
Welcome Pack: For New Members

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Hooray! You've joined a SSAGO club and your local club is connected to National SSAGO allowing you to attend National Events and make use of our resources. This pack aims to help you understand what benefits National SSAGO provides to you and to introduce you to SSAGO as a whole. This document is long (sorry) however is designed to be a resource for you to look up information and get an overview of lots of areas of SSAGO and recap things which may not have been clear when joining SSAGO initially. It includes lots of details about:

- Finding your club.
- An introduction to the events in SSAGO.
- Meet Team Pink, our national committee.
- Finding out more information.

Each of the topics also points to other relevant documents elsewhere on the website should you need further information - all of the factsheets mentioned can be found at <https://www.ssago.org/resources/factsheets>. You're also able to contact Team Pink at any time who'll be able to advise you by emailing pink@ssago.org, if you're ever unsure this is your best point of contact! Please note this document isn't policy, just advice.



Finding your club

If you have already joined a club and are set up on the website, great! Feel free to move on to the next section. If not head to ssago.org/clubs where you will find a directory of clubs and a handy map to help you locate your nearest club.

If there isn't a club at your University don't panic! Please join as an Independent Member (or "Indie" as we call them) here ssago.org/clubs/indie. As an Indie you will still be able to attend all the National/Regional SSAGO Events and will be part of your own National Indie community. Instead of a committee the Indie club is organised and supported by an Indie Rep who is contactable at indie@ssago.org.

No club at your university and feeling adventurous? Why not start a new club! For this you just need to find a full committee (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) of keen members, connect with your SU to start the society and then email members@ssago.org to get yourself affiliated with National SSAGO. More information on starting a new club can be found on Factsheet 9.

More information on joining SSAGO can be found on Factsheet 4.

Events

There are lots of events you can get involved with in SSAGO beyond what your club runs - there are four large National Events each year: 3 Rallies (camps) in roughly February/March, June and November and a Ball held around the Easter break. You may also want to get involved in our "SSAGO Supports" service events or Regional events with nearby clubs.



Leeds of the Rings Rally, November 2024

Rally

Rally is a national camp, held once every term where SSAGO groups around the UK meet up to join in activities, have adventures and make new friends from across the country. They can vary in size from around 150 to over 300 people. Each is hosted by a SSAGO club

and themed offering a range of activities throughout the weekend and costs start from £32.50, with some activities or indoor accommodation at extra cost.

Clubs arrive on Friday night (leaving after lectures) and the main activities are on Saturday, often including going into the nearest town/city for monopoly runs, exploring attractions, pub and cafe crawls and whatever else there is to do. Normally there's also the option for hikes off site, and some rallies offer onsite activities as well! Outside these times there are a range of other activities and chances to make new friends from around the country, as everyone is always really friendly! Rallies provide a (hopefully well earned!) break from the stresses of university.

Check out Factsheets 22 and 23 for more information on what happens at Rallies and what to pack for your first event.



Aber's Birthday Ball, April 2024

Ball

Ball is an annual event that allows people to dress up in their formal wear and relax. Outside the dinner, dance and after party, the format of a Ball is less ingrained than a Rally - typically hosts offer a range of activities from Friday night to Sunday morning should you also want to see the city or make people's long journey worthwhile. There's also a range of accommodation options provided for every budget.



Witan Burg Rieneck, September 2024

Witan

National SSAGO also hosts international events, called Witan, every 4 years or so with the last one taking place in September 2024 in Rieneck, Germany, and the next going to Ribe in Denmark in August 2028.



SSAGO and SAGGA members who ran the Olympic Park Challenge at WSJ 2023

SSAGO Supports

National SSAGO also supports some national Scouting and Guiding events by sending a team of enthusiastic volunteers. These will be announced as and when but the main ones that we've attended recently are WSJ 2023 (running the SSAGO Olympic Park Challenge), DUSAGG's Midnight Madness and the SCOGUI Night Hike. We've also had small groups of members at Magical Midlands, EIJ, Wingding, KIJ, Wellies and Wristbands and more! Looking forward we're hoping to organise some SSAGO Support contingents of IST at UK-based jamborees, so keep your eyes peeled for that.

