

# Photographing and Video Recording Scout Events



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0845 300 1818

This Factsheet is intended to provide guidance on photography and video recording at Scout activities and events.

In most cases following a few simple guidelines will make the taking and use of photographs for Scouting a straightforward matter.

In particular, when a new member joins the Scout Group, it can be very helpful if an personal detail form also seeks permission for photographs to be taken is given to parents.

The form could usefully say:

*On occasions, photographs and videos of Scouts taking part in activities are taken for a variety of uses. On occasions these may be submitted to the local newspapers, the Group, District or County newsletters and websites or put on display.*

*If you have any objections please indicate you are not willing for your child's image to be used in this way by ticking the box .....*

## Safeguarding young people

There have been concerns about the risks to children and young people when their photographs are used on websites (including on social networking sites and YouTube etc) and in publications. However following a few simple guidelines (based upon those suggested by the NSPCC) will reduce the potential for misuse.

- Avoid using both the full name and the photograph of a young person in a publication or on a website.
- Seek parental permission (see above)

- Only allow photographs to be taken of suitably dressed subjects and in appropriate situations
- Follow Young People First (the Yellow Card) at all times

## Advertising or promotional photographs

When photographs featuring young people are being taken specifically for use in advertising and/or promotional material, it is **recommended** that parental consent is obtained using a specific Release Form along the lines of that at the end of this Factsheet

A Release Form is not a legal requirement, (as the copyright of an image belongs to the photographer and not the subject), nevertheless, it is good practice and good manners to seek specific parental approval.

## Press photographers

Promoting Scouting through the use of appropriate and positive images is important. Scouting needs publicity and a picture is worth a thousand words.

Where a newspaper photographer is attending a Scout event it is important that parental consent (using a Release Form) is obtained in advance in order to avoid any confusion or disappointment.

Remember that whilst newspapers will be keen to use the names of the people they photograph, it is safer for the young people if only their first name is used. Alternatively you can ask the photographer to use a collective term such as "Cub Scouts from the 6<sup>th</sup> Anywhere Scout Group",

It can be appropriate to give the location of a Group meeting place (street name etc), however if you give a telephone number make sure the person whose number you are giving out is happy for the number to be published.

Photographs taken by Press photographers without invitation or permission are subject to the normal Press Complaints Commission Code of Practise. The full Code can be viewed at:

<http://www.pcc.org.uk>

### **Data Protection Act**

The Data Protection Act is unlikely to apply in the majority of situations in Scouting and the fear of breaching the Act should not be used to stop people from taking videos or photographs.

Photographs taken for personal use, for example photographs taken by parents of their daughter and her friends being invested would be for "personal use" and the Data Protection Act would not apply.

Photographs taken and kept for official use, (for example for an identity card scheme at a camp) and stored (electronically or in hard copy) with other personal data, are likely to fall under the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

In most cases, even where the Act applies, asking permission to take the photograph and storing that photograph (and the associated data) securely and appropriately would be enough to ensure compliance with the Act. (See Factsheet FS270001 - *Data Protection and the Data Protection Act 1998*)

### **Gang Shows**

In addition to the guidance given above, in the case of Gang Shows and similar performances the potential copyright implications of recording and copying music and other material should be borne in mind.

