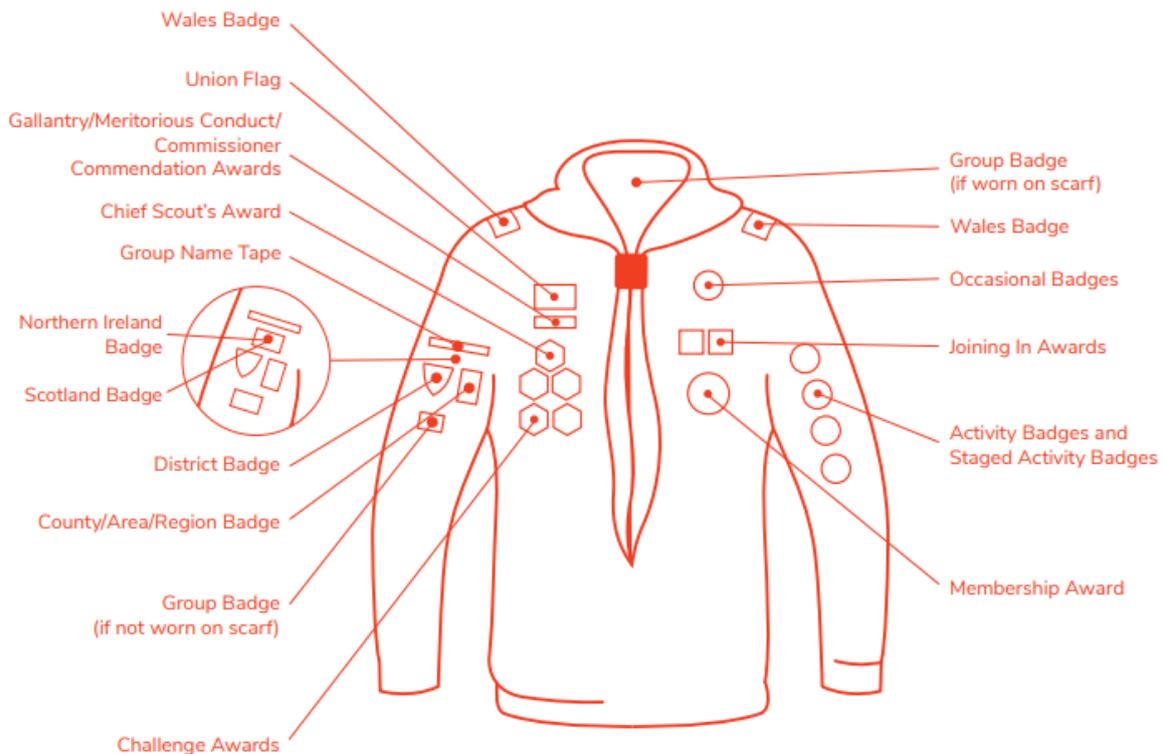
## Squirrel Uniform

To begin with, Squirrels can wear anything they feel comfortable running around in. If they decide to become members, they can get their own uniform. The uniform's comfy and practical, makes everyone feel part of the group, and gives the Squirrels a place to proudly display their badges and awards.

We chose Squirrels red for the uniform as it's so closely associated with the red squirrel animal, it's highly visible to keep children safe, and the bright primary colour appeals to children of all genders

Squirrel Scout Uniform:

- Squirrels Red crew neck sweatshirt
- Group scarf
- Woggle



More information can be found here - <https://shop.scouts.org.uk/squirrels/uniform>

