



Scouting Ireland – Venture Scout Team

A Venture meeting idea for every week of the year, plus one – Rev 1

So, sometimes weekly meetings can get boring. There's no reason why they should...

General ideas

1. Seachtain na Gaeilge

Have Gaeilge related fun – try some traditional Irish music, a céilí, find out who the Michael Flatley or Jean Butler is in your group, try to communicate only through Irish, it will do wonders for your school work.

Why not try some of your favourite games through Irish for a change?

2. Fair Trade night

Learn a little about fair trading practices, get some Fair Trade tea and chocolate and relax and talk about how your group can help make sure that producers are paid for the work that they do...

3. Beaver night (games, colouring)

Let loose your inner Beaver, play some Beaver games and whip out the crayons and get colouring, don't knock it till you've tried it!

4. Signalling night (Morse, code breaking, semaphore)

Learn some codes and signals and teach them to each other to pass secret messages, you never know when it might come in handy...

5. Book club evening

Pick a book a good few weeks in advance, get comfy with tea and coffee and chat about the book, learning critical analysis skills (handy for school or college) in a relaxing environment and among friends. Don't try War and Peace the first week, start small with something everyone will enjoy.

6. Cocktail night (non-alcoholic!)

Gather your favourite fruits and veg and whip up some cocktails. Why not invite other groups, get dressed up, tuxes and cocktail dresses, and make a night of it...

7. Casino night

Who's the card shark in your group? Set a card table, get some chips, roll some dice, teach each other some card games and live the James Bond life for a night...

8. Teas of the world

Forget about the serious stuff, Sample some tea from different countries and see which the best is...

9. Cook off

What sort of meal can 2 or 3 Venture Scouts cook up on a very limited budget?

10. Quiz

Plain and simple. Why not try spicing it up in your own unique way, with pictures, sound clips, movie clips etc?

11. "Me" night – nutrition, exercise, personal care

Each Venture Scout does some research on an aspect of caring for his/her own health and shares it with the group. By the end of the night everyone should have a better idea of what it means to stay healthy. Why not include a definite goal or theme, like an expedition, or the Explorer Belt?

12. Sketches & Drama

Show your dramatic side by preparing sketches, stand-up comedy, mime or maybe even an entire play. If you have only a small group, tie up with other groups for this night.

13. Heroes night

Prepare a little presentation about your hero, and share it with the group. Design an activity based around your hero, for example, is your hero Tom Crean or Ray Mears? Plan an endurance survival activity. Is your hero Rosa Parks or Martin Luther King? Plan an activity with aspects of social awareness in it.



14. Invite a local Ranger Guide group

You might learn some new ways of doing things. A twinning arrangement might lead to some great activities/camps/expeditions.

15. Jazz night

Get out your Jazz CDs, your dancing shoes and celebrate the culture of the Louisiana delta...

16. Classic film night

Go to the cinema, grab a DVD, even a video, if you can get a projector all the better. Try Casablanca, Gone with the Wind, the Third Man, Citizen Kane or any other classic you can think of.

17. Environmental awareness

Everyone is talking about the environment, what are they talking about? What's a carbon footprint?

18. Debate night

Pick sides and practice your public speaking, something you will need in school/college/many jobs in the future.

19. Active Citizenship evening

Voting, community activism and local affairs, what do you do, what can you do? Are there any problems in your area you should address and could address?

20. Trampolining

Beg, borrow, or steal (maybe don't steal) a trampoline. Learn the safety issues and off you go...

21. Solve crazy problems

Slam a revolving door, design a mousetrap to catch only white mice, walk on water, have a fight in slow motion, try not to think about polar bears, cook an omelette in a wheelbarrow while going around the block.

22. 1907 Scouting night

What was Scouting like a hundred years ago, what games, what uniform, what values?



Cake related

23. Cake baking

Chocolate cake, Sponge cake, Swiss Roll, Christmas cake, Angel food cake, Apple cake, Babka, Banana cake, Battenburg, Baumkuchen, Black Forest cake, Buccellato, Bundt cake, Butter cake, Butterfly cake, Carrot cake, Cheesecake, Chiffon cake, Cupcake, Date and walnut loaf, Devil's food cake, Eccles cake
The choice is yours...

24. Bring a cake to share

Speakers

There are interesting experts all over the community who are willing to come and address you, try some of the following topics for discussion. Maybe what you hear will inspire you to begin a project:

25. Road safety

26. Suicide

27. Exam stress relief

28. Drugs/Alcohol

29. Homelessness

30. Invite a TD

31. Farmer

32. Self Defence (Karate, Judo etc)

33. Car maintenance (how to change a tyre)

34. Local radio DJ

Crafts/skills

Learning a new skill is fun and can become something your group can specialise in and share during the winter months. If you need help just ask for it...

35. Carpentry (make something, it will take more than 1 week)

36. Whittling

37. Sign Language

38. Knitting night

39. Basketry

40. Bee-keeping

41. Tie-dyeing (neckerchiefs, t shirts)

42. Photography

43. Star-gazing

44. Clay modelling



Outside

There are lots of quick activities can be done on a weeknight, or why not change your weekly meeting to a Saturday morning for a change for one or two of these (pitch and putt, or treasure hunt for example). This is perfect if all of your group can't commit to a full weekend activity...

45. Bowling
46. Bingo
47. Salsa dancing
48. Pitch and Putt
49. Local history treasure hunt
50. Barbeque
51. A night at the theatre
52. Fishing
53. Go swimming, or go to the gym