If you have an event that you need volunteers for, as long as it is Scouting or Guiding related, you are welcome to use our network to find your own volunteers.



Midlands Freshers Camp 2024

Regional Events

Clubs are encouraged to take part in a whole range of regional events from regional meetups to freshers camps. Clubs are able to host events and invite other clubs through the website. 2024 had freshers camps in the Northwest (SALSAGO's Ye Olde Freshers Camp), Midlands (Keele SSAGO's Pyrates of the Midlands), Wales (Medieval Welsh Freshers Camp) and various clubs in other regions ran their own smaller ones. Regional camps are hosted by a club in the region and open to any SSAGO members to attend. There are also some regional 'SSAGO supports' events and city meetups.



Club Events

If you have just joined one of our fantastic SSAGO clubs you will no doubt be aware of the events they are running. Many clubs have a weekly programme of events but not all clubs run the same so speak to your club's committee to find out more about what they have planned!

If you are an Indie member keep your eyes peeled for any Indie events run by our Indie Rep. If you have any suggestions for Indie events or want to run one yourself please feel free to contact either the Members Officer or the Indie Rep at members@ssago.org or indie@ssago.org.

The Structure of SSAGO

Team Pink



Team Pink 2025-26

Left to right, top: Ben (Liaisons), Ed (Secretary), Ewan (Members), Abi (Digital), Bee (Quartermaster); **bottom:** Nem (Web), Rose (Events), Lucy (Publicity), Lara (Treasurer), Jack (Chair)

Team Pink is composed of the Exec (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Members Officer, Publicity Officer) and Assistants (Events Officer, Quartermaster, Digital Assistant, Web Assistant, Charities Assistant, Liaisons Officer). The Exec are voted in at SSAGO's AGM every spring, while the Assistants are appointed on 3-year terms by Team Pink. It's Team Pink's job to look after the administration of SSAGO, its finances, publicity and membership.

You can spot Team Pink at events by looking out for their bright pink hoodies/t-shirts!



For further details of all the different Team Pink roles please see Factsheet 10. To find out more about what the current Team Pink have been up to and their plans for the future visit <https://ssago.org/pink>.

Reps' Meetings

A Reps' (Representatives') Meeting is a meeting that takes place every Rally, usually on the Sunday morning - someone will attend the Reps' meetings on behalf of your club if you have members at the event. The Reps' meeting is a chance for the clubs to find out more about what Team Pink have been up to. It is also a chance for you to raise any issues or concerns that you have.

After each Reps' meeting a series of votes will be held online. This gives your club a chance to discuss topics and then report back to Team Pink through the online voting area. To find out who your club Rep is, visit your club's page on the website or speak to your club's committee.

See Factsheet 25 (Role of a SSAGO Rep) for more about SSAGO Reps.

Contacting Team Pink

Outside of a Reps' Meeting at a National Event such as Rally the members of Team Pink are also easily accessible through other means. If you'd like to contact them directly the email address pink@ssago.org should be your first port of call. If you have any questions for a specific member of Team Pink their email addresses are as follows:

Exec

- Chair: chair@ssago.org
- Secretary: secretary@ssago.org
- Treasurer: treasurer@ssago.org
- Members: members@ssago.org
- Publicity: publicity@ssago.org

Assistants

- Events: eventsofficer@ssago.org
- Quartermaster: quartermaster@ssago.org
- Digital: digital@ssago.org
- Web: web@ssago.org
- Charities: charities@ssago.org
- Liaisons: liaisons@ssago.org

In almost all circumstances, the best option is to just email pink@ssago.org though, so that it goes to the whole team!



