

Larkin Joining Notes and Instructions

Joining

Times and Dates:

Week long campers:

Scouts and Explorers arrival date and time: Saturday 27th July 14:00.

Scouts and Explorers collection date and time: Saturday 3rd August 11:00

Little Larkin:

Cubs arrival date and time: Monday 29th July 08:30

Cubs collection date and time: Wednesday 31st July 17:30

Squirrels arrival date and time: Wednesday 31st July 08:30*

Squirrels collection date and time: Wednesday 31st July 17:30*

*for Squirrels only we may be organising transport from Barton for the day. More to follow

Please do not arrive outside of your allotted time. There are thousands of people to get on/off site, and we have been given a specific window to make this as easy as possible. This will also control the flow of traffic through the small village of Helmsley.

We are unable to check the group in until everyone arrives, so please be prompt.

Location:

Duncombe Park, Helmsley, York, YO62 5EB

Here are some instructions from the organisers.

By car or coach:

- *The route to Larkin will be sign posted from most major roads, please follow the instructions below*
- *Once on site you will be directed by our volunteer staff team.*

From the North and South:

- *Leave the A1(M) at Thirsk Junction 49 , and Follow the A168 to Thirsk*
- *Leave A168 and Join A170 signposted Thirsk, Scarborough and York*
- *At the Roundabout follow signs for A170 - Thirsk , Scarborough*
- *At the roundabout take the third exit Signposted Sutton Bank 5 miles*
- *Sutton bank has some restrictions these can be found [here](#)*
- *Stay on A170 for 14 Miles*
- *As you descend into Helmsley over the narrow bridge take the first left turn onto Buckingham Square and Duncombe Park is on the left*

All movement of Traffic on site will be under the control of our Site Operations Team and drivers are requested to follow all instructions and directions without question.

Attendees should be aware that their vehicles and contents are left entirely at the owner's risk. North Yorkshire Scouts or the establishment is not liable for any loss, or damage to vehicles and owners should ensure they have adequate insurance to cover this.

Parents must drop their young person at the meeting point and leave them with their kit. They will not be allowed access into the campsite.

Having volunteered on traffic control at a large camp with limited access in/out and taken more than my fair share of verbal abuse from unreasonable drivers, I can't impress enough on you that you must be patient and treat the volunteers on traffic control with respect. They are doing their best and will have heard dozens/hundreds of stories about why people must be first in and first out and park as close to the entrance as possible. Do not expect drop off and pick up to be a 5 minute process. It will take time.

Meet the Team

I'm Gavin, the Group Lead Volunteer at Barton and I am taking on most of the admin as the lead for the camp. Most of our young people will have met me over the years, but there are plenty of other friendly faces amongst our team, so there will always be someone to support your child.

Bex is our Deputy GLV and is leading the Cub leadership team, along with Caitie, Izzy and George. They are on site all week.

From Scouts I am joined by Anthony and Rich. They are on site all week.

From Explorers, along with the crossover with the Scout team we have Mark and Chris with us. They are also on site all week.

Also joining us for the week from Squirrels we have Sally and Ella, with Christine and Lucy joining us for the day when the Squirrels are on site.

Finally and most importantly we have Sam with us to look after logistics and equipment and the general smooth running of operations.

This is a big team with decades of experience and I'm really glad to have them along to make this work.

Kit List

A kit list is included further down and can be printed as a handy tick list to help your packing. This has been created and refined over many years with the group. We know what we are talking about, so please follow it and don't go too far off piste.

Permission Forms

By now you will all have had an email from the organisers asking you to complete medical and permission forms. A few notes on those forms:

- Despite saying we need a printed copy with a signature, we don't! I have access to your answers so no need for a paper copy.
- There is no way for us to override your permission, so if you don't give permission for an activity or you don't fill the form in, there will be restrictions on what your child is allowed to do.
- There was a sneaky additional link to a form which Scouts and Explorers need to have completed. This is the specific form for Yorkshire Water Park. This is very important because we have no visibility of whether you have filled it in, and neither do Larkin staff, so your child may be bussed to the park and be denied the activity if it's not filled in.
<https://waiver.roller.app/northyorkshirewaterpark/>
- You can feel free to update medical and permission forms at any time.