## Leader Uniform

### Casual Uniform

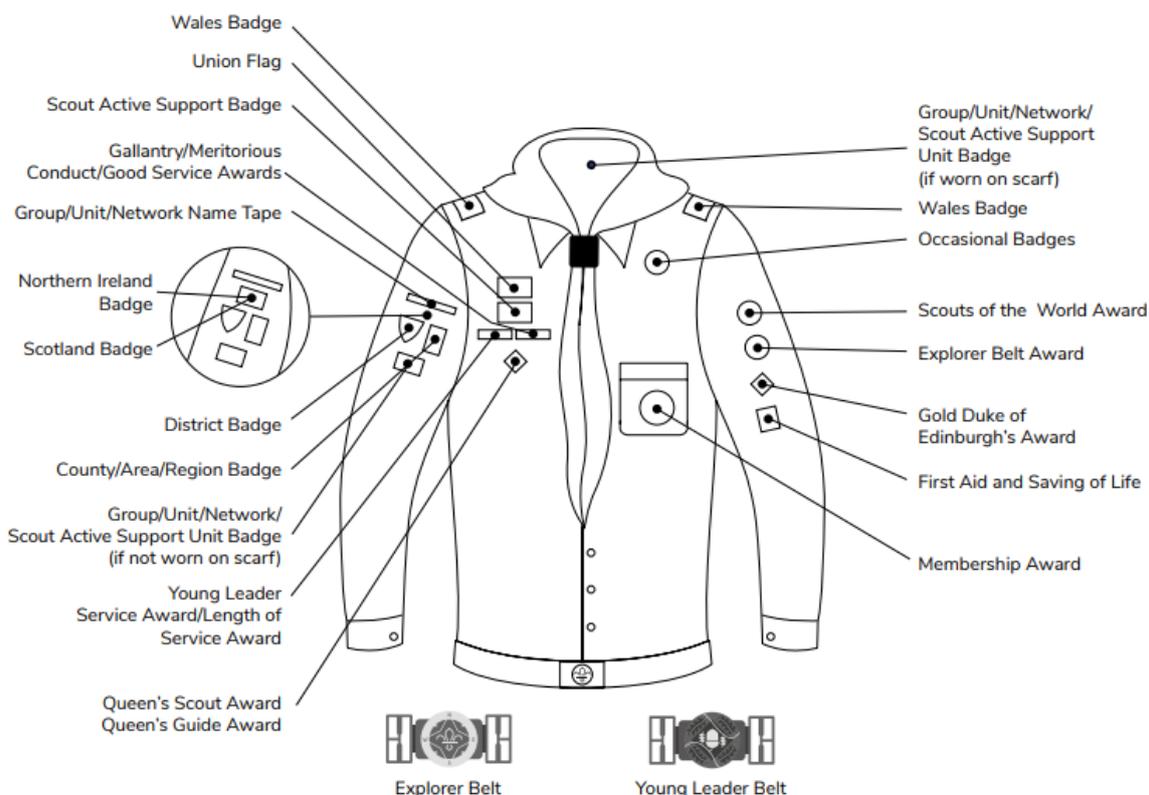
- Squirrels Red polo
- Squirrels Red hoodie
- Group scarf
- Woggle



<https://shop.scouts.org.uk/squirrels/casual-clothing#filters.age=Adult>

### Official Uniform

- stone long sleeve or short sleeve shirt or blouse;
- Group scarf and woggle or, on formal occasions, a blue tie;
- Scout belt Belt and buckle
- Navy blue activity trousers/ smart trousers/ smart skirt



More information can be found here - <https://shop.scouts.org.uk/uniform> or in POR 10 10. 'Uniform, badges and emblems'

## Running a Squirrel Drey

### Ratios

Inside – 1:6

Outside- 1:4

Plus, the Leader in Charge with a minimum of 3 adults of which 1 must be fully appointed, where possible there should also be a minimum of 1 Young Leader.

There is a recommended maximum of 24 young people in each Squirrel Drey however with a suitable venue, space and an appropriate number of leaders the Group Scout Leader can extend this.

### Opening the meeting

There is no correct way to open your meeting, but the most important thing is to make it accessible for all of your young people so that they can all get involved and enjoy it. Some people who don't have English as their first language may need support cards, others may join in more with songs if there are actions and some people may not like noise so think about the noise levels in your activities.

More information about making reasonable adjustments can be found here - <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/inclusion-and-diversity/supporting-those-with-additional-needs-and-neurodiversity/reasonable-adjustments/>

### Closing the meeting

Closing the meeting is a great way of summing up and reflecting on everything that you have done with your Squirrels that night. It doesn't have to be complicated and can be as simple as sitting in a circle and allowing each young person to take turns sharing something they have enjoyed or learnt. It is a great way of adding structure and routine to the meeting.