Team Pink Rally AGM, March 2025

AGM

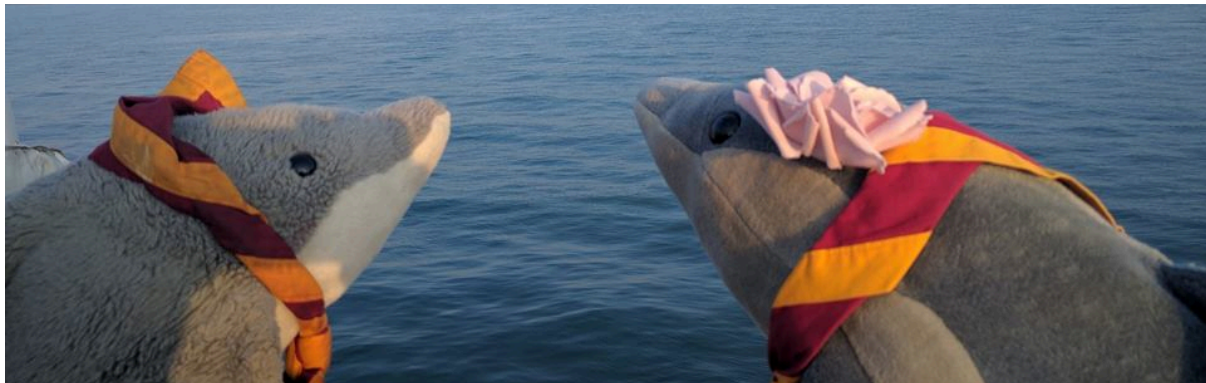
Our AGM takes place at the Spring Rally each year on the Sunday morning of the Rally. The AGM is where people can run for positions on the national Exec and is where all the next year's Rallies and Ball locations are bid for by clubs running to host each event. Afterwards, people vote using the SSAGO website on which candidates they'd like to see elected.

Other SSAGO Bits and Bobs

Membership

SSAGO membership is open to those currently studying at higher education institutes around the UK. Non-student members are allowed to join as “Associates”, these members should be providing support to the club and reasons for each Associate member are required. All members are also entitled to a year of Associate membership following their graduation. We also have a partner organisation, the Scout and Guide Graduate Association (SAGGA), for graduates you’re then able to move on to.

Current membership fees are £6 for students and £9 for Associates - typically, this will be organised through your club.



Phil and Phillipa, two of Southampton SSAGO's mascots

Mascots

Every club has their own mascot, usually a cuddly toy. This mascot is then labeled as stealable. A stealable mascot is one that can be stolen at a National Event such that it may be returned at the end in return for a forfeit. This is done in good spirits and not maliciously, no force is permitted and only mascots that have been handed over or abandoned can be stolen and passed to a member of Team Pink for safe keeping. Should you have any other mascots these are labelled unstealable and the stealer will face forfeit for stealing any of them. Past forfeits have included muddy obstacle courses, water guns, washing up, singing and eating leftover stew. Find Factsheet 29 for more info!

Social Media

Social media is a really valuable way to spread the word of SSAGO, recruit new members, find out information and generally stay connected. Your club will likely have a lot of their own social media connected to your club page on the website.

National SSAGO has their own social media including:

- [Instagram](#): for Team Pink to share general information and promote SSAGO - lots of National Events have their own Instagram accounts as well!
- [Discord](#): a place for members to interact, share ideas and ask questions, and stay connected through many channels. Also used for communication during our National Events!
- [Tiktok](#): for Team Pink to share general information, promote SSAGO, and have a bit of fun
- [Facebook Page](#): for the National Exec to share general information about SSAGO to members
- [Facebook Group](#): for members to communicate and share ideas, ask questions and generally interact with each other on a National level

Finding Information

This document is not comprehensive, there are lots of SSAGO information documents available on the website at <https://www.ssago.org/resources>. These are divided into various categories:

- Club Resources - contains this document, freshers recruitment guides, etc
- Factsheets - guidance on lots of topics
- Policy - sets out rules and guidance which must be adhered to
- Forms - for if you're going away or doing adventurous activities

All of these documents can be searched using the search bar at the bottom of the page. If you've got any questions and can't find the answer, email pink@ssago.org and we'll be able to clarify and point you to the right documents.