



Easter Hillcraft

29th March to 3rd April 2024

What is it?

Easter Hillcraft is open to all Scouts (who are in year 8 or above at the time of the event), all Explorer Scouts, Scout Network members and Leaders from all sections. This annual activity, run by experienced and qualified Leaders, begins with Gravesham Winter Camp & ends with a challenging 5 night camp in the Lake District in April.

The event is based at Rydal Hall (OS Map Ref: NY 365 063). This campsite is in the heart of the Lake District, close to Rydal Water, and is a short walk northwest of the town of Ambleside, which has many shops for both food and equipment shopping.

Participants must be self-sufficient for the duration of the camp, providing all equipment (a list will be provided and their Troops/Units will be able to support with this) and food to cook for themselves.

Throughout the stay a series of challenging walks in the hills are undertaken as well as suitable navigational and camp craft skills are taught and tested. Many peaks of over 600m and some of over 900m are included, with more experienced parties having the chance to camp out overnight en-route. Everybody is organised into walking parties (which will be organised at Winter Camp) and each party will have a Party Leader and Party Second responsible for their walking, education and safety in the hills.

What about hillwalking and camping equipment?

As part of Winter Camp (see details below) we will be holding a kit talk to advise on kit required and where you can get this. There is also a downloadable kit list on the Gravesham Scouts website, on the Hillcraft page.

How do we get there?

Transport will be by mini-bus or vehicle sharing, final travel plans are made following the pre-course meeting at Winter Camp and full details will follow after that.

How do we prepare for Hillcraft?

Prior to Hillcraft at Easter there is Winter Camp (including the Pre-course meeting) and a team Shakedown Hike.



Winter Camp is a 2-night camp at Hopehill running over the weekend of **2nd – 4th February 2024** where all participants learn and develop a range of skills in preparation for Hillcraft. Full details of Winter Camp will be supplied in an additional letter and will be on the Gravesham Scouts website at:

<https://www.graveshamscouts.org.uk/event-info/winter-camp-1>

At the end of Winter Camp we hold a pre-course meeting for Hillcraft where all participants are placed into their walking parties and start to plan their walking routes for Hillcraft. There is also an equipment presentation and parents briefing. More details on this will be supplied after application.

Shakedown Hike Details will be supplied by the Party Leaders either at the end of the pre-course meeting or via email after Winter Camp.

How much does it cost?

The cost is **£135**, this includes all camp fees and travel to/from and during the event. There is a separate fee payable for Winter Camp. Food is not included in this cost.

This is payable via bank transfer, details of which will be given upon sign up.

How do we sign up?

That's the easy part! Booking is all online on the Gravesham Scouts website along with further details on the events at:

<https://www.graveshamscouts.org.uk/hillcraft>

Bookings will close on 31st January 2023

If you have any issues completing the form or any other questions, then please email hillcraft@graveshamscouts.org.uk

Yours In Scouting,
Dave Norris – Easter Hillcraft Lead
Pat Duncumb – Easter Hillcraft Admin