### Key Points

Before you start your meeting and at the end of the meeting when your young people are waiting to be collected it can be useful to have something for your squirrels to be doing. This can be something as simple as; drawing, a small game or a puzzle.

Opening and closing songs can also be an effective tool during your meetings to allow your young people to come together and understand what it means to be part of a drey with their friends. An example of this can be seen below;

Hello (name of young person), hello (name of next young person),hello (name of next young person), we're glad you're here today. To the tune of 'Goodbye campfire song'

## Squirrel Promise

Making the Promise is a big celebration within the section. Every time a new Squirrel decides to join permanently, they chat through their Promise before making it. Usually, they do this by saying it out loud in front of their fellow Scouts. Family and friends might come along to see this, too. This is known as being 'invested' into Squirrels, and it usually takes place a few weeks into their Scouts experience, once they've had time to settle in.



Scouting is an inclusive and values-based movement that is open to all who share our fundamental values;

- Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- Respect - We have 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.
- Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

This includes people of different faiths as well as people who are humanist, atheist or have no affirmed faith. Therefore, nobody has to talk about God in their Promise. Help your young people to choose the promise that is right for them, variations of the promise can be seen below;

### **For Muslims**

I promise to do my best  
To be kind and helpful  
And to love Allah

### **For Christians, Jews and Sikhs**

I promise to do my best  
To be kind and helpful  
And to love God

### **For Humanists. Atheists and those with no defined faith**

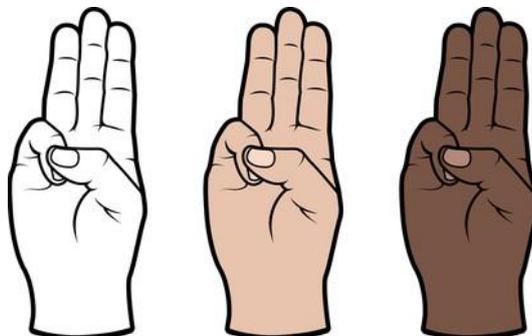
I promise to do my best  
To be kind and helpful  
And to love our world

### **For Hindus and Buddhists**

I promise to do my best  
To be kind and helpful  
And to love my Dharma

## Making the scout sign

The scout sign is used during the promise. The salute is made using the right hand with the palm facing out, the thumb holding the little finger down and the index, middle and ring finger pointing straight up.



## Training

### Mandatory Training

- Essential Information (Module 1)
- Safety
- Safeguarding
- GDPR
- Tools for the role (Module 3)

### Squirrel Section Specific

- Learning for Squirrel Volunteers
- Keep your young people safe
- Get to know your young people
- Run games and activities
- Plan challenging sessions

1 Person at each meeting should be First Aid trained – this can be achieved through either First Aid training module 10A and 10B which is to be renewed every 3 years or a relevant First Aid Certificate from other organisations.

## Risk Assessments

Young people thrive in secure surroundings. And as leader of Squirrels, you're responsible for keeping your young people safe while they're in your care. For anything you plan, you'll need to follow our safety guidelines and minimum ratios.

Risk Assessments are required for all activities in scouting and effect you no matter your role in scouting; you need to either be aware of and follow the risk assessment or develop and distribute them.



The five steps to risk assessment.

There has always been a requirement to undertake risk assessments in the scouts in August 2020 changes were made that now also make it a requirement to document these risk assessments. You can use a variety of tools to do this including online via the programme planning tool and OSM, in a note pad, on your phone or in a formal risk assessment template as shown below.

### Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Date of risk assessment	Name of person doing this risk assessment	
		Date of next review	
<b>What hazard have you identified?</b> <b>What are the risks from it?</b> A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	<b>Who is at risk?</b> For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	<b>How are the risks already controlled?</b> <b>What extra controls are needed?</b> Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.	<b>What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?</b> Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
For example: Hazard: fire Risk: smoke inhalation or burns	Leaders, visitors, Young Leaders, Scouts	Smoke: use dry wood, check wind direction, stand people out of smoke direction. Burns: stay a safe distance from fire, place extra wood on carefully, teach Scouts good practice around fires, have a burns first aid kit easily available.	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for leaders and at [scouts.org.uk/safety](https://www.scouts.org.uk/safety)  
 UKHQ template published September 2020



More information can be found here - <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/risk-assessments/>

## Activity badge requirements



### **Squirrels Be Active Activity Badge**

Bodies can do great things. Explore new ways to move, learn fun new games, and help your friends do their best.

