

Remembrance 2020

Message from the County Commissioner, Matthew Burrell

How we can show our respect to our heroes

Many Scout volunteers and young people are currently considering ways that they can mark this year's Remembrance period, including ways that they can show their Scout units support in their local communities.

This year is going to be very different with acts of Remembrance taking place in the middle of a nationwide lockdown designed to reduce public gatherings and the spread of the virus.

The views of our friends at the Royal British Legion

As you may be aware Norfolk Scouts is affiliated to the Norfolk Branch of the Royal British Legion to get an understanding of the Legions view, I called the Chairman, Hugh King to discuss Scout's participation in 2020.

Hugh explained a number of points.

The public acts of Remembrance on Remembrance Sunday are organised by the local authorities in communities not the Legion, who are participants like the Scouts.

Events will be happening this year, but the organisers are working under very strict rules, including discouraging too many participants being involved. Although it will not be illegal for members of the public to observe an act of Remembrance.

Hugh believes that it is not disrespectful there to be no Scouting presence at the war memorial or wherever the act takes place, in fact Scouts and other members of the public will be supporting the organisers of that event make sure that it can take place safely by staying away

If one person from a group would like to lay a wreath at a war memorial, that is fine and very welcome but they should organise to do that after the act of Remembrance at sometime later in the day.

How Scouts can contribute to Remembrance

Hugh said that this year the Legion are very much advocating personal reflection this Remembrance at home. Young people and adults could talk about Remembrance at an online meeting or put on their uniform and take part in the two minutes of silence on their doorstep or in the back garden.

A very public way to show our support would be for adults and young people to download a poppy to colour and place it prominently in their windows.

Hugh suggested that this display of belief in the purpose of remembering the service and sacrifice would be mean a lot to British Legion members and the Armed Forces communities.

I hope that helps volunteers make decisions about what Remembrance looks like for them this year, and helps with the understanding that the communities that support Remembrance appreciate that we're not there year because we can't be, not because we don't care.

Where to download a poppy

You can download a poppy to print in colour or to colour in here:

<https://www.poppysshop.org.uk/products/download-a-remembrance-poppy>

Keep safe

Matthew