

Dear Parent / Guardian / Carer

As your young person has signed up to the Fells Marathon event, we wanted to share with you some important information about the event to help ensure that everyone has a great time at the event, they are safe and have the correct kit and information needed, as well as sharing with you, how we do everything we can to keep young people safe during the event.

Introduction to the Event

The Fells Marathon is a two-day hiking competition for Scouts and Explorer Scouts. Carrying full kit for the two days. Whilst out on the route, participants have to visit a number of checkpoints where they are recorded and given any help or support needed. Overnight the teams cater for themselves on a campsite monitored by event staff. It is a fun weekend and is a test of navigation, camping skills and endurance.

Kit List

Your leader should have provided you with a kit list. This can also be found on our website: www.fellsmarathon.org.uk

Footwear

All participants will need walking shoes or boots to take part in the event. **Trainers will NOT be allowed.** Anyone found to be wearing trainers will not be able to take part in the event. The wearing of correct footwear is essential to the terrain and safety of participants and this will be checked both prior to starting the event and at checkpoints whilst on the event.

Clothing

Picture this: You are out competing for first place in the Fells Marathon when the temperature starts to drop. What do you do?

Most people would get their big coat out, and zip it right up, but this really isn't the best thing to do when hiking. When hiking it is best to adopt the layering technique.

As you are hiking you will heat up. This means that you don't need that thicker outer layer. You will be more comfortable when hiking as you are cooler. Equally the sun is out, and you are just wearing a base layer, clouds come over and it gets a little bit colder. You can put on one, maybe two layers to warm you up but not make you too hot.

Results and Presentations

Everyone wants to know how well they've done, but remember, it's not about the winning necessarily, it's about taking part and having fun.

There will be a presentation on the Sunday afternoon (around 15:00) where certificates and trophies will be presented to competing teams.

We aim to have the full results by the end of the event and subject to a final check; they will be available on our website the following day after the event.

Event Safety

We want everyone to have fun, but equally we must make sure everyone is prepared and safe before they start. This page provides some information on the controls we have in place to ensure a successful event for everyone.

Keeping young people safe

All adults (18+) attending the Fells marathon are required to hold a current enhanced Scouting DBS check as well as completing the Scouts Safety and Safeguarding Training.

The safety team based at Event Control are always monitoring the teams throughout the weekend and the event has a robust safety plan and set of Risk Assessments, both of which are reviewed for each event.

The safety team have plenty of experience to recognise where teams have become misguided and strayed from the route... sometimes we can even spot it before they do!

First Aid provision

First aid is available at the start, all checkpoints and at the overnight site. Additionally, in the case of an emergency or more urgent help being needed, we have a number of support teams that can be sent to help participants in any location.

Before teams set off on the event

Upon arrival (or shortly after) teams will go to map control to ensure that their maps are correctly marked for the route being walked, as well as ensuring they avoid any prohibited areas (busy roads etc). Prior to starting the event in the morning, a full kit check takes place (and yes, they really do check everything on the list, so knowing how it fits into the bag is quite useful!). Remember – Trainers are not allowed and will not pass the kit check!

What if young people need help on the event?

In the event that a team does need some help, they can simply call one of the numbers on their wristband (that they're given when they check in).

We ask all young people to call the numbers on the wristband first... rather than parents/carers or leaders as the event control team have full sight of the event and are the team that can get help to them the quickest.

What happens when they call the numbers from the wristband?

One of the friendly Event Control team will talk to the team to understand what it is that they need help with. Often they just need some assistance to get them back on track.

Event control can also arrange to send assistance to them if needed, be that in the form of a vehicle or a response team (depending on where they are, and the type of help required).

Who is there to support the young people on the event?

The event has a large number of volunteers that support the event, made up of:

Event Control	The overseeing eyes and ears of the event
Radio Team	HumberSide Scout Communication Team, keeping everyone in touch
Checkpoint staff	Those checking the teams in at various points along the route
Sweep teams	Teams of adults that walk behind a number of teams to help if required
Response Teams	Usually found in their 4x4 vehicles and quickly deployed where needed
Medical Team	Those that are qualified to assist and assess anyone that needs it
Minibus(es)	Collecting anyone that retires, and helps to locate any misguided teams

More information

You can find out more about the event, past and present along with some helpful tips to help you along the way on our website: www.fellsmarathon.org.uk