

FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY ONGOING GRANT TO SCOUT ASSOCIATION



The following is an outline of how the Major Grant of £500,000 awarded by Freemasons' Grand Charity in 2008 to the Scout Association is being applied to scouting groups throughout England and Wales.

In 2008 Freemasons' Grand Charity committed to donate to the Scout Association the sum of £500,000 over a period of 5 years. At the end of the first three years, it is clear that this money has made a significant difference to an organisation that shares similar values to our own and that it is doing good work in helping young people to become responsible members of society.

So far the money has helped to start over 360 new sections (Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts) each year, bringing into Scouting more than 12,000 young people and 2,000 adults. Part of the money has also been used to develop new programme materials to help provide challenging, adventurous and enjoyable programmes.

From 2010/2011 a large portion of the money will fund county or area based activities or projects focused on encouraging or expanding Scouting. Each year the Scout association will award ten Activity Grants to local scouting groups in ten different areas of England and Wales which have been selected in consultation with the Grand Charity. Relevant Masonic Lodges will be informed of the successful groups that have been awarded funds and the Scout Association will encourage these groups to develop a relationship with the local Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodge. The first ten Activity Grants awarded in 2011 have been very successful and positive reports have been received by Freemasons' Grand Charity from the Scout Association of the growing relationship between local Scouts and Masonic Lodges.

The ten successful scouting groups throughout England and Wales that will receive awards in 2012 will shortly be selected by the Scout Association and these will be announced in January.

Although this Province may not presently have been affected by the Activity Grants, many local scouting groups across the country have also received Start Up Grants. These Start Up Grants, typically £100 each, provide funds for regions where there is a desire among young people to join Scouting, but insufficient resources and adult provision means that they have been unable to take part. Funding has been allocated to grow 250 new scouting groups in England and Wales each year.