



## Scouting Ireland – Venture Scout Team

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### The history of international Rover Scouting<sup>1</sup>

Scouting for young boys started in 1907, offering a new way of life based on respecting the Law and Promise and following the Scout principles. Soon those boys became young people and the need to introduce a new age section in the organisation became apparent. After some pilot examples where older Scouts were offered activities appropriate to their age and abilities, Senior Scouts became a new official age section in 1917 and, in 1918, members of this last age section were officially known as Rover Scouts.

Robert Baden-Powell (B-P) introduced and presented the general aims of Rovering in his book *Rovering to Success*, published in 1922. Subtitled *A Guide for Young Manhood*, it addressed older Scouts in the Rover Branch of Scouting.

Baden-Powell wanted to ensure that young people developed into happy, healthy and useful citizens. The main aim of the programme was to provide service to society in general and to Scouting in particular as Rovers should be good and inspiring examples to younger members.

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<sup>1</sup> Senior Scout sections in Europe are referred to generally as *Rover Scouts* despite the fact that they have their own names, for example in Ireland we have *Venture Scouts* and in the UK they have the *Scout Network*. The term Rover Scout is not to be confused, in this way, with the name being used in proposed new programme's pilot scheme.



“Rovers are a Brotherhood of Open Air and Service. They are Hikers on the Open Road and Campers of the Woods, able to shift for themselves, but equally able and ready to be of some service to others. They are in point of fact a senior branch of the Boy Scout Movement – young men of over seventeen years of age. The four main aims of the Scout training in Woodcraft are to develop these points:

- P Character and Intelligence.
- P Handcraft and Skill.
- P Health and Strength.
- P Service for others and Citizenship.

These are the requirements for a happy and active life. Many young men just drift passively along and never reach happiness. With Rover Scouting they would not let slip their golden opportunities.

The Rover brotherhood is not only a brotherhood but a jolly brotherhood with its camp comradeship, its uniform, and its "dens" or meeting-places all the world over. Since it is a Brotherhood of wanderers, you can, as a member of it, extend your travels to foreign countries and there make your friendships with Brother Rovers of other nationalities. This side of our Movement is not only interesting and educative but must make a real step in ensuring the future peace of the world through mutual good will.

Rovering to Success, Chapter 7

B-P considered Rovers as young people ready to step into life, to take the challenge and to be capable for the responsibilities of “profession or trade; as a future father of children; as a citizen and leader of other men”.

Nevertheless he wanted all of them to reach happiness, not only the easy and joyful happiness, but the deep and true happiness of a man who has explored and worked hard for his inner self, for



others and for the world around him and who has always tried to offer his best.

### HOW TO BE HAPPY THOUGH RICH OR POOR

A canoe trip is like a voyage of life. An old 'un ought to hand on piloting hints. The only true Success is Happiness. Two steps to Happiness are: Taking life as a game and giving out Love. Happiness is not mere pleasure, not the outcome of wealth. It is the result of active work rather than passive enjoyment of pleasure. Your success depends on your own individual effort in the voyage of life, and the avoidance of certain dangerous Rocks. Self-education, in continuation of what you have learned at school, is necessary. Go forward with confidence.

Paddle your own canoe!

Happiness is yours if only you paddle your canoe aright.

Robert Baden-Powell