#### **How to earn your badge:**

- 1. There are lots of different ways to be active. Explore the different ways that you can move your body and see how they feel.**
- 2. Playing games is lots of fun. Learn to play a new game using different equipment.**

You could use balls, bean bags, bats, or rackets. There are lots of different games you could play – which one is your favourite?

- 3. Games are even more fun when you play with your friends. Do your best to help your friends play a game.**

You could teach someone the rules to a new game, help new Squirrels learn your favourite game, or encourage your friends to do their best.



### **Squirrels Brilliant Builder Activity Badge**

People (and animals) can build all sorts of amazing things of different shapes and sizes. Now it's your turn to create something exciting. Your imagination's the limit.

#### **How to earn your badge:**

- 1. Buildings, statues, and bridges can be made of lots of different materials. Can you create something strong that can hold something heavy?**

You could use building blocks, paper, or something else. People could design their own thing or follow a pattern or template – it's up to you.

- 2. People live in all sorts of different buildings – they were all designed by people called architects and built by people called builders. Choose a toy or teddy, design a home for them to live in, then build it.**

You could make your design on a computer or tablet or draw it on some paper. You could use natural materials, building blocks, cushions, or something totally different.

- 3. Some of the best builders are animals, who create their own places to live. Work as a team to build a big den that you can all sit in and do an activity.**

You could use natural materials to make a den outside or build one indoors using chairs and blankets.



### **Squirrels Exciting Experiments Activity Badge**

Scientists learn how the world works by asking big questions and giving things a go. Now it's your turn to try some experiments and see what you can discover.

#### **How to earn your badge:**

- 1. We find out about the world around us using our senses. Try some activities to explore all of your different senses. What can you see, hear, smell, taste, and feel?**

You could try different ways to remember what you learn – you could talk about what you found, keep some notes, draw a picture, or take some photos.

- 2. Scientists think about how things might work and do experiments to find out if they're right. Get stuck in and try some experiments together. What do you think will happen?**

You could build a rocket, grow a plant, build a boat, spot some wildlife, look for some stars, or try something totally different.

- 3. Being a scientist is all about sharing what you've learned. Tell a friend about your experiments and what you found out.**



### **Squirrels Explore Outdoors Activity Badge**

The world is full of exciting things for you to discover. Work together to get ready, go on an adventure, and share what you find. Who knows where you'll end up?

#### **How to earn your badge:**

- 1. Every great adventure starts with a great plan. Work together to think about some different places you could visit, what you should wear, and what you'll need to take with you.**

You could prepare some snacks, practise getting dressed for different weather, and pack your own bag before you set off.

- 2. It's time to get outside! Explore some different environments, use a compass to see which direction you're going, and keep track of all the interesting things you see and hear.**

You could visit a park, a beach, some woodland, the countryside, or anywhere else that's interesting. Will you go north, east, south, or west? You could take photos, draw, or tell a story.

- 3. The fun doesn't have to stop when you get home. Tell a friend about your adventure and think about how you could make your next trip even better.**

You could share photos, drawings, or stories about your adventure or start your own adventure scrapbook to keep track of all your exciting outings.



### **Squirrels Feel Good Activity Badge**

We look after our bodies by doing things like brushing our teeth and eating different foods. Have you ever thought about how we look after our minds? Get stuck in and learn about three ways to take care of yourself and your brain.

#### **How to earn your badge:**

- 1. Doing things that you enjoy can help boost your mood. What makes you feel good? Try some activities that give you that winning feeling or do something that helps you relax.**

You could try some active team games or problem-solving puzzles or chill out with a craft or a story. Choose something challenging and enjoyable so you can practise concentrating. You could turn your activity into a new hobby (or make it a part of every session) so you have something to look forward to.

