

Welcome Pack: For New Members

Last updated: October 2020

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 the Executive committee.
- Finding out more information.

Each of the topics also points to other relevant documents elsewhere on the website should you need further information. You're also able to contact the National Exec at any time who'll be able to advise you by emailing exec@ssago.org, if you're ever unsure this is your best point of contact! Please note this document isn't policy, just advice.



Scot Rally, June 2019

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, June and November and a Ball held in April. You may also want to get involved in our service events "SSAGO Supports" or regional events with nearby clubs.



Bath Roman Rally, February 2020

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 £27, with some activities or indoor accommodation at extra cost.

Clubs arrive on Friday night (leaving after lectures) and the main activities are on Saturday Afternoon, which includes things such as walks, hikes, pub-crawls, on-site activities, visits to nearby attractions, or simply an afternoon off to explore the local area or catch up on studies. However, 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.

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



Bath Masked Ball, March 2017

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 however hosts have offered 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 provided for every budget.



Witan Berlin, August 2016

Witan

National SSAGO also hosts international events, called Witan, every 4 years or so with the last one taking place in the summer of 2016 in Berlin and the next going to Kandersteg in Switzerland in **July 2021**.



SSAGO Supports Gilwell Wintercamp 2018

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 for a number of years are Gilwell 24, Gilwell Wintercamp and Wellies and Wristbands. If you have an event that you need volunteers for though, as long as it is Scouting or Guiding related, you are welcome to use our network to find your own volunteers.



Scot Rally, June 2019

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. 2019 had fresher's camps in the South West (Portsmouth's Crystal Maze), Midlands (Keele's Quest for the Sapphire Squirrel), South Wales (Swansea Unthemed) and the North (Liverpool's Fab Four) which are all 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

The SSAGO Exec



From left to right, Top: Brittany (Secretary), Reuben (Publicity), Maddy (Treasurer),
Bottom: Adele (Chair), Amy (Members)

The “National SSAGO Executive Committee”, or National Exec, is formed of 5 elected members from SSAGO whose job it is to look after the administration of SSAGO, it’s finances, publicity and membership. The five positions available on the Exec consist of:

- **Chair** - The Chair is in charge of organising meetings and keeping everyone on track, they are also ultimately responsible for SSAGO.
- **Secretary** - The Secretary must record the minutes from meetings and look after all general SSAGO paperwork.

- **Treasurer** - The Treasurer is responsible for looking after all of SSAGO's money and bank accounts. They are also responsible for making sure Rallies and Balls stay within budget.
- **Membership Officer** - The Membership Officer is responsible for creating new clubs and ensuring the current clubs are maintained.
- **Publicity Officer** - The Publicity Officer is responsible for getting the word of SSAGO out there and looking after and maintaining all public relations.

There are also a number of non-executive roles (known as Exec Assistants) Quartermaster, Webmaster, Archivist, SAGGA Rep and International Officer.

The Exec and Assistants together make up "Team Pink", you'll know who they are at National Events as they will be wearing bright pink hoodies!

The elected positions change each year, with new people selected at the AGM with the new Exec taking over at Ball. For further details of the Exec roles please see the "Roles" Policy Document or check 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 should 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 the National Exec 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 you a chance to discuss topics with your club and then report back to the Exec 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 the Exec

Outside of a Reps' Meeting at a national event such as Rally the members of the Exec are also easily accessible through other means. If you'd like to contact the Exec directly the email address exec@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:

The Exec

- Chair: chair@ssago.org

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

Assistants

- Quartermaster quartermaster@ssago.org
- Archivist archivist@ssago.org
- Webmaster webmaster@ssago.org
- Events eventsofficer@ssago.org
- International international@ssago.org



Nottingham Outlaw Rally AGM, February 2019

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 decided by clubs running to host each event. Those in attendance at the AGM vote on which they'd like to see happen (for those who aren't at the event online voting is available).

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. We also have a partner organisation Scout and Guide Graduate Association (SAGGA) for graduates you’re then able to move on to.

Current membership fees are £4 for students and £7 for Associates.



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 the Exec 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.

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 which should be connected to your club page on the website. There are also Regional Facebook groups which can be found on the SSAGO Regions Page.

National SSAGO has their own social media including:

- [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
- [Discord](#): a place for members to interact and stay connected through many channels including Badges at Home, Get Active and Scribbl
- [Instagram](#): for the National Exec to share general information and promote SSAGO
- [Twitter](#): for the National Exec to share general information and promote SSAGO

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 too.
- 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 exec@ssago.org and we'll be able to clarify and point you to the right documents.