

EXPLORERS



Banderlogs Explorer Unit AGM Report 2025–2026

Another Year of Adventure, Challenge and Fun

The past year has been another fantastic one for the Banderlogs Explorer Unit. As always, our programme has been built around adventure, teamwork, developing life skills, and, of course, having plenty of fun along the way.

From surfing the waves of North Devon to navigating the streets of London during Monopoly Run, our Explorers have continued to embrace every challenge thrown at them. Whether learning traditional scouting skills, taking on county competitions, cooking over open fires, or simply enjoying the company of friends around a campfire, the year has been packed with memorable experiences.

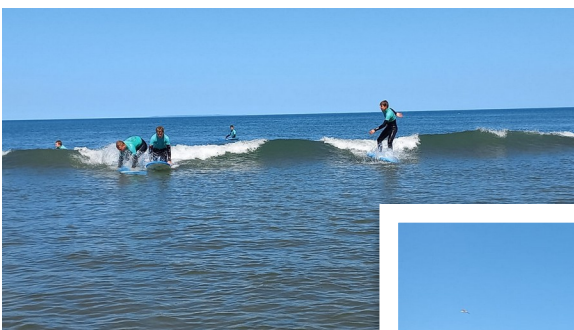
Summer 2025

We ended the summer term last year by heading outdoors and making the most of the longer days and warmer weather.

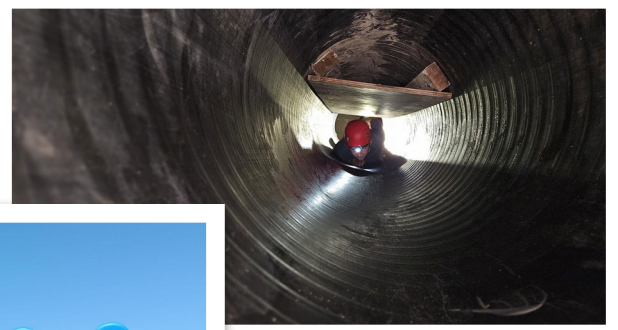
One of the highlights was our North Devon Surf Camp, where Explorers took to the sea at Westward Ho! and challenged themselves with surfing. The camp also offered opportunities to try activities including tunnelling and tomahawk throwing, ensuring everyone stepped outside their comfort zone and learned something new.

Closer to home, we spent time at Aldershot Lido, enjoying kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddleboarding. For many Explorers this was an opportunity to build confidence on the water while developing new paddlesport skills.

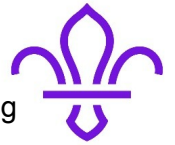
These activities reinforced one of the key aims of Scouting: encouraging young people to embrace adventure and discover what they are capable of achieving.



age, teamwork and



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Two Banderlogs teams represented the unit in the County Kudo Competition, operating from Garners Field and competing against Explorer units from across the county. The event tested navigation, teamwork, resilience and problem-solving skills, and our Explorers rose brilliantly to the challenge.

Explorers also took ownership of a self-planned treasure hunt around Alton town centre, demonstrating independence and initiative while putting their navigation skills into practice.

Food remains a favourite Banderlogs activity, and this year we challenged Explorers to prepare a two-course meal inspired by another nation or culture. The results ranged from impressive culinary successes to some creative interpretations, but everyone enjoyed the experience and learned valuable cooking skills.

For those seeking a physical challenge, we headed to The Red Spider Climbing Centre, where Explorers tackled climbing routes that tested both determination and confidence.

As always, the year concluded in style with our traditional Christmas Curry Night, giving everyone the chance to relax, reflect on the year and celebrate together.

Away from regular Explorer activities, Chris visited Ukraine during the term to deliver aid and spend time supporting local Scouts, demonstrating the values of service, international friendship and community that lie at the heart of Scouting.



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Spring 2026

The spring term focused heavily on leadership, independence and traditional scouting skills.

We kicked things off with an Escape Room Challenge, requiring teamwork, communication and problem-solving under pressure.

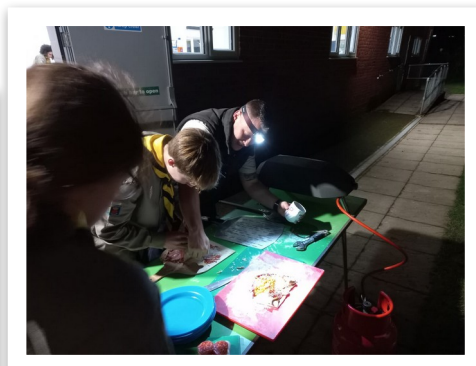
A major theme throughout the term was encouraging Explorers to take ownership of their programme. During a pizza-making planning evening, Explorers worked together to organise future activities, ensuring that the programme reflects their interests and ideas.

Outdoor adventure remained high on the agenda with the Medstead Loop hike, while a visit to Hook Scouts' shooting range allowed Explorers to develop marksmanship skills in a safe and controlled environment.

