

## Scouts Scotland Scouting and Alcohol 'Green Card'

This card is intended to set out the National Policy in a clear and concise manner and is aimed at all Leaders, Scout Network Members, Members of Scout Active Support and any other adults involved in Scouting.

The Scout Association has a key policy, which requires Scouting to be provided in a safe manner without risk to health, so far as is reasonably practicable.

As an adult in Scouting, you are a role model for young people. In certain circumstances drinking alcohol has the potential to place adults in a compromising position with regard to their responsibilities for child protection and their duty of care.

All adults need to be physically and mentally fit to undertake their responsibilities in this area.

When responsible for young people, adults must not drink alcohol.

During Scouting events that are attended by under 18s, the following should apply:

- Under 18s must not consume alcohol under any circumstances.
- Adults must not consume alcohol in the presence of under 18s.
- At any one time there should be the correct ratio of responsible adults (in accordance with POR) who must not consume alcohol
- Risk assessments must be in place depending on the size and nature of the event.
- Where adults do consume alcohol it should be in an area separate from young people and there should be a clearly defined adult only areas to which young people do not have access.
- Adults who do consume alcohol should be mindful of the need to follow the Yellow Card ('Young People First') even if they are not directly responsible for young people.
- During 'off duty' periods, adults in Scouting also need to take into account the effects alcohol can have and how it may affect their fitness to fulfil their Scouting duties.

Support and Planning:

- All young people and adults should be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of them.
- Consideration should be given to the creation of a code of conduct in advance of events.
- Young people and adults should be helped to understand the issues associated with alcohol and how to access information and advice.
- Consideration should be given to the effects alcohol can have and how it may affect an individual's ability to fulfil their Scouting duties. This should form part of the risk assessment (for example, if someone drinks excessively they may be ineffective in performing duties the following morning).
- Consideration should be given to running alcohol free events and to the cultural and religious needs of those taking part.
- Any member of the Scout Network or a Scout Active Support Unit should be expected to follow the same guidance as for adult leaders.

If you require further information you should make contact with your line manager or Scouts Scotland Headquarters:-

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Email [shq@scouts.scot](mailto:shq@scouts.scot)