- 2. We're often really busy having fun, but taking notice of how you're feeling is a great skill to practise. Take a minute or two to check in with your feelings and remember what makes you feel happy.**

You could think about what different feelings look like or how they feel in your body. What's your favourite feeling? You could think about things that make you feel happy or things you could do to help other people feel happy too.

- 3. We know that connecting with other people can help us to feel good. Create a comfy space to spend some time with your friends at Squirrels.**

You could use natural materials to build a den or make a blanket fort indoors. You could use your comfy space to play some fun games, sing some songs, or find out something new about your friends.



### Squirrels Get Creative Activity Badge

Draw. Sing. Move. Build. Create. There are lots of different ways to let your imagination go wild. What will you try first?

**How to earn your badge:**

- 1. Use your imagination to make a picture or model of something you love. It could be anything from a flying monkey to a dinosaur in the bath.**

You could use traditional materials like paints or crayons, use a computer or tablet, or get stuck in with something different like mud or grass.

- 2. Singing songs and doing the actions gives us the chance to use our imagination and have fun. Help another Squirrel learn a song with actions.**

You could make up your own song, add new actions to a song you already know, or teach them an action song you've learned before.

- 3. The natural world has inspired lots of creative designs, from trains shaped like birds to glass inspired by spiders' webs. Work with another Squirrel to create something using natural materials.**

You could create a picture using leaves, bark rubbings, and twigs; paint with mud; or take pictures to use in a collage.



### Squirrels Go Wild Activity Badge

Wild animals make the world a better place. Learn about animals that live nearby and far away, then work together to help them.

**How to earn your badge:**

- 1. Animals live all around us, from tiny insects to big, strong deer. Find out about some animals that live near you and see what you can learn about some animals that live far away.**

You could think about different pets that people have, draw your favourite animals, go minibeast hunting, or try a virtual safari.

- 2. Lots of animals use plants for food and shelter, including hungry caterpillars that munch on leaves and birds that nest in trees. Find out about what animals in your local area like to eat and where they like to live.**

You could go on a walk and talk about what you find or visit a local park.

- 3. Animals sometimes need our help to stay safe and healthy – especially if people have damaged the places that they live. Work together to make something that helps plants or animals.**

You could make a yummy bird feeder, build a bug house, find out about places that look after animals, or collect and recycle some litter to clean up your local area.



### Squirrels Let It Grow Activity Badge

Plants are all around us (and we eat them every day) – but do you know how they grow?

**How to earn your badge:**

- 1. There are lots of different plants – you may have seen prickly cacti, tall trees, or brightly coloured flowers. Some plants even eat bugs! Have a go at growing a plant of your own.**

You could grow anything, for example, a beautiful flower or something tasty to eat. It's up to you whether you plant something that lives indoors or outdoors.

- 2. Plants change a lot as they grow. Look after your plant, give it water and sunlight, and watch what happens; it might grow taller, change colour or make flowers or fruit. Tell some other Squirrels what happened to your plant and how it changed.**

You could think about the colours you can see, how different parts of it feel, or what it smells like.

- 3. Fruit and vegetables come in different shapes, sizes, and colours and grow in lots of different ways. Find out where some of the fruit and vegetables you eat come from and how they're grown. Do the plants look different to the foods on your plate?**

You could visit a local farm or allotment to see the plants or ask a visitor to come in and show some fruit or vegetables they've grown.



## Squirrels Let's Celebrate Activity Badge

People all around the world celebrate things that are important to them with stories, songs, skills, and snacks. Now it's your turn to get stuck in.

**How to earn your badge:**

- 1. People celebrate in lots of different ways, like singing, dancing, and playing games. What do you like doing when you're happy? Sing a song, do a dance, or play a game from a different culture.**
- 2. Lots of festivals are based on stories or legends. Find out about some new festivals or celebrations by reading or listening to a story together.**

You could read the story of Diwali the festival of lights, learn about some lunar new year legends, or hear about the menorah miracle at Hanukkah.

- 3. Now it's your turn to party – take part in a festival or celebration from a different culture with the other Squirrels. Get creative, make something to help you celebrate, and try some different festive foods.**

You could make lanterns for Eid, diyas for Diwali, or window flowers for Chinese New Year. You could try mince pies for Christmas, baklava for Eid, pancakes for Mardi Gras or matzo for Passover.



