



1st Argyll Lorn (Oban) Scout Group
Charity no. SCO 30582

Group Lead Volunteer's Report for the year ending December 2025

Overview of Group Progress

We have had another successful year for the group, with the leaders situation improving, we have welcomed Cailean to the Beaver team, Euan to the Cub team and Bethany has joined us from Campbeltown Scouts and has been working across teams as needed. Many thanks to all the leaders for their hard work and efforts this year. We continue to look for leaders so that we can start to grow the groups with a solid team in each section which meets ratio needs.

We currently have a total of 36 children in the group made up of; 8 Beavers, 15 Cubs, 13 Scouts. We still have a partnership agreement with the Wildcat Explorer Scouts, which allows our scouts to carry on with the scouting movement when they turn 14, we had 3 Scouts move up this year and remain in Scouting.

We continue to offer a well-balanced, youth-led programme of activities across age 6 to age 14 range, with emphasis on individual development measured against the Chief Scout's Award programme.

309 Badges were awarded in 2025 this is made up of;
179 badges were awarded to the Scouts this year included 4 Chief Scout awards
55 badges awarded to Cubs this year including 3 Chief Scout awards.
75 badges awarded to Beavers this year including 3 Chief Scout awards

The leaders have all worked hard to ensure that a range of opportunities are offered to all members these include;

- Visit to Lifeboat station
- Visit to Oban Airport
- Fire station visit
- Rock Climbing
- Creating a paths with the Woodland Trust
- Backwoods cooking
- Knife Skills
- District Camp
- John Logan Trophy
- Circus Skills
- Cycle Camp
- Lochgoilhead Camp
- Snowdrop Challenge
- Norway Camp
- Highland Games with Connel Scout group

Katy and I continue to work hard as joint Group Lead Volunteers (formerly Group Scout Leader) and with the help of our Group Volunteers who all give up hours of their time each week to plan and deliver a balanced scout programme. As well as this volunteers all must complete and maintain their training courses in First Aid, GDPR, Child Safe Guarding to name a few.

Many thanks to our Group Treasurer Elsa MacIver who has done a sterling job of completing our financial records for the charity commission. As you can see finances remain relatively healthy, although a lot of work still needs to be completed on the hall which will eat into our funds significantly. Namely the roof which has been cleaned and is almost had its tar coating completed. The two side walls still need to be repaired. Window guards need to then be purchased and fitted. Longer term we would like to put in a new kitchen and bathroom with shower. This will allow the hall to be used more effectively by visiting scout groups.

Part of the reason the finances are so healthy is in no small part to our amazing chair Fee Shaw who has managed to secure a number of grants this session for example money for the upcoming Science Centre overnight stay. We have also been able to generate a small income from hall rental.

Looking forward to the coming year we hope to offer another outdoor camp in the summer. District camp this year will be at Barrwood in Stirlingshire where we will be hosting our Norwegian Scout friends we met in the summer. Katy and I took 6 Scouts on our first international expedition to join 10,000 other Scouts in July in Norway. We all had an amazing adventure, so much so that Katy and I are on the team organising our next international adventure with District to Iceland in Summer 2027.

We believe that the group is continuing to provide a positive experience for our young people which would not be possible without the support of all the Group Volunteers and parents and of course our fantastic Scouts themselves. Once again Katy and I would like to express our thanks for your continuing support throughout this year.

Katy Pollock and Fiona Wilson (Lead Group Volunteers) 6/1/26