



## FORWARD - Cambridge University Scout & Guide Club (CUSAGC)

Dear Guider/Scouter,

Once again this year, CUSAGC will be running its FORWARD incident hike for Scouts and Guides and would like to invite your Group/Unit to participate. This entry pack includes most event details, a team entry form, a suggested letter to parents, medical/contact forms, kit lists and rules. Further information and all forms will be available from <http://cusagc.soc.srcf.net/forward/>, and please do contact us if you have any queries.

**Date:** 14/3/2026

**Location:** West Wickham Village Hall

**Start times:** The first teams will depart at around 8:15, the last ones by 10:00. Check-in time will be specified closer to the event but is normally 15 or 30 minutes before the start time and we will not check in teams before this time! The arrival, start and finish times for your team(s) will be confirmed closer to the event. Teams travelling from further afield (45 minutes or more) should let us know so that we can assign them a later start. Forward takes place entirely within daylight, hence the early start.

**Format:** FORWARD is a roughly 10 mile incident hike around a series of 6-figure grid references that the teams must be able to navigate between. There will be a number of challenge bases and team scores will be calculated from base scores (arrival, performance at the challenge, teamwork and conduct) and time taken to complete the course (in that order of importance). There is a 7-hour time limit and separate trophies for Scout and Guide teams.

**Cost:** £20 per team, payment by bank transfer using your group name as reference. The fee includes hot drinks at the halfway base and hot snacks and drinks at the end of the day, as well as covering the other running costs of the event (i.e. hall, kit and vehicle hire). We do not provide lunch.

**Please see the entry form for account details.**

**Badges:** We are offering participants the option of an accompanying blanket badge. These cost an additional £2 per badge, paid with the team entry fee. If they have sold out, we will reimburse the cost of any badges.

**Chaperones:** It is left to the Leader's discretion whether teams are to be accompanied by a chaperone to assist them with navigation for the hike - however, out of fairness, chaperoned teams will not be eligible for the main trophy. There will be a separate trophy category for chaperoned teams. The chaperone MUST be a COMPETENT leader/unit volunteer with a Scouting or Guiding DBS; **we are obliged to check these**. If you are unsure, please get in touch.

**Entry:** Complete the electronic team entry form by **14/02/2026**. Note that this year we have switched to online entry forms - if you have any issues filling this in please contact [forward@cusagc.org.uk](mailto:forward@cusagc.org.uk)

**Parking:** Parking for chaperones and helpers ONLY is available at West Wickham Village Hall. **Drop off only** parking for parents is also available there, but there is not enough room for cars to stay there other than for dropping off and picking up.

**Medical/Emergency Contact Forms:** These online forms MUST be completed and returned to us for ALL team members and chaperones **1 WEEK BEFORE THE EVENT!** Dietary requirements are now collected on team forms to ensure we have enough of the right kind of food! We strongly advise you to inform us of any specific medical needs or dietary requirements before the event so that we can guarantee to cater for them. **Any participant (including chaperones) who arrives without a medical form will not be allowed to take part!**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR 2026 WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING PAPER HEALTH FORMS - TO AID IN ADMINISTRATION ALL FORMS ARE NOW HOSTED ONLINE. IF THERE ARE ANY ISSUES PLEASE CONTACT [forward@cusagc.org.uk](mailto:forward@cusagc.org.uk) .**

**Rules and Kit Lists:** Are attached. Please ensure you and your teams have read, understood and adhere to the rules. We reserve the right to disqualify or penalise any teams which break rules or do not have the necessary kit.

**Changes to teams:** Team members may be changed as long as we are informed, up to and including on the day, as long as all forms are returned. Teams of less than 4 will not be able to compete unless chaperoned. Alternatively, we may be able to combine you with another team. In the event of a team pulling out completely, a full refund will be made if we are informed before Saturday 14th February and a 50% refund if we are informed by Saturday 21st February.

**Results:** Due to the number of teams, results are unlikely to be available on the day. They will be sent out to all leaders when confirmed, and we will be happy to visit meetings to present trophies if feasible.

**Safety and Procedures:** Please contact us if you have any questions; we would be happy to show you the event protocols. The event is fully risk assessed and insured.

**Contact Numbers on the Day:** HQ: 07939 510585; Please take this down but do not use it before the day, the number will not be connected until the event.

Thank you for your interest; we look forward to receiving your entry in the near future. If you, or any member of your leadership team, would like to help out on the day, please do get in touch - we would welcome all offers! Leaders are not required to stay but it is a large event and any help is appreciated. If you have any further queries then please do not hesitate to contact us!

