

# New Prog NEWS

Supporting Scouting: **The National Youth Programme Committee**



SCOUTING  
IRELAND 

## Issue One

**Welcome to *New Prog News*, the NYPC's newsletter keeping you up to date on programme development.**

**Working Weekend Report**

**Dominc Byrne Retires**

**Transition Training Update**

**National Council 2009**

**Adventure Skills Update**

**Q & A:  
Special Interest Badges**

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## February Programme Development Working Weekend



The February Working Weekend was a great success with over thirty enthusiastic Scouts and Scouters contributing to the various aspects of the new programme. A number of new members joined various working groups and after an induction into the working weekend process they set about contributing to this important work for the future of Scouting Ireland.

A highlight for every one at the Working Weekend is the continued input of youth members into the development of Section Handbooks. Considerable progress continues to be made in this area which will deliver Section Handbooks that are enjoyable and accessible to young people while informing them of what Scouting is all about.

The Adult Handbook Working Group has made remarkable progress in a short space of time. Agreement has now been reached on the style and content for the Adult Handbook and the working group will be ready to put the substantive

material in place after the decisions of National Council in March.

The Adventure Skills Working Group has reviewed this area following feedback from the Pilot Groups and others. The nine Adventure Skills will now have 12 steps to complete divided between each section of the new programme, as opposed to the four sectional badges previously proposed. A framework for each skill has been developed and the text is being continually evaluated to ensure all the material on Adventure Skills is age-appropriate.

Plans for Transition Training were advanced while the work of the Personal Progressive Scheme working group to find the best way to present the scheme to young people and adults is ongoing. Progress continues to be made in both of these important areas and a clearer picture on each will be established at the March Working Weekend.

Finally, The Badge Design working group presented their latest concepts and are awaiting the decision of National Council to be able to finish their work.

The National Youth Programme Committee (NYPC) would like to express its thanks to all those involved in the February working weekend. The NYPC

would like to extend an invitation to all members of Scouting Ireland to get involved in the programme development process, and will be delighted to welcome more new faces, young and old, to the March Working Weekend (13-15 March). Please send your thoughts and ideas to

[progdev@scouts.ie](mailto:progdev@scouts.ie)

## Programme Commissioner Retires

The Programme Commissioner (Programme Development), Dominic Byrne, has retired from his role to concentrate on his growing family. Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme), Kieran Gildea, thanked Dominic for his years of effort on behalf of the programme development process.



## What are Special Interest Badges?

Special interest badges are There are 6 Special Interest Areas: Skills/Creativity, Physical, Adventure, Community, Environment, Social (SPACES). The Special Interest Badge should:

- Challenge the young person to learn new skills or develop existing ones.

- Help the young person increase their knowledge of the particular area.
- Contain a practical element which will benefit others.

Special Interest Badges give Scouts the chance to acquire new interests or to develop their skills in existing inter-

ests. They're achieved by Scouts on the basis of personal effort (doing their best) rather than achieving a grade.

Each Special Interest Area will have a different badge design with different colours for each section. Each Scout will decide which Special Interest Badge they want to do in consultation with their Scouter. For Discovery

Scouts and Rover Scouts the Special Interest Badges can support participation in Gaisce (President's Award), the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Northern Ireland and the Scouts of the World Award. For more information and Special Interest Badge samples go to:

[programme2008.ie](http://programme2008.ie)



## Transition Training Update

The Transition Training working group, headed up by Training Commissioner Fiona McCann, has made excellent progress creating Scouting Ireland's plan for supporting Scouters in the move to our new programme.

The group has developed a draft structure and content for Transition Training which will be presented to the Training Team in March. They are exploring imaginative and interactive ways of de-

livering this material, including a DVD. The group believe that they should take the training to the Scouter around the country, and have developed a road show concept of training delivery.

In the coming weeks and months, Trainer's supports and resources will also be developed, ensuring that the Training Team will be ready to meet the needs of Scouters working with the new programme.

## Adventure Skills Update

The nine Adventure Skills will now have 12 steps to complete divided between each section of the new programme, as opposed to the four sectional badges previously proposed. A dedicated group, including experienced Sea Scouts, pioneering and hill walking experts are currently completing work on the revised Adventure Skills. The Adventure Skills are Camping, Hiking, Backwoods, Pioneering, Sailing, Rowing, Paddling, Air and Emergencies. With a focus on traditional Scouting skills, they are one of the three integrated elements of the New Programme (the other two being Per-

sonal Challenges and Special Interest Badges). For more information and a breakdown of the requirements in each Adventure Skill area go to:

[programme2008.ie](http://programme2008.ie)

### Working weekend dates

March 13-15

April 17-19

May 8-10

June 12-14

All weekends will take place in Larch Hill

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