

Lees Wood Challenge Badge



Celebrating the outdoors!

All proceeds from this badge will go towards funding the new Volunteer Centre at Lees Wood Scout and Guide Activity Centre.

Lees Wood Scout and Guide Activity Centre

Lees Wood is a small, intimate site ideal for Beaver Scout or Rainbow outdoor events, Cub Scout Pack or Brownie Pack Holidays, Guide & Scout Camps and District Activities. It celebrated its diamond jubilee (60th anniversary) in 2024.

Within the 67-acre site, there are 7 acres of camping areas (including some small secluded woodland sites, great for Scout/Guide Patrols) and a 17 acre event field, so there's plenty of activity space. All of this is just 3 miles from the centre of Watford.



The site offers a warm, friendly Scouting and Guiding atmosphere; our staff are all volunteers, with service crews available to help with any problems.

The building of the new volunteer centre will allow Lees Wood the ability to continue to provide this friendly atmosphere and provide these opportunities for more young people. Lees Wood is suitable for Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions and other youth and community organisations are always welcome.



Lees Wood Challenge badge

There are 5 sections of the badge



Rainbows, Beavers and Squirrels should complete 5 activities - 1 activity from each section.

Brownies and Cubs should complete 7 activities - 1 activity from each section plus 2 more.

Guides, Scouts, Rangers and Explorers should complete 10 activities - 2 activities from each section.

Many of the activities can be completed during a visit to Lees Wood: see <http://www.leeswood.org.uk/> for directions and to book your visit.



Section 1: Story Telling - Lees Wood Panther

If you ever stay at Lees Wood, you will have to keep an eye out for the mythical Lees Wood mascot, the Black Panther.

There are 2 stories as to where this mythical panther comes from:

The first Warden of Lees Wood was RAF Squadron Leader "Flight" Cracknell. He brought with him the emblem of his former squadron, known as the Panther Squadron. In appreciation of his contributions to the site, one of the buildings was named "Flight Oaks" in his honour. When you visit Flight Oaks, try to find his picture displayed on the walls.

The second story also involves Squadron Leader Cracknell. Before Lees Wood became a campsite, he served as a voluntary Warden at Phasels Wood. During that time, campsites had a "Bailiff" employed by the Boy Scouts Association. The Bailiff at Phasels Wood was known as "Panther" Jones. When Lees Wood was established, Squadron Leader Cracknell became its Warden and adopted the name "Panther" for Lees Wood's emblem in tribute to Panther Jones.

In Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book, Bagheera the panther was the Protector and Mentor to Mowgli the man-cub and is well known to the Scouting sections – particularly cubs!

For this section complete some activities inspired by stories about the Lees Wood Panther.

1. Tell a story to the others in your group without speaking – about Squadron Leader Cracknell, Jungle book or something else of your choice
2. Make a [model panther with a toilet roll tube](#)
3. Find out about panthers and make a Panther fact file or a poster.
4. Create a play with a Panther as the main character
5. Think about the names you use within your unit – where do they come from? Can you create a backstory about where you meet or names within your unit – it can be acted out, or a poster, cartoon strip, or piece of writing
6. Create a paper plate Panther
7. Watch or read the Jungle Book story
8. Visit Lees Wood and follow the nature trail, spotting the Lees Wood panther on the way

Section2: Traditional Camp Activities

At Lees Wood we offer a traditional and rustic camping experience so for this section we want you to have a go at some traditional camping skills.

1. Have a go at putting up a tent. If you want a challenge, try putting up a ridge tent, or for experienced campers why not even try it blindfolded
2. Design your own camp site. Think about where you would place your tents, cooking area, first aid etc...
3. Visit Lees Wood and build a shelter in the woods
4. Design and build some [camp gadgets](#)
5. Learn 3 new knots – [A-Z of knots](#)
6. Have a go at semaphore flag signalling
7. Share a campfire with another unit and swap campfire songs
8. Build a stretcher with wood, ropes and poles and use it to carry someone at least 10 metres (see [Guide UMA Get Carried Away](#))
9. Pioneering – Build a water carrier or the tallest flagpole (see [Pioneering Projects](#) for ideas)

Section3: Camp Games

Get outdoors and play a game!

