

CHESHIRE HIKE 2018

Information for Hikers, Leaders and Parents

Hike Date	14 – 15 April 2018
Booking Opens	4 December 2017
Booking Deadline	12 March 2018 (or 120 entries per-section)

The Cheshire Hike is an annual competition open to all Scouts and Guides in Cheshire. The 2018 Hike will be our 52nd and will be held from the 14th April to the 15th April. Cheshire Hike is real challenge for all those who take part but with careful planning and good training you can succeed. There will be a real sense of achievement when you complete this special challenge.

Categories

Teams must be made up of 2 scouts or guides and enter in one of these categories:

Category	Age Range	Saturday Hike	Sunday Hike
Junior 11 – 12 ½	15Oct05 – 14 Apr 07	19km	12km
Intermediate 12 ½ -14	15Apr04 – 14 Oct 05	25km (plus one optional extra 5km leg)	16km
Senior 14 – 16	15Apr02 – 14 Apr 04	29km (plus 2 optional extra 5km legs)	19km
Senior Plus 16 – 18	15 Apr00 –14 Apr 02	34km (plus one optional extra 5km leg)	19km

Check and check again! Every year some teams have prepared for the Hike only to find they're in the wrong section and cannot start.

How to Enter

Leaders should decide how many teams their troop would like to enter and fill in an entry form. Please consider carefully how many teams you choose. The Hike is often over-subscribed and other scouts can miss out if you cancel team places at a later stage.

You can book and pay online at www.cheshirehike.org.uk from 4 December 2017; you can download an offline booking form for paying by cheque. **After booking by either method, you must enter full team registration information online before the 12 March 2018; else your place will be reallocated for clearing.**

Scoring

Points are mainly awarded for route finding (by the use of observation signs, camping skills and incidents at the check points. At each base camp Explorer and Network Scouts act as buddies to ensure safety and to award points for camping standards.

Points can be lost for very slow walking although it is not a race, bad behaviour can also result in a deduction, although because all participants are Scouts and Guides we have never had to do this. The points are divided as follows:

- 50% for map reading skills – noting all of the OB'S
- 20% for timekeeping – not walking too slow or too fast
- 15% for incidents based challenges at the check points
- 15% for camping skills

Winners

The Hike is a big challenge! Everyone who completes the hike is a winner and will receive a Cheshire Hike Certificate and special Hike Neckerchief.

There will also be trophies and medals for the highest scoring teams in each category from each district, as well as overall winners. For those who've never entered the hike before, there is a special trophy for the highest Scout scoring Junior team.

Hikers – What to expect on the day

The start

You will be told the location of the Start and the time you should arrive about a week before the Hike date.

- a) On arrival at the Start - hand in your start card and show your medical card which will be issued two weeks before the Hike.
- b) Your rucksack will be weighed.
- c) Provided you are in the specified weight range you will hand in the equipment sheet. Your equipment will be emptied out and checked.
- d) You will then be required to re-pack your rucksack.
- e) You will again be checked, this time for general appearance i.e. wearing boots or strong shoes, rucksack re-packed properly etc.
- f) You will be given a list of six - figure map references. You will then be given maximum time of 5 minutes to plot your references to at least the second check point, failing on time will incur a 50 point penalty. Use a fine point permanent marker.
- g) Your map will then be checked against a master overlay by the Marshal
- h) You are now ready to leave the Start. Your departure time will be recorded. Don't just follow the team in front, they may be on a different route.

On the Route

Provided you have plotted a correct route, you will pass a number of Observation Points (OB's). These are boards with numbers on them. Write these numbers down as they count for 50% of the score. In addition to the OB's you should also arrive at a Check Point approximately every 5km. Don't be afraid to ask Hike officials for help if you get lost. There is **no penalty**. You will have been given an emergency number to ring at the Start. Remember, although the Hike is not a race you cannot afford to waste time as it could result in a reduction in the available points you receive, or, even worse being withdrawn because you run out of time.

At the Check Points (Saturday)

When both members of a team have arrived at a Check Point, the team number and arrival time will be recorded. You will also be asked for details of the OB's you have seen. The correct ones will be scored. At most Check Points you will also take part in an Incident which should be a challenge to your knowledge/skills and will enable you to earn further points. Where there is a choice of routes you will have to declare the Check Point number you intend to visit next. Failure to make the declared Check Point will result in loss of a large number of points. Make sure you know where you are going. At one Check Point you will be able to stop and eat lunch. This should be done at about 13.00. You must not stay longer than 30 minutes, including the incident. Other Check Points should be a max 10 min.

At Base Camp

On arrival at Base Camp you will book in. You will then report to your Sub-Camp Leader. Remember, they are there to give help and advice if you need it. They will also be checking and awarding points based on your camping standards, etc. They will check the suitability of your tent and how well you pitch it, the adequacy of your food and drink, also the tidiness of your site, particularly before you leave and your general behaviour whilst at Base Camp.

A large number of points could be gained here. On arrival at Base Camp you will be told your starting time for Sunday morning and be given the Route Sheet for plotting, when you have plotted the Sunday Route on your map you must show it to your Sub-Camp Leader. Providing they give you the OK on your route and has approved your camp site, they will start you at the stated time.

On the Sunday Routes

The Sunday Routes do not include a choice of Check Points (nor is there any time allowance made for stopping for lunch) There will still be OB's and Incidents with many more points to be gained.

At the Finish

On arrival at the finish you must ensure that you are booked in. You should change into uniform top and the Cheshire Hike Scarf, ready to go to the Presentation when called. Please bring your own Woggle or purchase a Cheshire Hike woggle from the shop. Please do not leave before the Presentations have been made and do invite Parents and friends to attend - It could be you who receive a trophy. Teams are then free to visit the tuck shop, souvenir shop, lost property, cafe, TV hall, or just put their feet up. At about 4.00pm we assemble in the main hall for the presentation ceremony that will commence at 4:30pm.

From Control

Control is in touch with all the Starts and Check Points, the Base Camps and Finish and with the Mobile Marshals. To do this they use telephone and radio, tracking every team to ensure that if a team loses its way, they can be helped back onto the correct route. Teams will be given an emergency telephone number, which will enable them to contact Control for any help they need. Unfortunately, there are always a few teams who are unable to get to Base Camp before it gets dark and they run out of time. Control, and only Control, then has the sad duty of withdrawing these teams from the Hike. However before this is done, careful consideration is given to these team's general performance during the day to see if there is a way withdrawal from the Hike can be avoided.

Having spent so many months organising the event, we want every team that starts to finish and we do our utmost to ensure that happens.

Good Luck!

Cheshire Hike Team

PLEASE ENSURE ALL FORM'S ARE SIGNED.