



# Explorer Winter BLAST! 2026

## Registration Policy

### 1. Purpose

This policy outlines the conditions and procedures for registering to attend **Gordon District Explorer Winter BLAST! 2026**, hereby referred to as 'WB! 2026'.

The 2026 event places a strong emphasis on **widening access**, ensuring that financial or social barriers do not prevent young people from participating in a fair, inclusive, and transparent way.

### 2. Eligibility

- **Youth Participants:**
  - Registration is open to young people from eligible Scouting aged **13 years, 6 months to 17 years, 11 months**.
- **Staff:** All adults attending the event **must apply** to join as event staff.
  - Staff places **are not automatically guaranteed**
  - All prospective staff must complete the **staff application process**
  - Applications will be reviewed by the Event Planning Team based on event needs, skills, and experience
- **Successful Staff applicants will:**
  - Receive an email confirming their acceptance
  - Be formally invited to join the staff team

Where possible, applicants who are not successful will also be informed. Due to the nature of the application process, we cannot guarantee that all applicants will hear back from the Event Planning Team.

- **'Staff Kids':** Children of registered Staff are welcome at the discretion of the event planning team.
  - 'Staff Kids' may attend free of charge.
  - To be eligible as a 'Staff Kid', the child must not be within **six months of the participant age range (13 years, 6 months to 17 years, 11 months)**.
  - Attendance is subject to space availability and any additional considerations determined by the event planning team.



### 3. Registration Process

- The **maximum total capacity for youth participants is 150** (a 76% increase in spaces from 2025). Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the Widening Access allocation below.
- **All participants and staff must register** through the designated online registration system.
- Youth participant registration opens on **14th September 2026** and closes at **23:59 on 08th November 2026**, or earlier if the participant capacity (150) is reached.
- Staff registration opens on **01st July 2026** and applications are subject to approval by the event planning team, **see 2**. Staff applications will close earlier than the Participant registration window.
- After the closing date('s), or once event capacity is reached, **no further registrations will be accepted under any circumstances**.
- Once your registration is submitted, cancellations or changes to spaces **cannot** be processed individually.

### 4. Widening Access

To support the aim of widening access, a proportion of places are reserved at a reduced cost.

- A total of **10% of youth participant spaces** will be reserved as Widening Access Places
- These places are offered at a reduced fee of **£40 per participant**

#### Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for a Widening Access Place, participants must meet at least one of the following:

- The participant lives in an area identified within the [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation \(SIMD\)](#) as being within the most deprived data zones (typically SIMD deciles 1–3)
- The participant's household may experience financial barriers to attending events of this cost
- The participant receives, or is eligible for, means-tested support (e.g. free school meals or equivalent)
- The participant would otherwise not be able to attend without financial assistance

***All applications must be supported and verified by a Unit Leader, confirming that the application is appropriate.***



## Allocation Process

- All eligible applicants will be entered into a random selection process.
- Places will be allocated fairly from this pool.
- Meeting the criteria does not guarantee a place, but ensures entry into the allocation process.
- Decisions made by the Event Planning Team are **final**.
- Applicants will be notified of the outcome following allocation.

## Confidentiality

All Widening Access applications will be treated with strict confidentiality.

- Information provided will only be accessed by members of the Event Planning Team responsible for allocation
- Details will be used solely for the purpose of assessing eligibility
- Information will not be shared beyond what is necessary to administer the process
- Participants awarded Widening Access Places will not be publicly identified

The aim is to ensure that all applicants feel safe and supported when applying.

## 5. Fees

- **Youth Participants:**
  - **Standard Event Price (2026):** £60 per participant (plus a £1.15 Administration & Processing Fee, totaling £61.15 gross)
  - **Widening Access Price (2026):** £40 per participant (plus a £1.15 Administration & Processing Fee, totaling £41.15 gross)
- **Staff:**
  - There is **no fee** for staff attending the event
  - Staff attendance is covered by event overheads
- **Note on Administration & Processing Fees:**
  - To streamline our registrations, improve financial tracking, and support our updated centralized digital management system, we now process payments securely online, using Stripe. A nominal flat processing fee of £1.15 is added to transactions to ensure that the event receives the full intended registration amount without core funds being absorbed by online payment gateway transaction costs.



## 6. Payments

- Payment for the full participant fee is **processed immediately** through Stripe upon submission of the registration form.
- **Submitting a registration form is a formal commitment to pay the event fee.** By submitting a registration, the registering unit or individual accepts responsibility for ensuring full payment is made.
- Failure to pay the required fee will result in the participant's place being withdrawn and they will not be permitted to attend WB! 2026.
- In addition, participants or units who fail to pay as required will be barred from attending any future Scouting events organised within Gordon District until payment is received in full.
- Payments must be made promptly as instructed by the event planning team.
- **No refunds will be offered** for cancellations, non-attendance, or withdrawal after registering.

## 7. Changes and Cancellations

- Participant substitutions within a unit may be permitted at the discretion of the event planning team, provided details are received before the closing date.
- No changes can be made after the registration deadline('s).

## 8. Unit Leaders Attending the Event

All **unit leaders who plan to attend WB! 2026** must register as event staff through the staff registration system.

- Unit leaders are considered part of the event's staff team for the duration of the event.
- Staff application ensures leaders are covered by the event's insurance, safeguarding procedures, catering arrangements, and accommodation plans.
- There is no fee for leaders attending as staff.
- Leaders who do not complete a staff application **will not be permitted to attend the event site.**

## 9. Data Protection

All information provided during registration will be handled in accordance with relevant data protection legislation and used solely for the purpose of organising and running WB! 2026.

## 10. Contact

For queries regarding registration, please contact: [winterblast@gordondistrictscouts.org.uk](mailto:winterblast@gordondistrictscouts.org.uk), with the Subject 'Registration 2026 - Query'.