

Nights Away Update 18.6.26

As a current Nights Away Permit Holder and/or GLV, and further to the Nights Away update in April, I am dropping you a line to highlight an important safety issue as well a heads up on where we are with Nights Away both in district and nationally

Carbon Monoxide

Following an unfortunate fatality where a leader was overcome with carbon monoxide (CO) fumes, the Scout Association has updated its guidance regarding this important safety issue. This includes an on line module to inform yourself on what CO is, the effects on the body, how to identify symptoms and how prevent CO and stay safe on camp and at your meeting place.

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safety/managing-a-safe-scout-premises/carbon-monoxide-co/>

There is also good advice on using LPG on this link

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/staying-safe-and-safeguarding/safety/safe-camping-residentials-and-outdoor-skills/gas-safety-liquified-petroleum-gas>

The key issues are as follows:

Lightweight camps:

Under no circumstances should lightweight stoves be used inside a tent

Setting up a camp kitchen

Make sure there is adequate ventilation and clearance in enclosed spaces.

When using appliances in mess tents, party tents or marquees, keep the doors and ventilation mesh open at all times.

Use a CO monitor - check that it is in date (they have a 10-year shelf life) and ensure it is tested

Check that are cooking equipment is properly maintained, burners are clean and the hoses are secure and are in good condition. If in doubt, replace the hoses.

HQ's

Ensure all gas boilers are serviced by a suitably qualified engineer every year and get a certificate that this has been done. It's good practice to display a copy on your noticeboard.

Have a CO monitor near the boiler and have a policy of testing and recording test results.

Display a copy of the Scout Associations CO poster. These are available at District HQ

Fire Brigade Notification

If you are running an indoor camp at a location where people do not normally sleep - such as village halls, school, church halls or your HQ, the Cheshire Fire service must be notified of the event. This is via their form which is downloadable from the Nights Away section of the district website

<https://www.mcscouts.org.uk/members-area/nights-away-residentials>

There is also lots of good information to support Nights Away activities

In Touch

A reminder about In Touch when on camp.

How you manage the in touch process for camps is part of the camp planning. There is not a requirement that this is a third party individual with no connection to anyone on camp. You may decide to manage this from camp itself, via WhatsApp or Facebook Groups etc. The key thing is that it is documented and shared with adults on camp and parents. There is more detail on the National Website - link below.

Just putting a name and phone number in the In Touch section of the NAN form is not enough.

One of the groups in the district uses a good form to document the In Touch process and communicate it to all involved with the camp. I have attached a copy a part of sharing best practice and uploaded to the website. As ever it is down to yourselves on how you document your In Touch Process

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/programme-guidance/information-for-volunteers/intouch/>

Chamboree

We have 14 groups booked onto Chamboree this year which is brilliant. It will mean lots of work reviewing RA's and NAN's ready for the event. It will be a great help if we can get this completed in advance of the 14 days we normally request.

If you can either put in your Chamboree NAN as early as possible or send me your Chamboree RA as early as possible for review, it will help smooth the process and the workload.

Your help with this is appreciated.

National NAN form

There have been some improvements to the National NAN form however I still do not get notification when NAN forms are submitted - As a result, can you please email me when a NAN is submitted - this will make sure that I get onto it promptly. I will email you back when I have carried out the review

The following issues with the form are still outstanding

- A. When groups are doing overnight activities together, unable to add individuals outside the NAP holders team. There is a set of instructions to get round this on the district website here <https://www.mcscouts.org.uk/members-area/nights-away-residentials>

See link on "Changing Members Visibility"

- B. When a NAN is rejected I am asked for changes to the RA you need to save the revised RA under a different file name otherwise it reattaches the previous version.

Changes to NANs and when new NAN's need to be submitted

A reminder of when changes to people on camp need to be notified and the NAN updated and when changes do not need to be notified.

1. An adult who was on the Nan is no longer attending camp - as long as the ratio are still OK - no notification required
2. Permit holder no longer on camp or needs to leave - as long as the leader taking over as the NAP has the correct level of permit and the adult to child ratios are still valid, no further notification needs to be made.
3. If an additional adult has to be brought onto camp after the NAN is approved, either as a permit holder or to make the rations correct - then the NAN must be resubmitted with the updated information and re-approval made. This can be within the 7 days prior to camp. I can check their training and DBS status and quickly re-approve. To ensure this happens - suggest that either myself or Mike are messaged to ensure this happens.

What additional forms to attach

On the National NAN form, there is a facility to attach additional information. I wanted to take this opportunity to confirm what to attach here.

Cheshire Fire Brigade Notification (if appropriate for your camp)

In Touch Information - if not entered on the NAN form

Supervisory plan if the camp is under an event passport.

Note: I do not need to see RA's for activities on the camp - these should be reviewed by the GLV.

Nights Away summary

I am keeping a log of all Nights Away events. I'm happy to share the statistics for the first half of 2026 as they currently stand.

48 separate Nights Away Events, 750 young people involved and a total of 1050 nights away. Thanks to all leaders involved in offering Nights Away events over the last 6 months.

As ever, if you have any questions or are looking for further support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Nights Away Team



Ian Mackintosh

Resources Team Lead Volunteer

Nights Away Team Lead Volunteer

District Core Team | Macclesfield & Congleton Scout District

07917 373007 | www.mcscouts.org.uk

32 West Bond Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire. SK11 8EQ