

## Lens Lockdown Challenge 2020

The Scout Foundation NI supports 60 Scouting Ireland scout groups in our Northern Province (Northern Ireland and Donegal). We have 3,598 youth members and 776 volunteers empowering those youth members. Our aim is to enable and empower children and young people to realise their potential through Scouting Ireland's core values; fostering active and positive citizenship and thereby helping to create a better community, society and world.



Figure 1- A new age of Scouting- Ventures



Figure 2- My Happy Creation - Beavers

We have had to adapt our scouting methods since lockdown. To keep both youth members and adult volunteers engaged in scouting we decided to host monthly challenges, over the period June-August. On completion of each monthly challenge, a badge and a certificate is awarded to anyone who takes part.

During the month of June the Scout Foundation NI hosted a photography challenge for both our scouts and scout leaders where COVID-19 continued to confine most of us to our homes. The images were intended to be lasting reminders of scouting during this time. We are pleased to say that we had almost 200

scouts and leaders take part, so it was a real success. We had a different theme each week of

June, with scouts having one week to submit their entries.

The Themes for each of the four weeks were:

1. Nature and the Environment
2. Creativity
3. Scouting during lockdown
4. Hope

We were lucky enough to be able to engage well know photographer and artist Victor Sloan as a judge on our panel of judges, along with some of our youth members and leaders. Each week we had a Zoom call with Victor on the images that scored highest among our panel of judges. He talked us through the images, what to look for and what he liked about them. We



Figure 3- Of all the titles I've been privileged to have, 'Dad' has always been the best - Scouter (Adult Volunteer)

have asked Victor to select his favourite image in each of our age categories

In 2003 Victor Sloan was awarded an MBE. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, an Academician of the Royal Ulster Academy of Arts and a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society. Victor has exhibited widely throughout Europe, North America, South America and Asia. His work can be found in numerous important private and public collections worldwide.



*Figure 4- Scouts lighting the way - Rovers*

You can view all the entries by going to our webpage:

<https://www.scoutfoundation.info/photo-albums>  
or to view our winning entries for each week go to: <https://www.scoutfoundation.info/lockdown-lens-challenge>

Post -Lockdown we hope to host a gallery type event where we will display all the winning photos for each category/section and invite the overall winning photographers along where they will be presented with their winning photograph (which will be framed). We'd like to explore other opportunities to showcase the winning entries to raise the profile of our Scouting Ireland groups here in Northern Ireland. We are always looking new volunteers!



*Figure 5- Beginnings - Scout*