## Squirrels Local Superhero Activity Badge

Superheroes don't just exist in books, comics, and films. Real-life superheroes are all around us, doing great things to help people every day.

**How to earn your badge:**

- 1. There are lots of local superheroes doing great things near where you live. Find out who they are and what they do to help.**

Think about people who have a different background to you too – superheroes come in lots of different shapes and sizes. You could talk about doctors, nurses, firefighters, teachers or postal workers. You could visit where they work, ask them to visit, try a video call, draw pictures of them, or dress up like them.

- 2. Anyone can be a superhero if they use their skills to make the world a better place. Design your superhero costume, choose your powers, and think about how you'll use your powers to help other people.**

You could draw a picture of yourself as a superhero, edit a photo on a computer or tablet, or dress up. You could use your powers to clean up rubbish and help the environment, make food for people who are hungry, or look after people to help them feel better.

- 3. Now it's time to put your superpowers to good use. Work with your group to make a difference in your local area.**

You could plant some flowers for everyone to enjoy, help people to recycle, or help a local charity.



### **Squirrels Story Time Activity Badge**

Let your imagination run wild as you get lost in a story and see where it takes you.

#### **How to earn your badge:**

- 1. When we hear stories, we can imagine going to different places and getting involved in lots of adventures. Choose a story to listen to with your friends and talk about it afterwards.**

You could talk about the adventure the story took you on, the main characters, what the characters did, and what you think could happen next. Did you like the story?

- 2. Stories can be about almost anything: people, animals, or magical creatures. What sort of stories do you like the most? Tell someone about your favourite story.**

You could bring the book with you, draw a picture of the best bit of the story, or even dress up as one of the characters.

- 3. Anyone can be a storyteller. Now it's your turn to be in charge! Make up your own story and tell someone about it.**

It's up to you how you tell your story – you could draw, find pictures using a computer or tablet, act it out, use your toys, or make costumes or props to bring it to life.



## Squirrels Super Chef Activity Badge

What's your favourite thing to eat? Learn more about food then put on your apron and cook up a storm.

### How to earn your badge:

- 1. The food we eat comes from lots of different places all over the world. Some grows underground, some grows on bushes or trees, and some comes from animals. Think about the foods you eat and explore where some of them come from.**

You could visit a supermarket, talk to someone who produces food, or grow some food yourself.

- 2. We can use all of our senses to find out about food. It can be sweet, salty, crunchy, soft, or even brightly coloured. Are there any new foods you'd like to try? Explore some new foods with your friends.**

You could try different some different fruits, vegetables, or breads. What makes them different?

- 3. Having fun while cooking isn't just for grown ups. Wash your hands, follow a recipe, and make a tasty snack with your friends.**

You could cook on a gas burner, an oven or hob, or outside on an open fire. Why not try some backwoods cooking using unusual utensils like billy cans?



## Challenge Badge Requirements

### Squirrels All About Adventure Challenge Award

Go on a scavenger hunt. Gaze up at the stars. Enjoy your first campfire. Pack your bag and try something new as you go on an adventure in the great outdoors.

#### How to earn your badge:

- 1. Adventures are more fun when you're prepared. Choose your activities, think about what you'll need, and pack your bag – just don't forget the snacks!**

You could work together to make sure that you have the clothes and equipment you'll need and think about how you'll stay safe during all of your different activities and adventures.

- 2. Having fun outside is good for your mind and your body. Take part in some outdoor activities and try something new.**

You could try:

- Going on a scavenger hunt
- Stargazing
- Putting a tent up and taking it down again
- Cloud watching
- Hunting for bugs
- Pond dipping
- Going on a nature walk
- Building a den
- Building and lighting a fire.

- 3. Take a deep breath and go for it. It's time to go on some adventures.**

You could try an obstacle course, go for a walk (over low-level, simple terrain), or go trampolining. If you're feeling extra adventurous, you could try bouldering, swimming, or cycling.

- 4. No adventure is complete without a campfire. Gather around a roaring fire (or a fire-free indoor model), spend some time with your friends, and reflect on your adventures.**

You could sing some songs, play some games, or toast some marshmallows.