1. Play natural noughts and crosses – with twigs, stones and leaves
2. Make compass pictures – Use the compass directions (North, South, East, West, NE, SE, SW, NW) and paces or a 0.5m rod to create pictures with rope laid on the ground or metal tent pegs and twine. An extension is to use compass bearings. If you don't have outdoor space you could do the same on squared paper.
(6S, 6E, 6NW, 6SW, 6E, 1S, 6W, 2SE, 8E, 2NE, 6W – on the water)
3. Do a scavenger hunt
4. Play panther and mouse (a variation on cat and mouse) with a parachute
5. Play Sardines
6. Have a go at leaf rubbing or bark rubbing
7. Play [capture the flag](#)
8. Play a wide game (lots of ideas online, [here](#) are some)

Section 4: Camp cooking

In 2023 Lees Wood created a new backwoods cooking area. To celebrate this facility, have a go at some camp cooking (don't forget you can book the cooking area at Lees Wood online)

1. Build and light a campfire and cook something on it (see [Backwoods cooking ideas](#))
2. Toast some s'mores
3. Make and use a [Dutch oven](#) (see [Recipes](#))
4. Make and use a [solar oven](#)
5. Make some [mini candle pancakes](#).
6. Cook a 2-course meal on a campfire
7. Plan and budget a camp menu for your unit / patrol
8. Make an edible campfire

Cooking ideas:

[Campfire popcorn](#)

[Campfire Fajitas](#)

[Dampers](#)

Section 5: Lees Wood Volunteer Centre and Fundraising

In 2023 the site obtained planning permission to build the new Lees Wood Volunteer Centre. Volunteers, who are on site every weekend Lees Wood is open, are an essential part of the activity centre and enable it to be used for camping by youth groups. The volunteer centre will contain the office, reception, first aid room, equipment store, accessible facilities as well as overnight accommodation for the volunteers who are required to stay on site. The profits from this badge will be going towards the fundraising for the construction. This section is all themed around the new centre and fundraising to help build it

1. Discuss and consider what elements volunteers might want as they provide support to everyone using Lees Wood and design your own volunteer centre
2. Visit [Lees Wood](#) and have a go at one of the many activities on offer, or a local scout and guide activity centre near to you
3. One of the activities at Lees Wood is its photo trail. Create and run a photo hunt in your local area or meeting place
4. Hold a fundraising event for the new Lees Wood volunteer centre. Please visit our Just Giving page to donate any money you raise, or bring to Lees Wood when you visit and drop it into the Providore (shop) clearly marked Fundraising

Here are some fundraising ideas:

- Hold a coffee morning/meeting
- Complete a sponsored event
- Organise and hold a bring-and-buy sale
- Hold a bake sale
- Run a bingo or quiz evening



Branding approval

Girlguiding Bespoke:



bespoke
to me ▾

Fri 24 Jan, 09:38 (2 days ago) ☆ 😊 ↩ ⋮

Hello Grace,

Thanks for emailing us about the proposed badge. We have produced the two mock up images attached. Both these designs have been approved by the Girlguiding branding team. We can confirm the designs meet our refreshed Girlguiding branding requirements. It is okay to produce in Masterbrand (White trefoil on Girlguiding dark blue pantone® 2766 C background). Separate written approval would need to be obtained from Scouts to include their logo / branding on the badge.

Scouting:



Chris James <Chris.James@scouts.org.uk>
to me ▾

Tue, 30 Jul, 14:53 ★ 😊 ↩ ⋮

Hi Grace,

Many thanks for sharing your badge design – I can confirm we're happy with how you've used the Scout brand.

Best wishes,

Chris

Chris James
Head of Brand and Ambassadors
Scouts



Order Form:

Badges are available to purchase from the Providore (shop) on the Lees Wood site or email fundraising@leeswood.org.uk

Unit/Name:

Address:

Email:

Number of badges (£1.50 each):

Postage:

Up to 5 badges £1.50

Up to 40 badges £3.50

Over 40 badges £4.50

Total enclosed:

Payment by BACS to:

Lees Wood Campsite

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Account Number: 00010737

With reference: [YOUR UNIT] badge x[NUMBER ordered]