



Winchester



National Award for Winchester Scouts



From left to right: Steve Backshall, BBC TV Presenter; Chris Floyd, Assistant District Commissioner, Winchester Scouts; Tom Fisher, Winchester Jäger Network; Mark Tarry, Deputy UK Chief Commissioner; and Gareth Watson, Chief Commissioner of Wales.

First for Growth out of 665 Scout Districts

- As part of the Scout Association's announcements on annual UK growth, Winchester Scouts have won the award for highest growth over the past 3 years. Chris Floyd, Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts) and Tom Fisher, Jäger Network, travelled to Scout Summit17 at Warwick University to receive the Award from Steve Backshall, the BBC Presenter, and other Commissioners.
- Over the past 4 years, the 12 Scout Groups that comprise Winchester Scouts have increased the number of places for young people by an impressive 50% from 782 to 1,177. Over the same period the increase in adult volunteers has been a staggering 155% - up from 176 to 450.
- The real story behind these award winning rates of growth is a special strategy. This creates many more Scout places for young people based on a trinity of:
 - Partnerships with Winchester primary schools that recognise the significance of DfE sponsored research on *character by doing and learning by doing* <https://futureprepared.org.uk/>
 - *Flexible volunteering* with 6 parent leaders per section so that they can attend alternate meetings – every parent is expected to volunteer and assist in some way
 - Support from neighbouring Scout Groups, & Hampshire Scouts; from Winchester Ward & Hampshire County, Councillors and their Officers; and from organisations like [TESCO Bags of Help](#)
- Stephen Parker, District Commissioner said: "This national award celebrates the enthusiasm and inspiration of Winchester's leaders, exec members and parents. They provide exciting and adventurous activities that change young people's lives from all backgrounds. We now have 20% of all 6-8 year olds in Scouts. Every young person who wants to be a Beaver or a Cub Scout, should have a place. With more support we can go higher and provide even more Scout places for our 10,000 6-17 year olds."

Contact: Stephen Parker, District Commissioner, Winchester Scouts at: stephenjamesparker@gmail.com
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See more at: <http://www.winscouts.org.uk/>