

David Playfoot – Red Squirrel

I first embarked on my Scouting journey as a Cub Scout at 2nd New Haw. Having never been a Beaver Scout, settling in to Cubs was a challenge as everyone knew everyone at Beavers! What kept me in Scouting was the support from my leaders. Growing up with anxiety, I never attended a single camp as a Cub or Scout.

In 2014, my brother joined the Beaver colony at 2nd New Haw, with Mrs Beaver. Due to the lack of helpers, my mum (Hedgehog) decided to put a shirt on and help out, dragging me along with her as I could not be left at home. After a while, I started getting more and more involved in Beaver Scouts at 2nd New Haw, and actually grew to love it! Seeing the young people develop and learn new skills and earn the badges. I started to help run more and more activities, games & eventually a whole badge. In October 2019, after hearing of a complete lack of leaders at the newly-reopened 1st New Haw Group, I moved over to 1st New Haw and became an adult leader and the group Quartermaster. I did my time at 1st New Haw and stayed for 3 years and 6 months. Towards the back end of 2022, an email was sent out about the Beaver colony at 1st Virginia Water, stating that it was closed due to a lack of leaders. After much consideration (and me loving a good challenge), I set out to change this and became the Beaver Section Leader in January 2023, progressing on to Deputy Group Scout Leader in 2024.

Why I do it:

After receiving support from my leaders and building friends at Scouts, I wanted to be able to make a difference and pass that on to other young people.

Scouting as a whole has seen me through some major changes and challenges in my personal life and has remained the one consistent thing throughout and it is really rewarding for us all to know that the children (Who normally start off quite anxious) grow to love Scouting!

