

Malawi 2027 Community Project

Information Pack

In 2027, West Lancashire Scouts will be taking part in a three-week expedition to Mangani, a village in the south of Malawi. During the trip, the team will work closely with the charity Friends of Mulanje Orphans (FOMO), a Lancashire-based organisation that supports orphaned children and their families in Malawi.

While in Mangani, the Scouts will help build a local education centre used by the community, as well as building a second playground similar to the one built in 2025. The expedition builds on the successful Africa 2025 trip, returning to the same region to continue supporting FOMO and the communities they care for.

The project gives young people the chance to make a real difference, learn new skills, and experience life in a very different part of the world.

Who can join this project?

The expedition is open to young people in the Explorer and Network age ranges, as well as adult volunteers within West Lancs Scouts. To take part, your child or young person must:

- **Have been born between 1 September 2002 and 31 August 2011**, and
- **Be a current member of West Lancs Scouts** — this includes Explorer Scouts, Young Leaders, Network Members and adult Leaders.

In addition, we hope to take a separate group of Network-age participants who will work towards their **Scouts of the World Award**. These places are open to those:

- **Born between 1 September 2002 and 30 April 2009**, and
- **Aged 18 or over** by the final training weekend in **April 2025**.

This extra group will design and lead their own community projects as part of the award, supported by the leadership team.



When will this project happen?

This project will happen in the summer of 2027. The trip is expected to take place between the start of the school holidays in July and return just before the A Level results are released in August. Dates are TBC, subject to flights.

What will this project involve?

Main project

It is expected that the main project will involve helping build at least one new centre that will make a big impact on the communities we will work with, while working in line with the charitable aims and priorities of FOMO. There is also a requirement for a new playground at one of the centres refurbished in 2025. With walls needing building and repairing in several areas.



SOWA Projects

The Scouts of the World teams will work with FOMO to identify other smaller projects in the community and the secondary school funded by them, in order to complete their Award. They will be fully responsible for all fundraising, project management, delivery and completion in line with the requirements.



What happens after the community projects?

After the community project, the contingent will enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation. We expect this to be agreed with the input from all participants and a budget of £250 (per person) has been set accordingly. This period will be approximately 5 days.



How much will the expedition cost?

The cost of the trip will be no more than £2600.

Included in the cost is:

- Flights to and from Malawi
- Travel insurance (some personal items may not be covered)
- Food for 3 weeks
- Travel and accommodation in country.
- 4 training events and any other necessary classes as mandatory
- Rest and relaxation period – activities to be decided.
- 2 contingent neckerchiefs
- A contingent polo shirt
- A contingent hoodie
- Contingent badge



The trip cost does not include all expenses as some are subject to change before we travel, and individual in nature.

Additional costs not included:

- Fundraising of £500 per person specifically for the project
- Vaccinations and antimalarials
- Visa costs
- Optional training events
- Personal item travel insurance for some valuable items (cameras etc)
- Meals at any stop overs unless provided by airlines.



This trip may end up being less than the quoted figure of £2600 as there is an amount of contingency within the budget to ensure we are not in the position during these uncertain times where we do not have enough funds to be able to deliver the trip as advertised. Any surplus money will be returned to the participants after the trip has returned.

How many places are available for this trip?

The leadership team will be selecting a total of 40 young people (Explorers and Network members) for the trip, with approximately 25 for the main project, and no more than 15 for the SOWA projects. This number is based on the number of people FOMO are able to accommodate and transport whilst in Malawi.

There will be a selection event on Saturday 9th May 2026 to enable the leadership team to ensure we have the best possible group of young people to carry out the projects and represent West Lancs Scouts.

To be selected for either the main project or SOWA project you will need to attend the selection event. There will be a cost of £5 per person payable on the day.

How much will be needed in order for these projects to be carried out?



Participants will be asked to raise an additional £500 on top of the cost of the trip in order to carry out the projects. All fundraising for this part of the cost must be completed and paid by the end of April 2027 in order for funds to be transferred, materials purchased in Malawi and ready for our arrival.

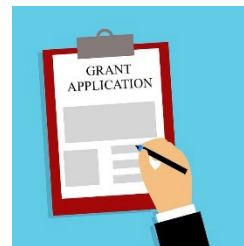
SOWA teams will set their own budgets for their projects, but the amount to be raised will be roughly the same as the main project.