If you haven't had the permission form emails, let us know.

Phones on Camp

It's 2024 so I am not going to pretend that we can have a phone-free camp, but there are some rules and we need your support with this.

I am more than happy for phones to come along as a means of capturing photos and videos, staying in touch with others on camp and even checking in at home, but there are a couple of things we will stress to our young people and you could help by having these conversations beforehand.

1. We simply won't accept our young people sitting down and being phone zombies for hours on end. We've all paid good money for this experience and it doesn't include 6 hours a day of Clash Royale. We'll be calling this out when we see it. Please set this expectation.
2. No phones after bedtime/lights-out. If you can restrict screen time remotely, please do this from a reasonable time. Lights out will be 11pm each evening. Bed may be earlier.
3. The volunteer team from Barton needs to be the first point of contact for problems on site. If things are serious enough to need a call home we will facilitate that. As above, we are happy for people to check in at home, but we need to manage issues first because we are on site and you are an hour away.

We are not providing any means to charge phones.

The Anti Kit List

While there are some things we absolutely must ask you not to send with your child. Mostly for obvious reasons:

- Snacks, sweets, drinks: While the idea of a midnight feast is cute when you're sitting on your sofa at home, it's less fun clearing up the vomit at 2am. It's less fun picking sticky sweets off expensive tents. It's less fun dealing with vermin and insect infestations across the course of a week. We will be very well fed over the course of the week, so there will be no need for any food to be hidden in sleeping tents. Unfortunately Scouting still hasn't got past the point where they realise a tuck shop is a nightmare on a camp, so there will be one (more on that later) but we will devise a system of keeping sweets in our food stores overnight if they haven't been finished by bedtime.
- Any valuables you would be unhappy to be lost or broken: Grandad's antique pocket watch won't do well at Yorkshire Water Park and it will look ridiculous on a wetsuit. Leave it at home.
- Any clothes you wouldn't be happy to get dirty, damaged, lost: While none of those things happen on purpose, I have been to Scout camps before. NAMES IN EVERYTHING.
- Knives: They are handy tools and we do teach safe knife skills, but there will be no need for our young people to bring their knives to camp.
- Fire lighting kits: Same as above, but hotter.

Larkin Pay

There will be a tuck shop (mentioned above), food vendors, a coffee bar and a merchandise stall on site, but the entire event is cashless. They will also **not accept card payments**. I'll drop a link to the FAQ in a second but here's my summary:

- All young people will have a wristband (regardless of the payment system) which will need to be worn all week for ID.
- There will be a contactless RFID chip on the wristband.
- To add cash to an account you register here: <https://larkinpay.cashlessportal.com/>
- If you have more than one child attending you must register twice with different email addresses. Not my rules.
- Once registered you will be able to add funds to the account and will be given access to a QR code (by email, or to screenshot or even print out).
- Your child needs to have access to that QR code. When we check in the staff will be able to scan the code and link it to their wristband.
- You can top up during the week.
- Lost wristbands can be replaced **but they can't be cancelled immediately**, so don't add an amount of money that you wouldn't be willing to have your child drop on the ground in cash.
- At the end of camp you can cash out any unused credit.
- **These rules apply to leaders too. They will need to top up their own wristbands.**
Cashless = ONLY wristband payments.

FAQ from the organisers here: <https://larkinpay.cashlessportal.com/faq>

Explorer-Only Kit Info

In addition to our own kit list, we have received the following information from the Larkin team.

Explorers and Rangers will be spending a little over 24 hours off site. There will be a bit of walking, games, swimming, music and some good food. You'll even get a bed for the night in one of the oldest colleges in Yorkshire with the most spectacular views.

