

strategy
evolution

EVOLUTION

Leader's Handbook

2026 | Version 1

WELCOME

Strategy and Evolution are annual camps for young people aged 7-18, in Scouting and Guiding. These multi-activity camps provide 1000s of young people with fun, challenge and adventure, giving them the opportunity to try new things, do the things they love and to meet new people from all over the country.

Cirencester Park is the venue for our event. There are over 3,000 acres of woodland and fields for you to explore; plenty for everyone to get lost in!

This booklet is designed to provide you with the information that you will need before, during and after the event. If there are any questions before the event speak to your leader or email us on admin@s-e.org.uk. For any questions at the event; ask someone wearing a helpers lanyard, wearing a S&E hi-vis, someone who is wearing a yellow S&E necker, or pop into the Admin tent.

Got a question?

Before the event: email admin@s-e.org.uk or speak to your group leader.

On site: look for a S&E hi-vis, a yellow S&E necker, or pop into the Admin tent.

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GETTING TO SITE

Cirencester Park

Cirencester Park, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7HX

what3words: ///scaffold.snores.defers

Please follow the Strategy and Evolution waymarked route – this will lead you to approach from the Stroud Road.

No access via Daglingworth

There is no access to Strategy and Evolution through the village of Daglingworth.

On arrival at the site there will be a one-way system in operation. Please follow the signs and directions of the marshals. There may be queues when arriving or leaving the site we welcome your patience during this time. Exit from site is a left turn only.

Please note there may be the need for us to stop traffic for the safety of the young people on site. At this time no vehicles will be able to move. We welcome your patience during these times.

No dogs on site

No dogs are allowed on site. This includes drop-off and pick-up.

Coaches

If you are planning on arriving by coach, please ensure that you have informed us in the travel survey, or email admin@s-e.org.uk. We do not have the facility for coach drivers to take their tachograph breaks on the S&E site.

On arrival

The site will open at midday on Friday, you will not be able to access the camping field before this. Please talk with your group about the time that you would like them on site. Arrival time is very busy due to the single track leading to site so please encourage lift sharing where possible to help minimise queues.

On arrival you will be directed to the camping area. Camping fields will open from the far end of the field, each field must be filled before the next field is open. There will be S&E helpers around to support this.

If you have a blue badge, please make sure it is clearly visible on your dashboard.

ON SITE

Checking in

Check in is open in Admin from midday Friday. We require one leader to check in. Before heading to check in, please make sure that you know where you are camping. Here you will receive a summary sheet, wristbands (please make sure the right wristband goes to the right person), event maps and if pre-booked a shelter tag.

All walking groups must be confirmed by 9pm. If there are any changes, please let us know so we can ensure groups are accurate on the system.

You will only be able to check in if all health forms have been completed and leaders have signed up to jobs.

Setting up

It is essential we keep the number of tents to a minimum to ensure everybody has enough space. Please do not bring additional shelters unless you have pre-paid for them. Vehicles are not allowed in the camping area.

Job shop

We have a dedicated team of helpers who keep the cogs turning, but without your help we wouldn't be able to run all of the activities and checkpoints throughout the weekend.

To run the event effectively we need all leaders and young leaders to help at a base on the Saturday and one other job during the weekend. If all leaders volunteer to help there should be a surplus on each base allowing you to have time to explore the bases and maybe even meet your teams for lunch!

Need extra support?

If you or young person have any specific needs or require assistance please email admin@s-e.org.uk and we will do what we can to find a suitable role.

WATER

Hot water

Hot water and washing up bowls will be available by the washing up area. Groups may wish to bring their own washing up bowl, liquid and sponges to ease queueing. These facilities are to be used for personal eating equipment only, there are personal wash facilities available. Groups will need to provide tea towels.

Showers

Showers will be available on site. There is a small charge of £2.50 (cash or card) to use these, which goes towards fundraising for scouting trips for Gloucestershire Scouts.

Drinking water

Drinking water is available from various points on the site and at the hubs during the day on Saturday. Please use this carefully and if you spot something that's broken please let us know so we can fix it.

FACILITIES

The Retreat

The Retreat is an area for those over the age of 18 only. It offers a place to relax, chat and unwind with other leaders and helpers.

In the day, the retreat offers hot drinks and a quiet area to sit.

In the evening our resident land lady will open the bar to provide alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshments. We challenge 25, no ID no admittance.

To help reduce the amount of waste we produce, we will only be serving out of reusable souvenir cups. These will be available in the Retreat.

The Retreat is card only.

The Café

There is a café on site serving a range of hot and cold food and drinks. There will be a selection of healthy alternatives as well as some of the classic S&E sweets and treats! This will be open throughout the weekend - opening times will be displayed outside the café.

Please note: whilst we take every care to reduce the risk of cross contamination, the Strategy and Evolution Café is unable to guarantee a completely allergen free environment as food containing allergens are prepared within the café.

