



# National Awards – Example Citations

National Adult Resources Committee

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# Contents

Honour	2
Honour Example 1	2
Honour Example 2	2
Honour Example 3	3
Merit	4
Merit Example 1	4
Merit Example 2	5
Merit Example 3	6
Order of Cú Chulainn	7

## Honour

### Honour Example 1

Active participation in a rescue operation in hazardous conditions or Scouting under Difficulties

Gary Smyth is a young 14 year old Scout in our Group. Four years ago he contracted a rare cancer which has left him needing 5 major surgeries and very debilitating treatment after each of these operations. Throughout all of this he has remained extremely positive and good humoured. The only meetings he misses are those when he is in hospital.

He attends all our weekends away and if an operation or treatment is going to prevent him going away he tries to have these operations and treatments put off until after the weekend. Gary never looks for special treatment when taking part in Scouting activities. He has recently completed his first MPC and is really looking forward to completing the other three.

Gary has recently become the Patrol Leader of the Cobra Patrol and is an inspiration to the younger members of the Patrol especially to the Cub Scouts who have recently joined the Scout Section. He has helped them integrate into Scouts really well.

Gary has made a complete recovery and has started his Bronze Chief Scout's Award and Gaisce.

For his bravery, dedication and pure good humour I would commend Gary Smyth for an Honour Award.

### Honour Example 2

Honour Awards Saving a life at personal risks or Scouting under difficulties

On our Annual Camp this year we were swimming at the local beach. While this activity was going on a young woman got into difficulties. She had drifted out in the water about 100 metres and was in danger of drowning. Two of our Scouters; John Mooney and Sarah Newman ensured that our own Young People got out of the water to raise the alarm and to be sure that they would not get into any difficulties. They then swam out to where they had last seen the woman.

When they arrived on the scene, she was nowhere to be seen, luckily they located her under the water, she was unconscious. Although exhausted, they swam back with her to the beach and commenced CPR. This they continued for 10 minutes until they had resuscitated her.

When the emergency services arrived, they were fulsome in their praise of the Scouters. In their opinion their quick thinking and bravery had saved this young woman's life. She has made a full recovery and has written to our Scout Group to thank the 2 Scouters. The Scouters have been interviewed by local radio and the National newspapers.

Their bravery at personal risk to themselves and hard work under extreme conditions have saved another person's life and I would like to recommend that both Scouters be considered for an Honour Award.

### Honour Example 3

Honour Awards Saving a life at extreme personal risks or Scouting under difficulties

Peter O'Connor is a Cub Scout Leader in our Scout Group. Last month whilst Peter was on his way to work a major crash happened on a minor road outside our town. A school bus with 40 young children from 8 to 12 years old was involved in a crash with a petrol lorry. The bus had veered off the road and had rolled onto its side in a ditch. Peter was the first person and only person on the scene for 5 minutes. He immediately called the emergency services and gave a brief and accurate description of what had happened. Petrol had started to leak onto the road and was creating a serious fire risk.

After that he checked the status of the petrol lorry driver, the lorry driver was badly injured and unable to help. Peter took him from the truck and removed him to the far side of the road. He then went back to the bus and had to break in through the window. What greeted Peter was utter devastation. The bus driver had been killed instantly. Peter then organised 5 of the 12 year old boys and girls who were walking wounded. He calmed them down and asked them to help him get the more seriously injured out of the bus. The children were hysterical and screaming and crying from the shock and their very serious injuries.

To escape from the bus and keep as far away from the leaking petrol he had to force open the emergency exit and lower those who could be lowered out the back window. He calmed the older young people and organised them to help with the evacuation. By the time the next car had arrived on the scene Peter had an evacuation plan in operation. Within 15 minutes all but three young people had been evacuated. These children had very serious injuries and were trapped in the bus. People were shouting to Peter to get out of the bus as it looked like the truck was going to go on fire and most definitely explode.

