Parents briefing notes

Adult leaders
There will be three male uniformed leaders, one female uniformed leader, and a number of non-uniformed adult helpers on camp. From:

Nick Hough 07851 001940  Pete Record
Amanda Doran  Sally Record
Bernie Mullen  Nathaniel Hough
Paul D’Alessandro  Frankie Butler
Catherine Hough 07930 750337  Larnie Butler

Allergies
Please let us know on the medical form if your Scout has any allergies we should know about, for example to common over-the-counter medicines or first aid treatments, or common foods. We are aware that at least one young person attending has a nut allergy. We will work closely to ensure this and any other allergies or intolerances are dealt with safely and appropriately.

Bullying
Bullying or abuse of any form will not be tolerated.

Cake
If you can, please send a cake along with your Scout when you bring the luggage down on Saturday 23rd July. These will be shared out to the Scouts in the evenings at cocoa time.

Camp site
We are going to Corf Scout Camp, PO30 4NT on the Isle of Wight. http://www.corfcamp.org/

Campers

Coat hanger
Please have your youngster bring an old coat-hanger so they can hang up and so look after their uniform when it is not being worn.

Contact
Please ensure you do not leave the country or place yourself out of phone contact during the week. We may have to contact you by phone. In extreme circumstances of poor behaviour, homesickness or illness you may have to come and collect your Scout from the camp. It is particularly important in the context of the cost of Isle of Wight ferries, that you do understand this.

Cutlery
Scouts should bring their own knife, fork and spoon, cup, bowl and plate. These should be identifiable, and made of plastic or metal: not breakable pottery.

DEPARTURE
FROM SCOUT HUT 0700 Sunday 24th July. Please arrive promptly before 0700. We will depart on time.

Digital cameras
These are welcome at your discretion and your risk. We can look after such equipment if Scouts ask us.

Fires
Scouts may spend some time near open fires. Scouts will need to be wearing proper footwear – boots or decent trainers - at such times. Scouts who are barefoot or wearing sandals/flip-flops will not be allowed near the fires.

Flag ceremony
As with all Scout meetings, at camp there will be a Flag Break every morning and Flag Down every evening. All Scouts and uniformed leaders will take part in uniformed shirt and scarf.

Flint and steel
Scouts are welcome to bring their own flint and steel fire lighters to camp, but if they are found misusing them, they will be confiscated and returned when it suits the leader or after the camp.
Food
Scouts on camp are outdoors and active for 15-16 hours a day and will need to eat properly. They will be able to eat a cooked breakfast every day, a packed lunch, and a full cooked dinner, and also cocoa with biscuits or cake in the evening. Some of this food they will prepare for themselves, working in patrols, using open fires or portable gas stoves.

Free time
Scouts will have plenty of free time in addition to planned activities.

Girls
Male and female Scouts will sleep in separate tents. Boys and girls are not generally allowed in one another’s tents. There will be a female leader and female adult helpers available at all times throughout the week.

Inspection
Tents will be inspected daily (as far as reasonably practical, girls’ tents by female leaders) and the patrols will take part in a marked competition lasting all week, winning points for tidiness, smartness, innovation, initiative, helpfulness etc., and losing them for lacking these important qualities.

Knives
Scouts are welcome to bring their folding pocket knives to camp. However, if they are found misusing them, the knives will be confiscated and returned when it suits the leader or after the camp. Please look after them; ensure they do not get lost.

Lost property
Every year Scouts leave clothes and equipment behind. The end of summer camp marks the start of a short break from Scouting for leaders. We will NOT deal with lost property after the camp; it will have to wait until September! Please encourage your Scout to look after his or her possessions and property – particularly their costly boots and sleeping bag.

Luggage
Scouts’ main luggage – sleeping bag, clothes for the week etc in a rucksac – should be brought to the Scout hut on Saturday 23rd July at 1630-1700. Please do assist with loading the vans.

Medical declaration
Please do fill this in and ensure that we are informed if there is anything out of the ordinary, for example allergies or intolerances to certain foods or certain common medicines.

Medicine
Please advise us of any medicine being taken. We can look after it if you or the Scout would prefer this. We will administer “over the counter” pain relief as appropriate on request.

Minibuses
The Group is responsible for the safety of the young people whilst away from home, and as such, it is our policy always to source safe and reliable minibuses. This is about half the cost of the camp. The last thing the young people will do when they arrive back after the camp will be to help us brush these minibuses out.

Moaning
Young people are sometimes tempted to moan when confronted with hard work, particularly washing up. On summer camp, as with the real world, some hard work, and some washing up, is necessary for continued enjoyment of life. Youngsters are encouraged to keep moaning to a minimum. See “Promotion” and “Work”.

