



## Gold and Silver Membership Scheme for Special Needs Groups

Welcome to Wildwood's Gold and Silver Membership scheme, aimed at special needs groups, so that you can enjoy our animals and woodland whenever you want.

Our Gold and Silver Membership scheme is aimed at special needs schools and groups – those whose students or members **ALL** have physical, mental, behavioural or educational special needs. Organisations suitable for Gold or Silver Membership include special schools, specialist units, pupil referral units, charitable special needs groups and other specialist voluntary groups working with special needs groups within the community.

There are two categories of membership for special needs groups. It is up to you to decide which one your organization would like to apply for.

Category	Conditions
Gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £50 annual administration fee</li> <li>• No visits on bank holiday weekends (Sat-Mon and Good Friday)</li> <li>• No other restrictions on visiting times</li> </ul>
Silver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £25 annual administration fee</li> <li>• No bank holiday visits (Sat-Mon and Good Friday)</li> <li>• No weekend visits at all</li> <li>• Weekday visits after 1pm only during the school term to avoid congestion with school groups</li> <li>• No restrictions on arrival times on weekdays during school holidays</li> </ul>

It is envisaged that special schools may prefer to apply for Gold Membership as this will allow them to visit during school hours. Adult special needs groups, special needs holiday play schemes etc may prefer to opt for the cheaper but more restricted Silver Membership, simply because they may have more flexibility over visiting hours, but it is up to individual groups to decide which scheme is most appropriate for them.

Gold Membership does not cover groups who may have **some** members with special needs but which are predominantly set up to support social issues – e.g. victims of domestic abuse, teenage parents, homelessness, the elderly etc. Groups who meet these criteria should apply for Wildwood's Chestnut Membership Scheme.

### To Apply:

- Decide which category of membership you would like to apply for – gold or silver – and complete and return the appropriate application form.
- Remember to attach a cheque (payable to Wildwood Trust) for the required annual administration fee (£50 for gold and £25 for silver) as well as formal literature about your organization to support your application.

## Full Terms and Conditions

1. Gold or Silver Membership is given to specifically named schools, school units and groups. It is not transferable to other non-special needs groups or individuals within the same umbrella organisation or to other organizations (e.g. a hearing-impaired unit within a school may have a Gold Card, but cannot lend it to another mainstream class within the school to use).
2. The card may not be used by staff members or clients for private visits with their families or friends.
3. The card cannot be used to cover an organisation's family day; the card only covers special school students and accompanying staff; parents and siblings accompanying them on the visit as a day out would need to pay admission.
4. The card may be used every day that we are open, with the exception of:  
GOLD: bank holiday weekends (Sat-Mon and Good Friday).  
SILVER: all weekends, bank holiday weekends or before 1pm Mon-Fri (school terms only).
5. We reserve the right to ask you to postpone your visit if circumstances are unsuitable, e.g. a high number of existing bookings on a very busy school day.
6. Wildwood's decision on your eligibility for the group membership scheme will be final.
7. Neither Gold nor Silver Membership covers socially deprived groups or those where the majority of students or members do not have special needs (see Wildwood's Chestnut Membership Scheme).
8. You must let us know of any material changes to or within your organisation, including change of contact person.
9. You must inform us in writing by email [Sharon@wildwoodtrust.org](mailto:Sharon@wildwoodtrust.org) and [membership@wildwoodtrust.org](mailto:membership@wildwoodtrust.org) by the day before your visit at latest, that you are coming (on health and safety grounds it is important for us to know of any groups in the park in case of an emergency).
10. Groups who arrive without notifying us and/or outside the restrictions on their card will be turned away or asked to pay the seasonal group admission charge.
11. The staff member in charge of the visit must bring the membership card and show it to reception staff.
12. We understand that special needs students may need a high ratio of support staff accompanying them on external trips. However, if a large number of staff attend (more than 1:1), they will be charged the seasonal group admission rate, unless you have contacted us first to explain the need for extra staff.
13. Replacements for lost membership cards carry a £10 administration charge.
14. Failure to adhere to the terms and conditions will result in your membership being cancelled.
15. Wildwood Trust reserves the right to change these terms and conditions at any time.

**Please don't forget that we are a charity, subject to Charity Commission rules, and it is imperative that members of this scheme do not abuse it.**

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Jones, at Wildwood Trust, Herne Common, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7LQ; tel. 01227 712111 or email [Sharon@wildwoodtrust.org](mailto:Sharon@wildwoodtrust.org)