

First Response: Definition and Equivalents



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All adults in Scouting holding a Leader, Manager or Supporter appointment are required to hold a current First Aid certificate. While everyone is encouraged to maintain their qualification at all times, the certificate must be valid at the issue of the Wood Badge and for appointment renewal. This provision will ensure a minimum standard of First Aid knowledge and training across the movement.

The minimum standard for First Aid training is 'First Response', a course designed specifically for adult leaders in The Scout Association and GirlguidingUK based on the situations and issues that occur within those roles. This course is not externally recognised and the training provided does not provide adults with a full First Aid qualification. It is important to note however that 'First Response' is the minimum standard set and that The Scout Association both recognises and encourages its members to undertake equivalent or more advanced qualifications. The completion of 'First Response' does not entitle people to wear The Scout Association Adult First Aid badge which recognises the award of a 'full' First Aid qualification.

First Response

To hold a current 'First Response' certificate an individual must have attended a 'First Response' course, or refresher where appropriate, within the previous three years.

In outline, the course should last a minimum of six hours, and should cover the following topics:

- The Principles of First Aid and Initial Response (arriving at and managing an incident).

- Emergency Life Support (DRABC, and the recovery position).
- CPR, including technique for children.
- Shock.
- Bleeding (major and minor).
- Causes and treatment of unconsciousness.
- Choking.
- Heat exhaustion, heat-stroke, dehydration and hypothermia.
- Burns and scalds.
- Fractures and soft tissue injuries.
- Minor injuries (for example, cuts, grazes and nosebleeds)
- Meningitis.

Individuals will receive a certificate on completion of the course which needs to be produced at appointment renewal.

First Response Refresher

'First Response' needs to be renewed every three years and adults now have the option of taking a two-hour refresher course. This course is designed for those who have already completed the full course and wish to update their training. This will fulfil the requirements for appointment renewal, and participants can receive a further signature on their original certificate, but it is recommended that adults only take the two hour refresher course twice before retaking the full course again. The refresher course, like the full First Response course, is valid for three years. There is no separate literature available for the refresher course and trainers and participants

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should refer to the full course booklets for information. The refresher course must cover the following topics:

- CPR, including technique for children.
- Bleeding (major and minor)
- Causes and treatment of unconsciousness.
- Shock
- Any changes to First Aid practice that have occurred during the last three years.

It is important to note that when providing a refresher course trainers should check that all participants have a current edition of the participants handbook.

Trainers of First Response

First Response courses can be run by any qualified First Aid trainer from an externally recognised First Aid organisation.

Alternatively, the course can be run by adults from within The Scout Association who hold a 'full' First Aid Certificate and have been awarded either the Certificates of Competence in Presenting and Facilitating or have completed Module 28: *Facilitating* and Module 29: *Presenting* from the Adult Training Scheme. The definition of a 'full' First Aid Certificate can be found in the factsheet 'Full First Aid Certificate: Definition and the Wearing of Badges' (FS120052)

For those running a 'First Response' course the Trainer's Manual, notes regarding recent changes in First Aid procedure and Participant's Booklets (which include the certificate) are available from The Scout Information Centre.

Requirements of Equivalent Courses

As previously stated, the award of the Wood Badge or renewal of an appointment requires First Response as a minimum. However, other externally awarded First Aid qualifications based on the four points noted below will be considered as equivalent or greater to First Response and will satisfy the requirements for the award of a Wood Badge or Warrant renewal. Equivalent external qualifications must be:

1. Set by a reputable body, such as NYA, BCU, St John Ambulance, HSE etc.
2. Involve at least six hours of training
3. Cover the main areas of the First Response syllabus.
4. Delivered by an adult holding a full First Aid qualification.

Note: It is important to note that no external course will cover the exact syllabus of First Response. Topics such as meningitis, anaphylactic shock and heat exhaustion, heat stroke, hypothermia and CPR for children and infants are often not covered in external courses. Adults should take the time to make themselves aware of the signs, symptoms and treatment of these conditions, or undertake additional training in order to cover them. It is often possible for participants to request additional topics to be covered during a First Aid course that they are attending.

For reference a list is provided below which covers some of the most widely available courses which are equivalent to or exceed the minimum standard of 'First Response':

- British Red Cross Basic First Aid Certificate
- British Red Cross Practical First Aid Certificate
- British Red Cross Standard First Aid Certificate
- British Red Cross Emergency First Aid for Sports
- British Red Cross First Aid for Care of Children
- British Red Cross Basic First Aid for Appointed Person (1 day)
- British Red Cross First Aid for Child Carers
- St Andrew's Ambulance Association Standard First Aid Class Certificate
- British Association of Ski Patrollers Outdoor Emergency First Aid

- British Association of Ski Patrollers Standard or Advanced First Aid
- British Association of Ski Patrollers Emergency Medical Technician
- Royal Yachting Association First Aid Certificate
- British Canoe Union Aquatic First Aid (Level 1 or 2)
- Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Medallion, Award of Merit or Distinction
- Rescue Emergency Care (REC) Emergency First Aid
- Rescue Emergency Care (REC) Advanced First Aid
- Rescue Emergency Care (REC) Mountain First Aid
- St John Ambulance Emergency Life Support and Basic First Aid combined certificate (note: one of these certificates only is not sufficient on its own)
- St John Ambulance Activity First Aid
- St John Ambulance Sports First Aid
- St John Ambulance Early Years First Aid
- St John Ambulance Emergency Aid for Appointed Persons (Schools)

This is not a definitive list of equivalent qualifications. If you have undertaken First Aid training that covers the four points previously mentioned then your qualification will fulfil the requirements. However, if you require clarification please contact the Adult Support office at Gilwell Park.

Health and Safety Executive Qualifications

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) qualifications can be run by a number of different providers. There are three different HSE approved qualifications:

- Emergency First Aid at Work (1 day)
- First Aid at Work (3 days) – in England, Wales and Scotland

- First Aid at Work (4 days) – in Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man

These qualifications are all equivalent to, or exceed, the First Response requirements. However, it should be remembered that conditions in the workplace may be very different from conditions on Scouting activities, and First Aid at Work certificates do not cover the exact syllabus of First Response. Adults should ensure that they take the time to make themselves aware of the signs, symptoms and treatment of conditions not covered in their training, in particular those conditions or procedures relating to environmental conditions, or to children (for example CPR for children).

Holding the HSE role of 'Appointed Person' does not, in itself, meet The Scout Association's First Aid requirements for Wood Badge or appointment renewal, as there is no requirement to have completed training to be an appointed person.

Professions with a First Aid Element

The Scout Association does recognise that some professions by the nature of the job will have a first aid element; for example Nurses, Midwives, Police Officers, Medical Practitioners, Members of HM Armed Forces, Ambulance Care - Assistants/Paramedics/Technicians, etc. These professions are required to provide evidence of an up-to-date qualification which should meet the criteria of what is considered our minimum standard (as listed earlier in this factsheet). With regards to 'evidence', this can be a certificate or an official letter confirming that the necessary areas have been met [This change in rule recognises the growing number of professions that undertake regular First Aid training and the changing standards across those professions].