Peter stayed with the young people and kept them calm. He promised them he would not leave them no matter what happened. When the Fire Brigade and ambulance arrived, the children asked Peter to stay with them while the Emergency Services cut them out of the Bus. Peter stayed and helped keep the children calm while the Firemen and EMT's dealt with the children. All of the Young People were removed safely.

Of the forty young people on the bus twenty nine of them were walking wounded, eight had serious injuries (broken arms and legs) and three were critical. Peter administered First Aid to the 3 critically injured young people. His bravery, quick thinking and his calmness helped these Young People get through a very difficult time in their lives.

The local Fire Chief was amazed at the amount of work Peter had got through by the time the Emergency Services had arrived on the scene. His view was that Peter's quick thinking and bravery had saved the lives of numerous children Peter refused to walk away when there was a very clear risk to his own life. The Young People on the bus (some who are in our own Scout Group) think that Peter is a super-hero and held numerous receptions and parties to honour the work done by Peter. The waiting list has grown exponentially in our Group as everybody in our town now wants to join the Scouts and be like Peter.

I, the members of our Group and the parents of the Young People and the Young People themselves would like to commend Peter O'Connor to Scouting Ireland for its highest bravery award.

## Merit

### Merit Example 1

Mary Jones has been our Venture Leader for the last seven years. She is hugely popular not only within our Group but also within the County and Province. Mary was a Cub leader in our Group some 30 years ago, and left to start a family etc. Her sons became involved about 10 years ago and even as a parent her support and friendship was well noted and very much appreciated.

Seven years ago, our Group's Venture section was in crisis, and Mary was approached. With no experience of modern scouting or ventures at all, she stepped in and transformed it into something we never dreamt possible. All this in a very unassuming way, Mary has the ability to anticipate, respond and deal with every teenager's problem no matter how serious or slight.

The young adults in our group, in the county and across the association love her and flock to her. They regard her as their friend, their mammy, their confidant but also their leader. They have laughed together, cried together and travelled around the world together.

Since taking the position of Venture section leader, our Ventures have travelled on an overseas aid projects to Africa. She played instrumental roles in this project. She has also overseen other venture expeditions to the UK, Poland and numerous expeditions around Ireland. She has encouraged them to do things they never thought they would be able to do, the explorer belt for example. She has encouraged them to take up a duty of service and has helped them to develop a social conscience which is visible in the support the Venture Scout Section gives to projects within Ireland e.g. Pieta House walk.

Mary is the quintessential scout, she leads but leads from behind, and she will never be in the lime light because she will have pushed a young person out in front of her!

Despite only a 7 year involvement I would recommend Mary for a merit award.

## Merit Example 2

Anthony McCarthy has been a Scouter in our Group for the last 15 years. He had started as a Cub Scout and went all the way through to Venture Scout. At 18 he became an Assistant Cub Scout Leader in our new Cub Scout Section. He completed his Woodbadge training within 18 months and put his new found knowledge to great work. Within two years he took over the running of the Section

The Cub Scout Section thrived under his leadership and within a very short time the Section had grown to 36 Cub Scouts and a committed team of 6 Active Leaders. Because of the commitment of Anthony and his team our waiting list for Cub Scouts grew to such an extent that we needed to open a second section to deal with this waiting list. Anthony was to fore in developing this Section and ensured that the new Scouters were well trained.

Anthony is hugely supportive of the County and has helped organised many County day and weekend events, all of these events have been hugely successful and this is no mean feat considering the weather we had on some of the vents. Weekend Whit camp in 2000 comes to mind (torrential rain created numerous problems) but the Cub Scout Programme was hugely successful, with Young People talking about it for years to come.

Anthony has been hugely supportive of ONE Programme and has helped numerous Cub Scout Sections within the Province to adapt to the new way of doing things. He has stepped back as the Cub Scout Leader but remains very active within the Section.