Yours in Scouting and Guiding,

CUSAGC FORWARD 2026 Organisers



Forward FAQs

### **What are the age limits on participants?**

Teams must be formed of young people from either the Scout or Guide sections, we have no fixed age limits due to the differences between organisational policies. For Scouting this imposes a limit of age 10 to 14.5 depending on the age you move on your scouts. For Guiding the minimum age is 10 and young people are able to stay until they are ready to move. Explorers and Rangers may be interested in our Marathon Challenge in November.

### **Does my team have to be chaperoned?**

We ask that you use your experience as a leader to determine if the team requires chaperoning or is able to compete without. Teams are required to keep in contact with us throughout via staff they meet on the walk or via phone, reporting their location. Due to the number of teams we have to manage, please note teams that have gone significantly or frequently 'off-route' may be brought back early without completing the challenge.

### **What am I expected to do as a chaperone?**

The chaperone should accompany the team around the hike, keeping track of their location, and assisting with any incidents as required. As chaperone you should advise and help the team if they're going significantly off-route and help guide them back onto route, but try to leave most of the navigating to the young people and let them make a few mistakes so they can learn. You should also make sure they're abiding by the rules, especially the requirement to contact us with their location and ensuring this is correct. Whether you hang back and follow from a small distance or walk with the group is up to you. Chaperones are required to have a valid, in date Scouting/Guiding DBS (as relevant) and are expected to follow all safeguarding procedures.

### **How far will teams have to walk?**

The route each year varies, but is normally around 10 miles (16km). There are also manned bases breaking this up and teams have 7 hours to complete the walk. Many teams end up walking 'off-route' increasing this distance. We are able to collect struggling teams.

### **What am I required to do as section leader?**

We don't require leaders to do anything for the event other than coordinate your group's forms. We'd prefer paperwork to be completed in advance and in that case teams may be dropped by a parent or others. You may wish to chaperone one of your teams. We would welcome any leaders who could spare any time on the day as helpers to run the bases.

### **Can I enter a team of 3?**

We have a minimum of 4 people per team so that in the unlikely event of an emergency there are sufficient people to ensure safety, this does include a chaperone; e.g. a team of three guides and their leader is permitted.

### **Can I bring my dog?**

We do allow chaperones to bring their dog, however this event does involve a large amount of walking so please be confident your dog is able to cope. Please also note this on the entry form as it will affect what transport we send, it may be we ask the chaperone and dog to complete the walk in the event that we collect their team. Additionally, **only service dogs are allowed inside the hall**, so please bear this in mind.

### **Can I park at the venue?**

There is parking for chaperones and helpers at the venue, but parents will only be able to park while dropping off and picking up their young people.

### **Who can be a chaperone?**

Anyone aged over 18 with a valid Scouting or Guiding DBS can chaperone a team. You must believe that person is competent and able to chaperone the team. We are not able to provide chaperones for any team. We are required to see evidence of the DBS check. We may permit two young leaders to act as chaperones for a team. This should be discussed with the organisers in advance of the event.

### **How many chaperones can my team have?**

Due to logistical constraints, we are asking that teams have a maximum of 1 adult chaperone or 1/2 competent young leader(s). If a leader believes that additional chaperones are necessary, please contact [forward@cusagc.org.uk](mailto:forward@cusagc.org.uk) to provide further details.

## **Entry Forms**

To streamline our processes, all forms are now being hosted online. Please share these with necessary people as appropriate.

**Team Entry - Only to be completed by the leader in charge of Team**

<https://forms.gle/3TFjMKYqomgMBuAg7>



### **Health Form - For ALL Chaperones and Young People Participating**

As detailed above, fill in this form **before 7/3/26**.

<https://forms.gle/yjgUwqArP7GtRJSn8>



Dear Parent/Carer,

Once again this year, CUSAGC will be running its FORWARD incident hike for Guides and Scouts and has invited your Group/Unit to enter a team (or teams). It will take place on 14/03/2026 and will start and finish at , near Cambridge. Scouts and Guides will follow a 10-mile route with challenges for them to perform to test their map reading and teamwork. It's always a fun day and there is fierce competition for the two trophies! Teams will be given specific arrival times between 8:00 and 10:00, and all walking is completed in daylight.

The fee includes hot drinks at the halfway base and hot snacks and drinks at the end of the day, as well as covering the other running costs (i.e. hall, kit and vehicle hire) – lunch is not included. Your child/ward's leader may also need to charge a little extra to cover transport to the start or kit hire costs. Your leader should be able to advise what they will be charging.

Younger or less-experienced groups may be supervised on the way round by one of their Leaders; this is the Leader's decision.

For now, your Leader only needs to know whether your child/ward will be taking part, but they will also be sending round permission and medical forms along with a kit list to everyone who will be coming. We would ask that you read these carefully and fill them in by the deadline shown, as children will not be able to participate if these have not been completed.

