

Chiltern 20 Challenge 2011

Anniversary Adventure for 200 Scouts

What's the best way to celebrate the 30th anniversary of one of the top challenging hiking events for Scouts in the UK? The answer is to hit the maximum number of 50 teams, sprinkle in some warm and sunny weather on the day, and finally give 220 young people an amazing adventure on the Chiltern Hills. This is what The Chiltern 20 Challenge is all about as the 10-14 year olds perfected their teamwork and leadership skills by hiking and navigating their way through nine checkpoints, all walking in excess of 15 miles. A couple of teams enjoyed themselves so much that they spent 11 hours completing the event, whilst the first team home breezed round in exactly four hours.

This annual event was organised by a County team from Greater London North supported on the day by 100 adults who enjoyed a day in the countryside as much as the young people. Participants came from across London and Hertfordshire plus four teams from 20th Torbay in Devon.

This year's winners were from Ridgeway Scout Troop in Tring. This was their fifth consecutive appearance and every other time they have finished in runners-up spot. They finished some 41 minutes in front of last year's winners from 23rd Southgate.

Maddie, aged 13, from Barnet said "What a brilliant day, and so well organised. I have never walked so far in my life before and I can take home a certificate to prove it".

Fozzy Foster, event secretary said "It was a joy to see all the participants going home clutching their individual and team certificates. We also presented the Fitness Challenge Badge to those who had been working towards this award. During the thirty years that this event has been taking place we have had over 5,000 participants walking a total of 75,000 miles. That's over three times around the world".

The event organisers will now turn their attention to The Southern 50, designed for Explorer Scouts and adults in Scouting, taking place on Saturday 11th February 2012. Further information can be found on www.scouts-gln-southern50.org.uk

Chris Foster.