

Overland Hike 25 - 26 March 2017

Overland 50, our Golden Anniversary hike was blessed with golden weather and teams and checkpoint staff in good spirits with golden smiles. This year the full complement of 70 teams were accepted for the hike, 34 Scout and 36 Explorer Scouts making the highest entry for some years.

From the start at Washington Village Hall all teams walked to the first via point where they split, odd number teams following a clockwise route to Sullington Hill, Tolmare Farm, Michelgrove, Lee Farm, Wepham Down, Rackham Hill, Springhead Hill, Waterfall Cottage back to the Campsite adjacent to the start at Washington. Even numbered teams completed the 15 mile circular route in reverse. During the day teams were met with challenges at each checkpoint and this year these included: DIY Badge, Angling, Target Golf, Flag Pole, Aircraft Recognition, First Aid and Atomic Milk Bottles.

Of the 68 teams that started 66 completed the first day and once on the campsite were monitored on their camping skills. After a good night's rest that was one hour less due to the start of BST the first teams set off at 07.00 via Locks Farm, Stump Barn, Gallop Farm, Findon, Cissbury Ring, Lynchpole Farm, Steyning Bowl and Maudlin Farm hiking to Steyning Village Hall where 61 teams completed the two day challenge. Again teams were presented with a number of incidents which included Flag ID, Erect a Hike Tent, Equestrian Badge, Kims Game and OS Signs.

Again this year we used a GPS tracking system to monitor all the teams. This proved invaluable as an aid to ensuring all teams were safe and, for added insurance, the recovery vehicles were also fitted with trackers to enable the nearest to an incident to be dispatched quickly.

Without the continued support of Scouters and others the hike would not run. The organising team is indebted to the continued support of checkpoint teams, recovery, search and rescue and first aid teams. Of special mention is the campsite team who arrive late Saturday morning to have the site marked out and ready to receive the first team at around 15.00hrs and then on Sunday dismantle the site and apart from some trampled grass leave the site as if no one had been there. In addition to the above there is an administrative team that few see who make sure information is collected at the start and then collate all the scores from the weekend to produce the final result and produce all the certificates.

Remember the last team arrives at around 16.15 and the result is ready at around 17.00 having been checked and checked again to ensure it is correct. During the run up to the weekend the Hike's administrator is busy amending the paperwork for the new Hike and producing the important data sheets for the Organising team. Also we have to thank the catering team who provide a hot meal for all finishing teams. Lastly our grateful thanks to the land owners who give permission for us to have checkpoints on their land and this year in particular the farmer at the campsite who visited twice to see what was going on and was very impressed and the farmer at Maudlin Farm who offered the Via point staff refreshments and the use of his kitchen if they needed.

For the 50th Hike our congratulations go to all teams who completed the hike and gained an Overland woggle. All teams completing the hike were presented with their certificates and woggles by the East and West Sussex County Commissioners and the Scout and Explorer Scout winners were presented with their Trophies by Hannah Kentish, Headquarters Youth Commissioner are shown below.

Scouts	Troop	District	Points Out of 720
Winners	29 th Brighton A	Brighton & Hove	593
2nd	29 th Brighton B	Brighton & Hove	583
3rd	1 st Roffey	Horsham	578
Explorer Scouts	Unit		
Winner	Tullis ESU	Ashdown	644
2nd	Trident ESU	Mid Sussex	622
3rd	272 ESU	Ashdown	620

This report could not be complete without noting the retirement of Derrick Payne and Andy Wavell from the organising team. The Hike was Derrick's idea all those years ago and Andy has been involved with the Hike in one capacity or another since the early 1970's. To mark their service to Scouting and in particular the Overland the Chief Scout was pleased to award the Silver Wolf and Silver Acorn respectively. Derrick and Andy received gifts from the Overland family and the grateful thanks of all involved with the Hike. They both hope the spirit of the Overland continues and that this year's participants go out and spread the word to encourage others to take part.

Next year's hike will take place over the weekend of 24-25th March. Once you have digested your team's results it will be time to consider planning your training programme for next year. We look forward to seeing another entry of 70 teams for the 2018 Hike somewhere on the South Downs.

Our grateful thanks go to our sponsors which this year included:

Terrain Vehicles for a control vehicle and Fusion for Pennants

Derrick Payne
Mark Wavell

Andy Wavell
Mark Lloyd

Albert Hinton
Philip Prior