The first £500 of each person's fundraising will go towards the project they are on. After this, additional fundraising can go towards the personal commitment of the trip. Any fundraising that exceeds both commitments can go towards the project costs. We will also be looking at maximising fundraising through grants and Gift Aid.

The leadership team will work to both support the participants and to fundraise themselves towards the cost of the trip.

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Who are the leaders involved in running this trip?

Lisa Lewis (Expedition Leader)

Lisa joined Scouting as a parent helper, and very quickly fell in love with it. She officially became a leader in 2012. She has had many roles since then such as a Beaver, Cub and Scout Section Leader, Group Lead Volunteer and is now Beaver Team Leader at 1st Chorley Methodist Scout Group in Chorley District. Lisa has attended many Red Rose events and was assistant leader on the Africa 2025 trip. She is really proud to have been chosen to lead this incredible trip ready to continue working closely with an amazing charity. Professionally, Lisa has been a Company Director of a Fulfilment Distribution Business for a number of years at a business in Chorley.



Victoria DaSilva (Deputy Leader)

Victoria is absolutely delighted and truly honoured to be part of the West Lancs Africa 2027 project as Deputy Leader. She was Assistant Leader on the trip in 2025 and is looking forward to going back to FOMO and Malawi.

She is currently a Squirrel Scout Section Leader as well as the County Squirrels Sub-team leader.

She is looking forward to working with the leadership team to provide young people within West Lancs an exceptional and potentially life changing opportunity and deliver a lasting and practical legacy for the young people in Africa.



Will Horrocks (SOWA Lead and Deputy Leader)



Will has been in Scouting for 14 years, starting his Scouting journey in the Cub section. As well as being a Network member, Will is an Assistant Scout Leader. He has a fair bit of experience with international trips, with his first to Belgium as a Cub. His second was when he was a participant on the Africa trip in 2022 where he completed his Scouts of the World Award. His third trip took him to Macedonia to complete his Explorer Belt. His most recent venture was the last trip to Malawi in 2025, where he took the step into a leadership role, co-running the SOWA side of the trip. The next step for him then was clear – to return as a leader with the intention of heading up SOWA and to maintain the relationship between West Lancs Scouts and FOMO, whilst delivering more projects for them.

Andy Pennington



Andy has been a Scout Leader at 8th Penwortham St. Teresas for over 10 years where he has helped to organise many different camps and activities. In 2023 Andy had his first overseas Scouting trip, where he was an Assistant Leader with the West Lancs Scouts Explorer Belt to the Balkans. Andy enjoyed that experience so much that he decided to be a part of the Malawi 2025 trip. He is very excited to be going back as Assistant Leader on the Africa 2027 trip. Andy has three adult children all of whom went through Scouting, or in the case of his daughter Guides. Andy enjoys hiking and hill walking and has recently started climbing the Munros in Scotland.

Charlotte Duke

Charlotte has been in scouting since she was 5 years old starting as a beaver and eventually becoming a leader for scouts. She is also involved in network which has allowed her to complete all of the top awards. She has taken part in 4 international trips including the previous two Africa trips as well as her explorer belt and IST for the Slovakian Jamboree.



Anton Mooney

Anton first became involved in Scouting as a Cub many years ago. Currently an Explorer leader in Preston although he has also been a Cub and Scout leader in the past. Anton really enjoyed working with Explorers and Network members on the Explorer Belt to the Balkans in 2023 and is very much looking forward to being part of the Community Project contingent to go to Malawi in 2027 and having a great experience there working alongside FOMO and experiencing all that country has to offer.



Andy Lewis



Andy has been involved in Scouting since the 1960s and has held a wide range of leadership roles over the past 15 years, including serving as District Commissioner for Chorley. He is currently the Team Leader for the George Platt Activity Field and Chair of Trustees for Chorley Methodist Scout Group. Andy brings extensive international experience, having attended the 2015 World Scout Jamboree in Japan as IST and the 2019 World Scout Jamboree in the USA and Canada as the CMT Travel Lead, where he coordinated the movement of 5,000 Scouts across North

America. Alongside Scouting, Andy runs both a property management company and a warehouse and distribution business. He is looking forward to bringing his leadership, operational knowledge, and logistical expertise to support the Malawi 2027 team.