You won't need to bring too much with you, here's a basic list:

- *Sleeping bag and pillow*
- *A small Day Sac*
- *Walking boots*
- *Waterproof, coat and trousers - just in case you get caught in a Yorkshire rain dump*
- *Change of clothes*
- *Change of shoes - maybe trainers*
- *Water bottle/cup*
- **Spoon, fork and knife**
- *Swimming costume and a small towel*
- *Small first aid kit and any personal medication*
- **A Compass**

We'll be walking a few miles, so don't overpack!

We don't know what this off-site event is but the Explorer leaders are looking forward to a night in a real bed already. We will provide the items in bold. Much of the rest overlaps with our kit list, but in our interpretation you **don't** want to pack all your additional gear in your day sac, so a small holdall to get your sleeping bag etc in would be useful. You may use the one you brought all your gear to Larkin in, but do think about exactly where the rest of your stuff will live while you are using that bag for something else.

Kit List

The kit list follows. Quantities are based on our week-long campers. Cubs can bring a bit less stuff. ;)

You can help your Cub/Scout/Explorer with packing but they must know what is in their bag and why it is in their bag.

All items must be named. There are thousands of people on site and lost property will stay lost.

Do not pack gear in plastic carrier bags or bin liners, and avoid strapping things to the outside of bags.

Your Cub/Scout/Explorer must be able to carry their gear to our camping location. We'll help as much as we can, but we have our own things to carry. **Parents may not accompany them young people onto the site.**

Equipment	Quantity	Notes
Sleeping Bag	1	It can get as cold as 8 degrees at night so make sure it's up to the job - or pack thick pyjamas!
Sleeping mat	1	Something to keep you off the ground at night. Absolutely no large inflatable air beds; they take up too much space, have a very high failure rate and are useless once they have failed. Self inflating camping mats are fine. This sort of thing is fine. This sort of thing is not fine.
Pillow	1	So you can be comfortable at night
Warm Jacket/Fleece	1	We're outdoors all the time! A hoodie is NOT an alternative. It will be chilly at night.
Waterproof Jacket (and Trousers optional but recommended)	1	Life goes on when it rains.
Hat	1	A hat to keep the sun off in case it doesn't rain. Maybe even a wooly hat to keep off the cold.
Your branded Larkin hoodie!	1	Good for lounging around the fire and an extra layer under your fleece.
Trousers (NO Denim Jeans)	2	If your jeans get wet they'll take days to dry, so do not bring them. Tracksuit bottoms, walking trousers etc are all good.
Shorts	2	We're hoping for some good weather
Full set of clothes to get wet in - including shoes	1	One of our days is on the water at North Yorkshire Water Park. You need a full set of clothes.
T-Shirts	1 per day plus spare	Once they're dirty/wet we don't have a washing machine.
Long sleeved top and long trousers	1	Probably included in the above, but this has been specifically requested by the organisers for some activities.
Socks	1 pair per day plus spare	Or as many as you can manage with (Including a pair of thick socks to wear with your boots)
Underclothes	1 pair per day plus spare	As above (Apart from the thick pair)
Hiking Boots	1 pair	Wellingtons are not appropriate.
Trainers	2 pairs	You need a spare pair to get wet. You will
Campfire Blanket / Blanket	1	This is a bonus item, and not mandatory at all, but it can give extra warmth at night
Nightwear	1	Something to sleep in
Suncream	1	We're really hoping for some good weather and we can't afford suncream for 44 people for a week!

Washing Kit	1	<i>Including: Soap, Shampoo, Toothbrush, Toothpaste. There are showers. You will use them.</i>
Towel	At least 1	Make it big enough to dry all of you when you have had a shower. Ideally a separate one for the day on the water.
Plastic Bags for Wet/Dirty Kit	Loads	To keep your dirty kit separate from the dry clean stuff.
Torch	1	It's dark at night
Daysack/Small rucksack	1	For use on hikes and trips out. Big enough to carry waterproofs and lunch.
Water Bottle	1	Something that does not leak and can be re-sealed (ie. Has a screw top lid)
Lunch box	1	To carry lunch on days out so that it does not get crushed.