



**MAIDSTONE DISTRICTS
EXPLORER SCOUTS**

INTRODUCTION TO WINTER SURVIVAL

▪ **WHAT IS WINTER SURVIVAL?**

Winter Survival is an annual endurance hike of about 40 miles in testing weather conditions, over a period of approximately 30 hours, starting on a Friday evening. Explorers take part in teams of three or four.

The event takes place over a weekend in February regardless of the weather!

▪ **WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?**

The location of Winter Survival is top secret until the event, so you won't find out where the event is taking place until the Friday evening that the event starts. You will be telephoned and given details of the start location that you will need to get to.

Once you get to the start you will have your kit checked, given a map for the weekend and briefed on the event. You will then be given your first grid reference.

Winter Survival will always have a story line that you will be part of. You may be battling with aliens, undercover agents or saving the world! The story line may also involve you carrying out certain tasks.

You should however bear in mind that where ever there are goodies (generally that's you!) there are always bad guys out to stop you. The baddies are a group of people who will fit in with the story line and will try a slow you down, hold you up and generally try to prevent you from completing you mission. They are best avoided if you can but may be more lenient if you have a convincing cover story for being out and about.

▪ **WHAT WILL I NEED TO CARRY?**

You will need to be self-sufficient for the weekend (apart from being provided with breakfast on Saturday morning) and we will provide a list of basic equipment that you will have to carry. It isn't a huge amount of kit so you won't need to carry a massive bag.

▪ **HOW DO I FINISH SURVIVAL?**

Finishing Survival is not a simple task and not something that many teams do. Taking part in Survival and doing YOUR best is the most important. BUT.... you will need to be physically fit, have excellent navigation skills (including night navigation, sometimes in poor weather conditions) and plenty of determination. You will need to work as a team and sometimes the only thing that will keep you going is team spirit and determination.

Are you up to the challenge of Winter Survival?