Cooking featured heavily once again, including campfire cooking sessions where Explorers perfected bread twists over open fires and learned how simple ingredients can become excellent meals outdoors.

Two teams also represented the unit in the annual Monopoly Run in London, an event that combines navigation, teamwork and endurance as teams race across the capital completing challenges.

The term also included wide games, our ever-popular chippy tea, budget cooking sessions led by our resident chef, and an evening revisiting traditional scouting skills through pioneering projects, resulting in some particularly impressive structures.



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Summer 2026

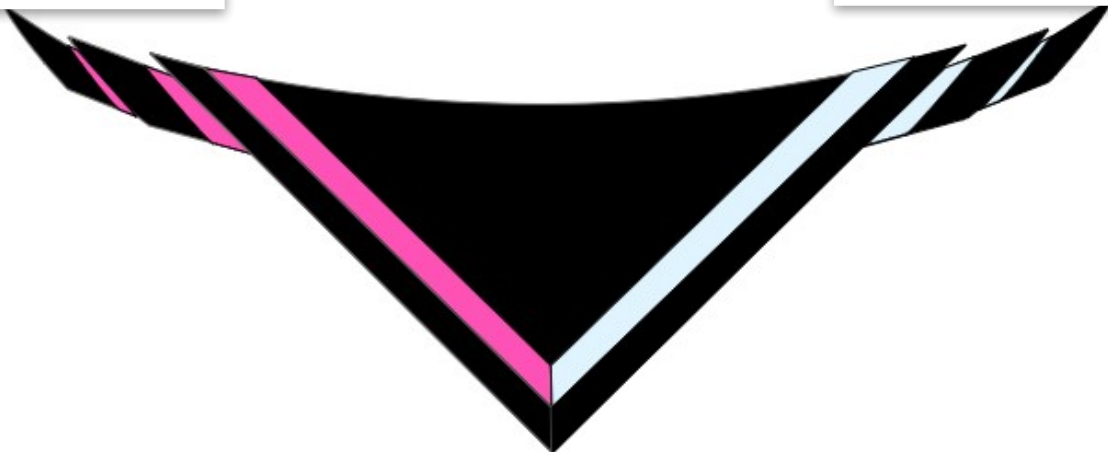
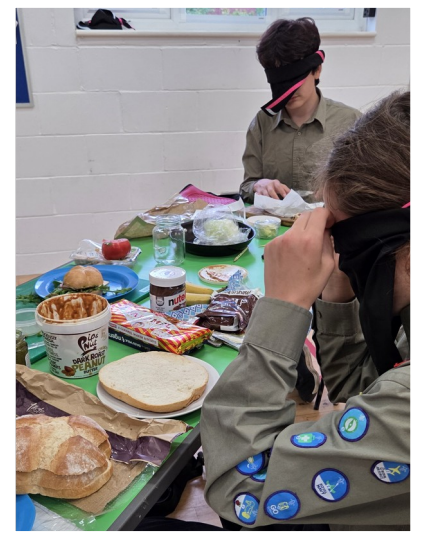
As the evenings became lighter, we returned to some of our favourite outdoor locations for wide games, making full use of the countryside and open spaces around Alton.

One memorable evening involved the Pies Farm Milkshake route, combining a good hike with a well-earned refreshment stop that proved extremely popular with Explorers and leaders alike.

We also explored backwoods cooking, learning how to prepare meals without traditional pots and pans. Using embers, foil, sticks and natural materials, Explorers gained a deeper appreciation of traditional outdoor cooking methods and the resourcefulness required when camping.

The term continued with one of the more unusual Banderlogs challenges: a blindfold sandwich competition. Explorers had to rely entirely on the guidance of a teammate while preparing their own sandwich, creating plenty of laughter while demonstrating the importance of trust, communication and teamwork.

A noticeable change this year was the introduction of a new District necker. We are particularly proud that the winning design was created by one of our own Banderlogs Explorers and was subsequently selected through a district-wide vote to become the official necker worn across the District.



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Awards and Achievements

A total of 42 badges and awards were achieved during the year.

Hikes: 13

Joining In: 13

Time on the Water: 9

Nights Away: 2

Air Activities: 2

DofE Bronze: 1

Emergency Aid: 1

Swimmer: 1

These awards reflect the breadth of activities undertaken by the unit and the commitment shown by Explorers throughout the year.

Looking Ahead

As we move into another scouting year, we look forward to building on the successes of this one. Adventure, challenge, friendship and personal development will continue to be at the heart of everything we do.

The Explorers have shown tremendous enthusiasm, humour and resilience throughout the year, and we are excited to see what adventures await next.

Thank You

The Banderlogs Leadership Team would like to thank all parents, 3rd Alton Leaders, committee members and supporters who make our programme possible.

Most importantly, thank you to the Explorers themselves. Your enthusiasm, commitment and sense of adventure make Banderlogs such a rewarding section to lead.

"Skills for Life, Adventure for All."