We'd advise letting your Leader know whether your child will be taking part as soon as possible, places book out very quickly. We hope to see your child/ward at Forward on the 14th of March; we are sure they will enjoy themselves and learn a lot!

Any questions should be directed to your Leader in the first instance, but do email us if there are any other problems.

Yours in Scouting and Guiding,

CUSAGC FORWARD 2026 Organisers

forward@cusagc.org.uk

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My child/ward \_\_\_\_\_ would like to take part in CUSAGC FORWARD 2025 on 14/03/2026.

Their date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_.

I agree to pay any necessary fees and fill in the health forms.

They'd be interested in a commemorative blanket badge for an additional £2? Yes/No

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to your Leader as soon as possible; places are limited so act fast!

## FORWARD 2025: Kit List

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO TEAM WILL LEAVE WITHOUT A KIT CHECK

Individuals without appropriate kit will not be able to take part

Each TEAM must carry:

1. 2 Silva-type compasses
2. 2 maps, 1:25K (explorer) **209 and 210** or suitable copy of these.  
Print-offs must be of exact scale and be suitable for taking grid references and bearings, and must contain the rectangle between grid references TL 560 540 to TL 640 460  
CUSAGC will **not** have spare copies of the maps so it is essential that groups have enough of these
3. Waterproof map case or laminated map
4. At least 2 watches
5. At least 2 basic first aid kits containing equipment the group know how to use (there will be more substantial first aid kits at each of the checkpoints and HQ)
6. At least two charged and credited mobile phone with the HQ hotline (07939 510585) saved. The number for these phones must be given to HQ event staff to be used to contact teams as necessary throughout the day.
7. A suitable bin bag or rubble sack for putting the team's muddy boots in after the event

Each INDIVIDUAL will need:

1. Rucksack – with a waterproof liner e.g. a strong bin bag
2. Packed lunch (and snacks)
3. Unbreakable mug
4. Full water bottle (at least 1L)
5. Emergency rations e.g. Mars Bars. These are only for use in an emergency and must be sealed.
6. Troop/Unit necker if applicable – no other uniform is required.
7. Walking boots – ankle support needed (be aware that the route could be muddy!)
8. Appropriate socks (consider spare pairs)
9. Sensible trousers for walking in e.g. tracksuit bottoms (NOT JEANS)
10. Warm clothing
11. Hat and gloves
12. Sun cream (if forecast is favourable!)
13. A waterproof jacket (and waterproof trousers if possible) regardless of forecast.
14. Whistle
15. Notepad and a pen/pencil
16. A completed medical/contact form (to be handed in on arrival at HQ before beginning the hike, if it has not already been returned to the organisers)



## FORWARD: Event Rules

FORWARD is a day-long incident hike for Scouts and Guides. The objective is to go around the course in the direction assigned, complete all the checkpoint challenges, and then return to HQ within the 7 hour time limit.

Team scores depend on (in this order of importance):

1. Scores at the challenge bases (performance, teamwork and conduct).
2. The time taken to complete the course.

During the day, teams may be unsupervised for periods of time but must still follow the rules. Event staff will be travelling around the course and monitoring teams from a distance. Any teams suspected of breaking the rules will be reported to HQ. Local landowners and residents will have contact details for HQ and any complaints from them will be treated severely.

The kit list will be checked before each team starts to ensure they have followed the rules.

Teams must contact HQ if they have not visited a checkpoint or been in contact with HQ for two hours to help us keep track of their progress. Points will be deducted if teams fail to do this. Event staff may contact teams using the event phone or other phones. We expect teams to answer these calls.

All teams will be given a copy of the rules at the beginning of FORWARD. Not knowing the rules is not an excuse for breaking them.

### RULES

Teams must:

- Obey any instructions given to them by a member of event staff.
- Behave in a manner befitting members of The Scouts / Girlguiding.
- Carry all items on the kit list.
- Keep to public rights of way.
- Obey the countryside code.
- Contact HQ if they have not visited a manned checkpoint for two hours.
- In the event of a problem contact HQ first, and let HQ contact parents, Leaders etc. If an ambulance is urgently required, teams should first call 999 and then let us know.
- Stay together as a team except to get help in an emergency. No one person should ever be on their own.

Teams must not:

- Consume their emergency rations during the event unless there is a genuine emergency.
- Blow their whistles except when necessary in a genuine emergency.
- Attempt to interfere with other teams or the course in any way.
- Use items in their first aid kit unless necessary.
- Arrive back at HQ more than 45 minutes after their finish time.
- Leave a manned checkpoint if they are unlikely to reach the next one before their allocated finish time

These rules are important to the safety of everyone on the event. Sanctions for breaking rules are at the discretion of the event coordinators (whose decision is final), but may include docking of points, disqualification from the competition, immediate return to HQ and banning from future events.