

To



You are invited,

..... as a member of Ashdown District Scouts or Explorer Scouts that has successfully completed the training for the 2008 "Sussex Overland Hike", to take part in a very special event that will make full use of the skills and fitness that you have now gained:-

the **Snowdonia Geological and Hillwalking Adventure.**

WHEN IS IT? - The event takes place from Friday 11th to Sunday 13th April 2008.

WHAT IS IT? - A weekend hillwalking expedition in the Snowdonia National Park, for experienced Scouts and Explorers from Ashdown District who have proved they are fit enough by completing the "Overland Hike" Training Programme. It provides opportunities to climb some classic peaks of Wales, under the leadership of qualified mountain leaders and other experienced hillwalkers. The routes are strenuous, but not technically challenging (no ropework involved). Over two days of walking, the routes take in the magnificent scenery of the area. For those who are interested they also provide opportunities to learn about how the rocks were formed, over 500 million years of geological time, and how the present landscape has been shaped during and since the last ice age, just 18,000 years ago. This will be of particular interest and benefit to those studying physical geography or geology at school. Several of the event leaders have a great deal of local knowledge and one of them (Alan) is also a professional geologist.

OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAMME - Travel to North Wales will have to be on the Friday morning in order to fit in the full itinerary over the weekend. *Scouts may need to apply for leave of absence from school on the Friday, but this can usually be justified by the educational value of the visit (this letter may be copied to the school or college as supporting information).* We will be camping for two nights at Dol Gam campsite in Capel Curig. Early on Saturday morning we will, weather permitting, climb the highest peak in Wales, that being Snowdon itself (or "Yr Wydfa" to give it its local Welsh name which means "The Grave"). More explanation on the day plus lots more local folk law. On Saturday evening, after a centrally-cooked meal, there is the possibility of visiting Plas-y-Brenin, the national mountaineering centre where your leaders get trained for mountain activities. The centre often puts on interesting and inspiring film shows and lectures. On Sunday morning, after striking camp, the adventure continues. We'll be taking a short journey up the A5 to the famous Ogwen Valley, followed by a hike past the glacially-formed lake of Llyn Idwal and the famous (in rock climbing circles) Idwal slabs. The route will take in a wide variety of glacial landforms and (for some, perhaps) may reach the Devils Kitchen, high above the lake. The reason for this name will be explained en route. After the hike we will call in at Betws-y-Coed for fish and chips before traveling home during the afternoon, arriving back in Sussex by the evening.

COSTS - The full costs for the event, for all qualifying Scouts and Explorer Scouts, inclusive of all travel, camping fees and most meals* is **£65** per head. *Excluded from this are lunch on the Friday, when everyone should bring their own packed lunch with them; and the fish & chips on the Sunday, when everyone will need to bring money to purchase their own. The price includes a free booklet on the geology and landforms of the area for those who are interested.

WHAT NEXT? - If you would like to take part in this event, please return the reply slip below, together with a £15 deposit, by no later than 4th April 2008 to: Alan Thompson, Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts), Ashdown District, 25 Wilson Grove, Uckfield, East Sussex, TN22 2BU. (01825 764989)

PLEASE NOTE THAT PLACES ON THIS TRIP ARE LIMITED BY THE AVAILABILITY OF LEADERS WHO ARE ABLE TO TRANSPORT THE SCOUTS. IN THE EVENT OF OVER-SUBSCRIPTION IT WILL BE A MATTER OF FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

REPLY SLIP: To be returned by no later than 4th April 2008.

My son/daughter of the Scout Troop / Explorer Unit would like to take part in the Snowdonia Geological and Hillwalking Adventure, and would like to receive further details, including the kit list and Permission to Camp form. I enclose the deposit of £15 per head (*cheques only, payable to Ashdown District Scouts*).

Signed - parent/guardian of the above-named Scout(s)/Explorer Scout(s).

Date