## Squirrels All About Me Challenge Award

There's no one else who's exactly like you. Think about what makes you unique, learn about the people around you, and set yourself a challenge.

### How to earn your badge:

- 1. We all have different interests and talents: what are yours? Create something that shows who you are, where you live, and what you like to do.**

You could draw, make a mud statue, tell a story, make something on the computer, or find another imaginative way to share what's important to you.

- 2. Helping other people is a kind thing to do. Think about the people who are there to help us when we need it, then choose some helpful things that you could do for others. Talk to a leader about a kind thing you'd like to try and give it a go.**

You could think about the people you live with, people whose job is to help you, or people at nursery, school, or Scouts. What are these people good at? Can you help others in a similar way? You could help out at home, help a new Squirrel to join in, or teach someone something new.

- 3. When we learn to do new things (by ourselves and with others) we become more independent and feel more confident. Choose something you can do independently to take care of yourself, talk to an adult about what you want to learn, then try it out.**

You could brush your own teeth, wash your hands often, tidy up after you've finished playing, or set the table ready for a meal.

- 4. Setting yourself a challenge can help you learn things and build skills. Think of a challenge you'd like to try, decide how long you want to do it for, and get stuck in.**

You could:

- Try something new
- Wear your Scout scarf to Squirrels every week
- Go on a trip
- Take care of something like a plant or a pet
- Collect something.



## Squirrels All Around Us Challenge Award

Learn about where you live, meet some new people, and discover more about your community. It's time to find your place in the world.

### How to earn your badge:

- 1. You don't have to go very far to learn something new. Start local and explore where you live. Find out about the places in your community, what they're for, and who might go there.**

You could talk to someone like a police officer, lifeboat crew, firefighter, youth worker, or nurse.

- 2. Being a Squirrel Scout is all about doing your best and being kind and helpful. Think of some ways you could help other people or your local community and give some of them a go.**

You could do something to help the environment, help a friend, or help out at home.

- 3. Did you know that you're part of a bigger Scout family? Learn about the different sections in your group or talk to another group somewhere else in the UK.**

You could do an activity together, learn their favourite game, or find out more about what they do at Scouts.

- 4. There are groups of Scouts all over the world. Find out some facts about another country and take part in an international activity.**

You could contact some Scouts in another country, try some new foods, or make a model of something from another country.



## Squirrels All Together Challenge Award

We can do so much more with great friends. Work together to play games, make choices, and learn to be the best friend you can be.

### How to earn your badge:

- 1. Games are much more fun with friends. Play some team games with your friends at Squirrels and work together to have fun.**
- 2. You can do almost anything with help from good friends. Work with others to be a great team member – remember to take turns, share things, help each other, and follow instructions.**

You could help each other to earn a new badge, bake something tasty, make up a new game, or create some giant art.

- 3. The things we decide to do affect other people too. Make a choice for yourself and your team – remember to think about what other people might want and how they might feel.**

You could choose a game for everyone to play, an adventure to for everyone to try, a snack for everyone to make, or something else.

- 4. Everyone needs a little help sometimes. Help your leader to show someone new what Squirrel Scouts is all about.**

You could tell your new friend people's names, teach them your favourite game, or help them to stay safe on your next adventure.



## Chief Scout's Acorn Award

This is the highest award a Squirrel Scout can earn. To get it, you'll need to complete all four Challenge Awards and any two Activity Badges of your choice. The Chief Scout's Acorn Award shows that you've had adventures, helped your friends, and learned new things – it's a big achievement, and you should be proud!

### How to earn your badge:

1. **Finish all four Challenge Awards.**
2. **Do two Activity Badges of your choice.**

### Tips

- If you haven't quite finished your Chief Scout's Acorn Award by the time you move onto Beavers, you can complete anything left during your first term in your new Beaver Colony.
- When you move onto Beavers, you can wear your Chief Scout's Acorn Award on your Beaver uniform until you earn your Chief Scout's Bronze Award.

## Staged Badges

Like the other sections in Scouting Squirrels will be able to work towards and achieve Staged Activity Badges, with the only one exception at present being the Nights Away Staged Activity Badge.