Chill Tent

During the weekend the chill tent is available as a quieter space on site for both adults and young people. It's an area to wind down and relax with access to our inclusion team to talk to about any worries or issues you may have. The team are also there to talk through an inclusion queries that leaders may have.

Young Leaders Retreat

This is an area dedicated to our Young Leaders, so that they have a place to escape the chaos of camp.

This will be open each evening for YL's to relax and chat to other YL's in.

Personal Wash

Male, female and unisex wash facilities are available on site. Showers will be available on site. There is a small charge of £2.50 (cash or card) to use these, which goes towards fundraising for scouting trips for Gloucestershire Scouts.

Shop

There will be loads of S&E branded items to buy from pens and badges to neckers and t-shirts. So don't forget a bit of spending money! You can see a selection and pre-order online at shop.s-e.org.uk. Pre-ordering ensures the items you want are available as we often sell-out of popular sizes and colours. Pre-ordering will also give you the chance to personalise items. Any items pre-ordered can be picked up from here.

Lost & Found

If you lose an item during the weekend, hand it in to someone at Admin or at one of the Hubs during the Main Event.

Collection of lost items is available from Admin, though please note this may not always be possible during busy times (such as during check-in on Friday or when participants are returning from the main event on Saturday).

When handing in or retrieving items, please:

- Describe the item clearly so we can help identify it
- If you've lost cash, provide the amount, denomination, and the location where you lost it

After the event: Items will be kept for a minimum of one month following the event. Post-event items can either be collected or posted to you at cost. Any items not collected or arranged for posting after this period will be disposed of or donated to a non-related charity.

KIT LIST

Personal kit	Event kit (personal) – required for the walk	Event kit (team) – required for the walk	Group kit
Sleeping bag	Water Bottle	Event Route Map	Personal Washing bowl
Pillow	Day sack	Pen or Pencil	Sufficient sleeping tents
Wash kit	Waterproofs	Whistle	Mallets (the soil can be rocky)
Towel	Suitable Walking Footwear	–	–
Tea towel	Personal medication (inhalers, EpiPens)	–	–
Changes of clothes	–	–	–
Changes of underclothes	–	–	–
Torch	–	–	–
Eating equipment	–	–	–

Mobile phones are not required to participate in any activities.

Leader's kit

Travel/thermos mug

Collapsible chair

FOOD

All food is catered for during the weekend – below is a provisional menu and may be subject to change. All dietary requirements must be provided by 1st June via the health form. Dietary requests made after this time can unfortunately not be guaranteed. If you have a pre-submitted dietary requirement; please make yourself known at the front of the line. Friday night is a supper, please ensure you eat before you arrive.

Meal	Options	Wristband Order
Friday supper 6 – 9pm	Hot Dogs (VE and GF options available)	N/A
Saturday breakfast 7 – 8.30am	Bacon Baps, Sausage baps, Egg omelettes Quorn Sausage Bap V GF, Vegan Sausages VE, Gluten Free sausages GF Porridge with fresh fruit available for every attendee	Pink Blue Orange Green
Saturday lunch	Sandwich, Fruit, Chocolate bar, Healthy Cake Bar, Crisps, Biscuit Pack	N/A
Saturday dinner 6 – 7.30pm	Swedish style meatballs in a tomato basil pasta sauce V VE GF Option Sweet and sour chicken stir fry with mixed vegetables served with fluffy white rice H Option Both are available as separate parts (i.e. pasta and meatballs, sweet and sour without veg) Ice cream pot	Green Pink Blue Orange
Sunday breakfast 7.30 – 9am	Bacon Baps, Sausage baps, Egg omelettes Quorn Sausage Bap V GF, Vegan Sausages VE, Gluten Free sausages GF Porridge with fresh fruit available for every attendee	Orange Green Blue Pink
Sunday lunch	Sandwich, Fruit, Chocolate bar, Healthy Cake Bar, Crisps, Biscuit Pack	N/A

V = vegetarian | VE = vegan | GF = gluten free | H = halal option

PROGRAMME & TIMINGS

Use the at-a-glance table below for opening hours of on-site facilities, and the key timings cards for the most important deadlines across the weekend.

At a glance

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Shop	4pm – 8:30pm	8:30am – 10:30am 3:30pm - 8:30pm	8:30am - 3pm
Venue	7pm – 9:45pm	7.30pm-9.45pm	–
Retreat	7pm-10pm	7pm-11pm	–
Café	5pm-9.45pm	8am-5pm 7.30pm-9.45pm	8am-12.30pm

Key timings

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
12pm – site opens Noon – 9pm – check in	8.15am – Start gathering participants 8.30am – walkout 4.30pm – bases close	9am – presentations 9.30am – fayre 1.30pm – site closes

Sports

Once on site don't forget that you can register to enter the sports competitions at the admin tent.

Sports sign up is 7-9pm on Saturday evening to play on Sunday during the fayre.

MAIN EVENT

Saturday morning

After you've had breakfast and picked up your lunch on the Saturday morning, please get your participants ready for the main event.

