

Cubs Making Scrubs

#scoutshelpingout

Scouting Ireland volunteers have been helping the NI Scrubs groups across Northern Ireland for the past few weeks by driving to sewer's homes to deliver material and collect finished scrub sets for our care workers. Our scouters drive to self-isolating sewers or those who don't have their own transport. Helping in the community is a key aspect of scouting, so getting involved in helping NI Scrubs was a great fit with our ethos. Our adult volunteers have been keen to help during COVID-19 and this also gave them a positive boost when all our other scouting activities had to stop.



One of our younger scouts Niamh, who is a cub scout with 27th Belfast Holy Family Scout group in Belfast, got involved when her nanny was making masks and bags for NI Scrubs. She decided she wanted to get involved too and has sewn 5 scrub bags for care workers.

Niamh's mum is also one of our scouter drivers for NI Scrubs in the Belfast/Lisburn area.

Our scouters have been helping in other ways too in their local communities - sewing face masks themselves, delivering food parcels in the community, using their skills and resources to make PPE for local care homes and trying to keep our young scouts active during these times using video technology.

We've had to adopt new methods to keep in touch with our scouts as social distancing remains in place, including hosting scout meetings using video conferencing technology, sharing ideas and projects online. One of our scout groups used their skills and knowledge to design a 6-week STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) scouting programme which they called STEM Lockdown Challenge 2020. They have almost 200 scouts taking part in that across our Northern Province.

As lockdown continues we are continuing to implement innovative ideas to keep in touch with our scouts and, following the success of our STEM Lockdown Challenge 2020 we are currently designing four badges that will be awarded to scouts on completion of a number of 6 week challenges such as a photography competition based on our scouting values and promise (Lens Lockdown Challenge) and a 6 week programme which will focus on the physical and mental health of our scouts. So, although we are in lockdown Scouting Ireland scout groups are still active in our communities.

If anyone would like to get involved in scouting we are always looking for new volunteers and scouts. Email manager@scoutfoundationni.org.uk if you'd like information or visit our website www.scouts.ie/