Mobile phones
Young people should not bring mobile phones or electronic devices to camp. All such devices remain the responsibility of the Scout. If mobile phones are found they may be confiscated by leaders and returned after the camp. Please ensure you and your Scout understand this.

Packed lunch
Scouts should bring a small rucksack on the journey itself. This should contain a drink or bottle of water and a packed lunch. If we have time, a comfort stop may be made on the journey as much for the drivers’ benefit as for the Scouts. It is a short ride to Lymington so we will try to push through if we can.

Patrols
Scouts will form mixed gender patrols during the camp and in these patrols they will take part in both gas hob and open-fire cooking, including safe handling of raw food, kitchen knives, fire, boiling water, hot pots & pans, and doing the washing-up afterwards. Scouts will be preparing meals for grown-ups as well as themselves. The Patrols will be chosen by the leaders for the benefit of the Scouts. Young people need to learn to work in teams with others who may not be their closest friends.
Permission forms  These are essential and it is your responsibility to provide a printed filled in copy before departure.

Pocket money  Scouts are welcome to bring pocket money at their and your own risk; we believe £20-£25 should be plenty. We can look after this money if Scouts ask. Please do not send your Scout with much more money than this. Please note that the safety of this money remains the responsibility of the Scout.

Promotion  Scouts will show more of their character on camp than at any other time of year, and it is on camp that decisions may be made regarding promotion of Scouts within the Troops. We do look for Scouts to be positive, cheerful and willing to assist when asked. See “Work”.

Rain  The activities of camp will continue regardless of the weather. All Scouts should have a waterproof coat and walking boots – not wellies.

Return  We aim to return to the Scout hut at approx. 1630 hrs on Friday 29th July. This is dependent on traffic, though we may return using the longer route via Midhurst to avoid using the M25 on a Friday afternoon. We would ask Scouts and parents to assist with unpacking of equipment.

Risk  Risks WE manage: We will, as far as is reasonably practical, ensure the personal safety and dignity of the Scouts. A risk assessment is here:  
http://1stoxted.scoutsites.org.uk/files/2016/06/Corf-2016-risk-assessment.xls  

Summer camp involves inherently risky activities such as gas hob and open-fire cooking, knife, axe and saw work, handling hot pots and pans and boiling water, hot fat or oil, building and maintaining open fires, and unsupervised play out of sight and earshot of adults. At camp Scouts can learn how to manage risk in a relaxed environment. But some risk remains and cannot be completely eliminated without rendering the camp worthless.

Risks YOU manage:  
1) Damage to or loss of, your sons’ or daughters’ clothes, equipment or cash money at camp. 
2) The possibility that your son or daughter will behave in such a way that they cannot remain on camp and you will be asked to come and collect them at 24 hours notice.

Sweets, chocolate & fizzy drinks  We will strongly discourage the Scouts from keeping sweets, fizzy drinks or foodstuffs of any form in the tents. Young people may like sweets and midnight feasts but they dislike ants and creepy-crawlies more! Sweets, chocolate and fizzy drinks found in the Scouts tents could be confiscated and binned. The Scouts will not be compensated for this. Please ask your Scouts to bear this in mind, and also that you as their parents have paid good money for us to feed them properly!

Tents  Scouts will sleep in canvas patrol tents, some of which will be reserved for female Scouts. Which Scouts go in which tent cannot be a free-for-all but has to be controlled to a degree to ensure a mix of experienced and younger Scouts. We use canvas patrol tents in summer because these tents by their very nature reward Scout-like qualities such as teamwork, following instructions, and attention to detail. Also they are more robust and reliable, cooler inside in hot weather, and better in high winds and heavy rain than nylon tents.

Texting/Messaging  If you wish to contact leaders during the week it may be best to text or message using Messenger rather than using the phone. You may be contacted by text message or instant message during the week.

Uniform  Scouts should travel to and from camp in FULL uniform – shirts, trousers and scarves with woggles. Please bring an old coat hanger to keep the uniform tidy.
Water sports
Scouts may be involved in raft building on a sea water creek. Whilst we will provide life preservers, this could necessarily involve swimming. For this reason, your **written permission** has to be sought. Please ensure you give this if you would like your Scout to do this activity. No written permission = no raft building.

Waterproofs
Scouts should bring a raincoat to camp and should ensure that a raincoat and alternative clothing is readily available near the top of their kit on the Sunday.

Work
Whilst the Scouts are of course on holiday, this is Scout camp, and all Scouts will need to assist with house-keeping work, including loading and unloading, pitching and striking tents, collecting wood, cooking and washing up. Some of this work, particularly loading, unloading and the pitching and striking of camp, must continue regardless of the weather. See “Promotion”.