They'll need the main event kit and the team card that you were issued on when you checked in.

Please gather in the arena in front of the outdoor stage by 8.30am. If you have a Main Event job for the morning, please head to the Play Area where you'll either head straight to your base or to the nearest Hub (details will be given to you when you check in on Friday). As with last year, we'll be doing a Leaders Walkout from outside The Retreat at 8:20am.

Young people will be walked out by our team and given a pre-event briefing so you should have time to get to and setup your base (if required) before any participants arrive.

If you've got any queries or questions then please head to the Admin Tent or, once in the Play Area, your designated Hub.

The Main Event

As part of your check in at Admin you will receive a summary sheet which will detail the allocated bases for each adult from job shop.

On Saturday morning, please drop off your young people in the area in front of the outdoor stage from 8.15am for their brief and walk out to your designated HUB, collect any kit for your base and then make your way to your base. We suggest taking a chair and reusable mug, if you would like to take advantage of the hot drinks served at the HUBs throughout the day.

All the information for how to run the activity, scoring and what to do if you need help will be in the base information packs.

For your young people the main objective will be for your teams to complete the bases gaining the most points along the way. Participants will be scored not only on completing bases but also on aspects such as team effort and perseverance too. A friendly guest will also provide the opportunity for teams to pick up bonus points along the way!

There are two awards this year: Best accompanied team and best unaccompanied team.

Event rules

1. All participants **MUST** stay in their teams for the duration of the event. Failure to do so will disqualify them. If numbers are reduced to fewer than four at any point in the event, then the remaining members may accompany another group.
2. All items in the Event Kit List must be carried or worn. Participants must sign back into Admin on completion of the event.
3. Participants needing to retire may do so at Hubs. The decision to allow a participant to retire will rest with a Hub Leader, medical staff or the Event Organiser.

4. Participants may be accompanied by one leader or young leader if felt most appropriate, though organisers do not believe it is required. Any accompanying leader/YL may not assist with bases unless there is a pre-disclosed access need. Please email admin@s-e.org.uk if this is the case.
5. All leaders will be assigned a base to assist with. Completion of your shift will result in 10 points per team entered.
6. Participants must obey marshals, police, and event signs.
7. The organisers' decision is final.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Site phone (emergencies only)

01285 505 404

Each group must have its own emergency contact, please let your young people know who this is.

First aid

In the first instance, please seek your leader. If required, there is a medical team on site for more serious injuries.

Alcohol and drugs

Alcohol is only allowed in the retreat area and only drinks purchased in this area may be consumed. The consumption of alcohol by under 18s is prohibited.

The event has a zero-tolerance policy towards the use of illegal substances.

Smoking and vaping

We are a smoking free site, therefore no smoking or vaping is permitted on site. There is a designated smoking area in the retreat available throughout the weekend.

Insect & tick bites

Due to the events taking place in fields and woodland there is the risk of being bitten or stung by insects including horseflies, wasps and ticks. It is important to be aware of ticks and to safely remove them as soon as possible, just in case.

We recommend bringing insect repellent and insect bite creams/clickers & antihistamines as part of your first aid kit.

- To reduce the risk of being bitten:
- Cover your skin while walking outdoors and tuck your trousers into your socks.
- Use insect repellent on your clothes and skin.
- Stick to paths whenever possible.
- Wear light-coloured clothing so ticks are easier to spot and brush off.

To remove a tick safely

You don't need to do anything else unless you become unwell.

See a GP if you've been bitten by a tick and you get flu-like symptoms (such as feeling hot and shivery, headaches, aching muscles or feeling sick) or a circular red rash. Always remember to tell them you've been in forests and grassy areas.

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers or a tick-removal tool.
2. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible.
3. Slowly pull upwards, taking care not to squeeze or crush the tick.
4. Clean the bite with antiseptic or soap and water.

Missing person

In the event of a missing person, please make your way to the admin tent. Here we will take down some key details. We will then ask you to go back out and continue looking. If you find the young person, please come and let us know. If after 10 minutes you have not found them, please return to admin.

Wristbands

Everyone on site must have a S&E wristband. Leaders should challenge people without one, and escort them to admin. If you feel unable to challenge somebody, please ask an S&E volunteer.

Prohibited Cooking & Lighting Equipment

For safety reasons, the following are **not permitted** on site:

- Open fires
- BBQs
- Stoves
- Gas lights

USEFUL CONTACTS

Save the details below to your phone before you travel. Email is checked daily in the run-up to the event.

- Email** admin@s-e.org.uk
- Site phone** 01285 505 404 (emergencies only)
- Website** s-e.org.uk
- Shop** shop.s-e.org.uk

Site Map



A full-resolution site map is available at s-e.org.uk/downloads



VERSION HISTORY

Version	Date	Author	Summary of changes
1.0	15 May 2026	Josh Foye	Initial release

GET IN TOUCH

admin@s-e.org.uk • s-e.org.uk
Site phone (emergencies only): 01285 505 404