Staged Activity Badges cover a range of topics and skills and do not have to be completed in order. Young people are able to begin at a level that is comfortable and suits them.

Staged Activity Badges include;

- Air Activities
- Community Impact
- Digital Citizenship
- Digital Maker
- Emergency Aid
- Hikes Away
- Musical
- Nautical Skills
- Navigator
- Paddle Sports
- Sailing
- Snow Sports
- Swimmer
- Time on the Water

More information on Staged Activity Badges can be found here -

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/running-a-squirrel-drey/fundamentals-of-squirrels/staged-activity-badges/>

## YouShape

Youth Shaped Scouting or 'Youshape' may sound like its going to be a lot to get your head round but it's probably something you do automatically with your young people.

Youth Shaped Scouting is when young people and volunteers work together to help the young people achieve their own goals, take lead of their own adventure and shape their own experience in Scouting. This has been around since Scouting was founded in 1907 but has come a long way since then and is now an important part of the "Skills for Life" strategy. Youth Commissioners (YCs) have an important role in Youth Shaped Scouting in that they make sure young people are at the heart of the decisions being made and that their programme is shaped by them. YCs have the ability to bring together these great ideas from the young people and put them into place at County and District levels. If you ever need to contact your local YC, you can contact your District Commissioner, County Commissioner, or email [youthcommissioner@scoutsni.org](mailto:youthcommissioner@scoutsni.org)

Most recently the Youshape award has been developed, it is a great tool to embed youth shaped scouting in our programmes allowing young people to gain and develop great skills for life and do things they enjoy. Unfortunately, at present this award is not available for the Squirrel section but don't worry there is plenty of opportunities within the Squirrel programme for your young people to get their first taste of leadership.

In Scouting we want young people to be empowered to take the lead and stand up for what they believe in by having a say in what they want to get out of scouting. Letting them take the lead helps them become more confident and gain skills in leadership, planning and teamwork. Youth shaped Scouting allows young people to be heard. Young people are our future and it's important to help them gain the skills and confidence to become future leaders.

Here is an example of a simple youshape activity that you could use with your Squirrels;

### **Badge Run**

Instructions:

1. Ahead of time, print out some images of the badges your Young People have tried so far. Cut these out and set aside.
2. When you arrive at your meeting place, find a clear, open space.
3. Using the skipping rope, bean bags and hoops, create a fun obstacle course for your Young People to run around in. Place the cut out images of the different badges inside the hoops.

4. Take your three buckets and three Post-it notes. Draw a smiley face on one Post-it note, a neutral face on the other, and a sad face on the other. Put one Post-it on each of the three buckets.
5. During the obstacle course, the Young People should pick up an image of a badge they have completed. When they reach the end of the obstacle course, they should put the badge image in the smiley, neutral or sad bucket, depending on how much they enjoyed completing that badge.
6. At the end of the meeting, go through each bucket and see which badges appear to be the most and least popular. Make a note of the results

## Useful Links

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/nisquirrelscouts](http://www.facebook.com/nisquirrelscouts)

Scouts NI Website - [www.scoutsni.org/squirrels](http://www.scoutsni.org/squirrels)

Scouts UK Website – [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

OSM set up link – <https://www.onlinescoutmanager.co.uk/register.php?eys=61a5c6e6-8832-458e-8981-df72e922f712>

Link to the brand centre - <https://scoutsbrand.org.uk/>

## Useful Contacts

### **Becca Buchanan**

(NI Commissioner for Squirrels)

Email- [squirrels@scoutsni.org](mailto:squirrels@scoutsni.org)

### **Rachel Connor**

(Deputy NI Commissioner for Squirrels)

Email – [squirrels.deputy@scoutsni.org](mailto:squirrels.deputy@scoutsni.org)

### **Scouts NI Headquarters**

Email- [enquiries@scoutsni.org](mailto:enquiries@scoutsni.org)

Phone- 02890402829

### **Gilwell**

Email – [info.centre@scouts.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scouts.org.uk)

Phone – 03453001818

### **Northern Ireland Squirrel Association**

(For queries related to the merger)

Email – [squirrelinfo@scoutsni.org](mailto:squirrelinfo@scoutsni.org)