

Phoenix Independent Scouts Association

Member Support & Benefits Guide

What You Get When You Join Phoenix

Phoenix Independent Scouts Association is a small, friendly community focused on supporting independent Scout Groups. Membership isn't about rules or rigid systems - it's about connection, shared learning, and having people you can turn to when you need support.

This guide explains what Phoenix can offer now and highlights initiatives already underway to support leaders and groups as we grow.

1. Community, Connection & Belonging

A Network of Independent Groups

When you join Phoenix, you become part of a wider family of independent groups who understand the joys and challenges of running Scouting your own way.

You get:

- A place to share experiences
- Friendly support from like-minded leaders
- Access to people who understand the challenges of running independent groups

You are part of a community, not an organisation looking to control how you operate. You gain a space to share experiences, friendly advice from like-minded leaders, and a sense of belonging without losing independence.

International Links

Membership includes being part of WFIS (World Federation of Independent Scouts), which gives you:

- Access to international connections
- The option to attend WFIS events and camps
- A sense of belonging to a global independent Scouting family

2. Practical Support for Groups

Phoenix offers light-touch, realistic support to both new and established groups.

We can offer:

- Guidance for new groups on how to get started
- Support writing basic policies or reviewing what you already have
- Suggestions based on what has worked for other independent groups
- Help thinking through challenges or tricky situations

- Friendly advice whenever you need it

You stay completely in control of how your group is run.

3. Shared Learning & Leadership Development

Phoenix does *not* run formal training or assessments.

Instead, we encourage shared learning - leaders learning from each other through conversation and experience, and practical advice.

This includes:

- Talking through challenges
- Sharing what works
- Offering practical ideas
- Helping leaders grow confidence naturally

It's simple, supportive, and pressure-free.

Structured Leader Support in Development

Phoenix has already run exploratory sessions and pilot weekends to provide more structured support for leaders.

These include Scouting Fundamentals weekends for new or developing leaders and common badge schemes being trialled to reduce costs.

Essential Safety Standards

The only things Phoenix requires from leaders are:

- First Aid
- Safeguarding training
- A full DBS check

Phoenix can help signpost you to these if you need support.

4. Events & Opportunities

Phoenix aims to organise events that members can attend, such as:

- Camps
- Activity days
- Leader meetups

As the community grows, more events may be offered but nothing is promised beyond what is realistic and achievable.

Groups are also encouraged to run their own events, with Phoenix offering advice if asked.

5. Shared Resources & Cost-Saving Options

Running an independent Scout group can be costly, particularly for smaller groups. Phoenix looks for simple, practical ways to reduce expenses and save leaders time.

Shared Activity Badges

Phoenix has piloted common activity badges that allow bulk ordering and lower costs. These are optional and give groups flexibility to use them in ways that suit their own programmes.

Templates & Example Documents

Members can access optional templates and examples, including:

- Safeguarding guidance
- Risk assessment examples
- Policy outlines and wording ideas

All templates are provided as guidance only. Groups are free to adapt, replace, or ignore them.

Shared Ideas & Practical Tools

Phoenix encourages members to share useful resources such as programme ideas, activity plans, and practical tools that have worked well in their own groups. This helps reduce duplication and supports leaders day-to-day.

Looking Ahead

As Phoenix grows, additional shared resources may be developed where there is clear demand. Any new resources will remain optional, practical, and focused on supporting independence.

6. Light, Friendly Support Structure (Not a Committee)

Phoenix operates with a small, informal support structure designed to help, not manage, member groups.

This includes:

- A few core people available for advice
- Someone coordinating communication and WFIS links
- Leaders who are happy to share knowledge and experience

It's deliberately simple, friendly, and flexible.

7. What Membership Gives You

Membership of Phoenix includes:

- Being part of a supportive independent Scouting community
- Access to shared learning and leadership development
- Informal advice when you need it
- Help getting started or strengthening your group
- Access to WFIS and international opportunities
- A voice in Phoenix's direction as we develop

It's straightforward, honest, and designed for groups that want independence *and* connection.

In Summary

When you join Phoenix, you get:

- ✓ A friendly community of independent groups
- ✓ Light-touch support for new and existing groups
- ✓ Shared learning instead of formal training
- ✓ A simple, approachable leadership development environment
- ✓ WFIS membership and international links
- ✓ Events where possible
- ✓ People you can turn to for advice when you need it
- ✓ Independence without isolation

Phoenix is built around one idea:

independent groups supporting each other in a simple, friendly, and meaningful way.