Joe O'Neill

Joe has been in scouting for nearly 13 years, since beavers. He is a Team Member at Ospreys Explorer group in Ormskirk, and also a network member within West Lancs. Joe has been on a few internationals while being an explorer, including a European Jamboree in Switzerland, World Scout Jamboree in Korea in 2023 and most recently the Malawi 2025 trip to complete his Scout Of The World Award. He is currently in the middle of doing his gold DofE and planning an Explorer Belt trip. This being his second visit to Malawi but returning as a leader is an amazing opportunity for him to be able to give back more to the charity FOMO and the children they help.



Helen Reader



Helen Reader has been involved in Scouting as long as she can remember - it's just what happens when your parents are leaders! She is currently a Scout Leader in South Ribble at 2nd Leyland. Helen was fortunate to participate in, and be a part of the leadership teams for, a number of international events and attended the 2019 and 2023 World Scout Jamborees as a member of the IST. Outside of Scouting Helen loves spending time doing anything outdoors, getting stuck into a good book, crafting and increasing her ever expanding giraffe collection! Helen says "I am really excited to be part of the Malawi Leadership team and I cannot wait to get this amazing journey started with everyone".

Stephen Chow

Stephen is from Blackpool with his main scouting role being organising events and trips for Cub Scouts from all over Blackpool District. Over the last 10 years he's been to Dublin, Romania, Uganda, Austria, Northern Ireland, France & Belgium, the Ardennes and Hungary with Scouting. Stephen said "I'm looking forward to going back to Africa with a new group of Scouters and getting involved in a community project".



Frequently asked questions

How will I fundraise for this trip?

There are a million and one ways to fundraise for this trip! Bake sales, coffee mornings, sponsored events, just giving pages, grants and hardship funds, raffles..... the list goes on. All participants will be supported throughout by the leadership team; however, they will not be fundraising for you. The first £500 you raise will go towards the project. After this you can use the rest to help pay for the trip and other costs.

What are the toilets like?

The toilets in the accommodation are like toilets in the UK, however the plumbing is basic, and does not allow for excessive waste and paper. The toilets on project are a different story and varied depending on the location. The picture is a traditional Malawi toilet.



What is the accommodation like, and will I be able to have a shower?



We will be staying in one of the FOMO centres, which will have cooking facilities, dormitories, some running water and limited electricity (not enough for charging devices). It is important that we keep ourselves clean and although there are showers, water is a scarce commodity and should not be overused. Bucket baths are sufficient most of the time, as are bed bath wipes. What we don't want to do is leave FOMO with a hefty water and electricity bill once we have left.

Will there be Wi-Fi?

In the village there is no Wi-Fi, nor will there be on any of the project locations. There will be limited access on R&R depending on the destination, but the quality of connection is likely to be poor. The beauty of this trip is that not being able to connect to social media allows you to fully immerse yourself and enjoy the experience.

I am vegetarian or I have a dietary requirement, will I be ok on this trip?

In most instances, yes you will be fine. The contingent will largely be cooking for themselves, and we will be able to cater for individual needs. On the training weekends we will be looking at the type of food we can buy there and formulate some recipes for breakfasts, lunches and evening meals.

What will the weather be like?

Malawi does not have seasons the same way the UK does but has wet and dry seasons. July and August are part of the dry season; however, it may still rain heavily at times. The weather will generally be hot during the day (t-shirt and sun cream) and cool in the evening (hoodie and long trousers).

What vaccinations will I need?

These will be different for everyone depending on what you have already had, but there will be ones that will be needed to attend the trip. All participants will be expected to be fully vaccinated for those required, this includes antimalarials. We can advise on what the recommendations are, but you must get individual advice from your GP or local pharmacist. Some may be available on the NHS, while there may be a charge for others.

The current list of required vaccinations is:

Hep A; Hep B (these can be given as a combined injection); Tetanus; Typhoid; Cholera; Polio and MMR if not given before.

What language do they speak in Malawi?

The 2 official languages are English and Chichewa. English is relatively understood in most areas, with the children in the FOMO schools being taught this. This is not the case everywhere, and a basic understanding is useful. There are books and apps that can be obtained beforehand to help with this.

Any more questions?

Please email lisa.lewis@westlancsscouts.org.uk

Application closing date is Tuesday 5th May at 09:00

Applications can be completed at [Application Form – Fill in form](#) or by scanning the code below.

