

25th Stirling (Dunblane) Company

The Boys' Brigade

Application Process

How can I become a Member?

Membership of the 25th Stirling (Dunblane) Company, The Boys' Brigade ("The Company") is ultimately at the discretion of the Captain, who oversees all three sections. We are a Christian organisation which warmly welcomes boys and young men of any and all faiths and beliefs and those of none.

The Company has three sections divided by age which are run by the respective Officer in Charge.

These are

- Anchor Boys – P1 to P3 (boys must have attained their fifth birthday)
- Junior Section – P4 to P6
- Company Section – P7 to S6

Step 1

Anyone who wants to try the BB should contact

- The Captain;
- Any of the officers-in-charge;
- Or get in touch with us via the website (www.dunblanebb.org.uk)

Step 2

Any new members for any section will require to fully complete a parental consent form before attendance can start. Once completed and handed in, a boy can attend on a 3-week trial basis (this applies to all) to ensure they understand what's involved and enjoy the BB.

Step 3

At the end of the 3-week period, if the boy wishes to continue, we would then require the annual subscription be paid (in whole or in part if instalments are preferred) and a uniform obtained. (Note – We have spare second-hand uniform that can be supplied – donations are welcome.)

What is expected of members and parents/carers?

The Company is run by volunteers; **all** of our leaders are unpaid volunteers.

You will be issued with an Information pack which explains how the relevant section operates and what is expected of you as a parent and boy.

Company Section Boys will also be asked to sign a membership agreement, the purpose of which is to explain what he is committing to, what is expected of him and to make a formal act of commitment to the BB.

In addition to this, and to highlight the fact that, in order to offer an exciting balanced programme, we need additional help from time to time:

- The parents/carers of members are therefore expected to be available to help once or twice a year via a parent rota.

- This can be at a regular BB meeting, at a BB event / activity and providing transport.

What about leaving?

We recognise that the BB is not always for everyone so a boy can leave or be asked to leave under the following circumstances;

- A parent informs a Leader formally that the boy is leaving.
- A boy has failed to attend 75% of the mandatory elements for four consecutive weeks except for explained reasons of illness or injury, etc.
 - The mandatory elements of the programme are:
 - Anchor Boys – Wednesday evening meeting night
 - Junior Section – Friday evening meeting night
 - Company Section
 - Parade Night on a Friday evening
 - Bible Class on a Sunday (or church attendance elsewhere, confirmed by a parent's note/e-mail)
- The parent will be informed if this occurs.
- When a boy fails to abide by the Code of Behaviour, he will be deemed to have excluded himself from the organisation.
- When the suggested annual subscription is not forthcoming and no arrangement has been made for deferred or split payment. Parents will be consulted should this seem likely to occur by the OIC of the appropriate Section.
- Where a parent or parent representative of the boy displays an aggressive, rude or disrespectful attitude towards a leader or the Company either verbally or in written form (this includes e-mail / Social Media etc).
 - Please when you are emailing or commenting on the Company using Social Media think...
 - "Would I say that in that way if I were face to face?"
 - What is the likely impact on the boy(s) / volunteer leader(s) if I tweet or post this?" before clicking.

If a boy leaves the Company and wishes to return he will have to reapply. Any appeals or complaints to be sent directly to the Captain only.

Is there a Waiting List?

Yes - The Company and indeed the BB in our area is very popular, and we have, for the start of the 2014 /15 session, had to implement a waiting list for all three sections.

This is for a number of reasons but primarily the factors are numbers of volunteer leaders and space in the Cathedral Halls.

The Section limits have been set at;

- Anchor Boys – 40 boys
- Junior Section – 55 boys
- Company Section – 110 boys

This unfortunately means we can't always offer a place to potential members as soon as we would like. When applying for a membership, you will be advised whether a space is available or if your son's name will be placed on the appropriate waiting list.

Is there a Minimum and maximum age?

No - You can add your Son's name to the appropriate waiting list at any time / age.

How do I get onto the waiting list?

To be added to our list, please complete a Consent Form, which will be held on file until a place is available. Please note that brothers must register separately on the waiting list.

What is the Selection process?

- The name at the top of the list for the appropriate year group will be offered the place first. We balance the number of places for each year group in order to ensure smooth progression of numbers through the sections in future.
- You will be contacted and offered a place – see Step 2 and 3 of 'How do I become a member?'
- If this is refused then that name will be removed from the list (or moved to the bottom) and the next name will be contacted and so on.
- If your son is not old enough to start Anchor Boys when a place becomes available, you will not be contacted. However, he will maintain his place on the list and the boy who is of age next on the list will be offered a place.

Some Caveats

- Existing members of each section/age group will automatically move up to the next section, these boys taking priority over boys on the waiting list.
 - As an example, a boy in Anchor Boys who reaches the age to move up to Juniors will automatically get a place in Juniors.
 - This will take precedence over a boy on the waiting list in all instances and all sections.
- Sons of volunteer leaders who meet all other membership requirements (and whose leader parent completes the necessary checks and training courses (not occasional parent helpers)) will take precedence over other boys and be given a place. *Ultimately the BB does not exist without volunteers. We feel it's reasonable that someone who is willing to invest time in helping to support the BB should be able to include their child (or children) in that experience.*

How long will my son be on the waiting list?

- There is no limit to the time on the waiting list. Please let us know if you no longer wish your son's name to be included.

What is the Catchment area?

We don't have a fixed catchment area, but boys from outside Dunblane would be encouraged to join the BB in their area, e.g. Bridge of Allan has an Anchor Boy and Junior Section.

Boys moving into the Dunblane area who are existing members of another BB Company at their previous home would be given priority over those on the waiting list.

What if I feel unfairly treated?

If you feel your application has not been treated fairly, or you have a complaint, you are welcome to send a message to the Captain, who will make the final decision.