

25th Northam Sea Scouts

As Group Scout Leader of the 25th Northam Sea Scout Group - please see my responses to the questions below.

· A bit of detail about the 25th Southampton Sea Scouts and the activities you undertake on the River Itchen in Southampton

We are a full Sea Scout Group with Royal Naver recognition. The only such group in Southampton City District Scouts.

The Group currently takes in from 6 years old but that will increase in the coming years to 4 years old and goes up to 18 years old. We have 4 sections at present, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers.

The sections run a Wet Season programme of many water craft including, Kayak and Canoe, Rowing, Sailing and Rafting.

· How many members there are in the 25th Southampton Sea Scouts?

The group numbers are 100 approx. of young people with 20 approx. adults and supporters.

· If known, where you draw your membership from – Are most of them from Southampton?

The catchment for the Scout Group is the West side of the city but we can take in from anywhere. There is only a limited residential area, so our activities are the main reason for intake.

· What you are doing to promote your activity to diverse communities in Southampton and to increase membership?

We mainly get intake from our Scout District waiting lists through our District / County web pages.

· Any expansion plans you may have

We are currently looking at improving our site and building to give us extra rooms, Dry and wet areas as well as boat storage and training facilities.

As a group (and as above) we will look to add the newest Scout section to the lower age group in the coming years – Squirrels – 4 – 6 years.

With the improved facilities we'd look to double up on sections across days if needed.

· Issues / concerns that you have about sailing/canoeing/enjoying the River Itchen in Southampton

The RIFAS could limit access to the public Slip next to our site. This could limit what we can do. We are in discussions with this group on this plan for 2025 onward.

Added to that, the development of the river side area is already in our minds.

· What developments / improvements you would like to happen to the River Itchen in Southampton?

The Public Slip way is in a bad state so this should be looked at and made better / safer.

· Any other comments that you would want to make about the River Itchen in Southampton?

Like many groups in our area, we use the slip and river a lot. We'd want to see that protected and continued.

Regards,

David.

David Bowers
Group Scout Leader
25th (Northam)
Southampton City Scout District