As the Group has developed over the last number of years (we now have 7 Sections and 35 Scouters) Anthony has also taken on the role of Deputy Group Leader, supporting the Group Leader and other Scouter within the Group.

In 2004 Anthony was awarded one of the first Bronze Merit awards within Scouting Ireland. I would like now to nominate Anthony for a merit award from Scouting Ireland

### Merit Example 3

Maria Doyle became a Scouter in 1988 when our Group was formed. Maria had just finished college and had come to work in our town. She had no experience of Scouting, but that didn't stop her, she was our first Scout Section Leader. Maria was very keen on training and completed her Woodbadge Training within the shortest possible time-frame. Maria's easy-going personality helped in the recruitment and retention of a very strong leadership team.

The Scout programme was always based on using the Scout Method, boys and girls were encouraged to take part in all types of activities and challenges. Maria was keen to ensure that the standard of Scouting was of the highest quality, in order for this to happen Maria went on activities with longer established Scout Sections within the Community. This insured that the Scout Section became a Section of the highest quality. Attendance at weekly meeting is always above 95% as Young people refuse to miss their Scout meeting.

In the 24 years since the Group started, the Scout Section has gone on an annual camp every year. These camps have been the highlight of the Scout year for the young people involved. Initially the annual camps were in Ireland or the UK, but the Scouts have travelled all round Europe and as far afield as the USA for our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. During the year the Section will have at least 6 weekends away and many Scouts have completed numerous MPC's.

Most Young People who have joined the Scout Section go on to the Venture section as their experience in Scouting has been of the highest quality. The Scouts were encouraged to complete their merit badges and over the last 24 years 16 Young People have received their Chief Scout Award.

Since the introduction of ONE Programme Maria has helped the older Scouts with their Chief Scout Award and their Bronze Gaisce and has become a Chief Scout Award Mentor within our County.

Maria has been a huge part of our Scout County in helping to run our County Shield making sure that the quality of Scouting has continued to improve over the years.

Maria was awarded the Bronze Merit Award in 1995 and her Silver medal of merit in 2005; I now recommend that she be considered for the Gold medal of merit.

## Order of Cú Chulainn

### Scouter Service History – 19XX - 2012

1980 – 1983	Assistant Scout Leader.
1983 – 1990	Scout Leader
1990 – 1996	Group Leader.
1996 – 2002	Assistant Regional Commissioner for Scouts.
1990 – Present	Assistant Scout Leader
1995 – Present	Member of the Provincial Training Panel

### Awards History

Bronze Service  
Silver Service  
25 Year Service Award

Bronze Meritorious Award – 13.1.94  
Bar to the Bronze Meritorious Award – 18.3.99  
Gold Meritorious Award – 2007

### Woodbadge Training

Basic & Advanced Woodbadge Trainer  
Basic & Advanced Woodbadge Scouts  
Basic & Advanced Woodbadge Unit Leader / Commissioner

Appointed Assistant Leader Trainer

Appointed Leader Trainer

### **Tom Murphy – 250<sup>th</sup> Dublin**

Tom Murphy has over thirty years continuous service to our Scout Group and County. Much of his scouting career was in the Scout Section.

Tom got involved in 1980 as an Assistant Scout Leader when our Group was formed. He moved to our town after he got married. He had learned his Scouting on the other side of the city. He was instrumental in setting up the Scout Section and ensuring that the highest level of Scouting was delivered to countless Young People over the last thirty years.

Such was the growth and development of the section and Tom's participation in the regional programme; it wasn't too long before his talents were recognised by the then Regional Commissioner.

After 10 years within the Scout Section, Tom became our Group Leader and spearheaded the building of our own Scout Hall. During his tenure as Group Leader we built a new Scout Hall, increased our numbers so that we now

have 2 Beaver Scout Colonies, 2 Cub Scout Packs, 2 Scout Section and a Venture Scout Section with 18 Youth members.

After Tom finished as Group Leader our Regional Commissioner asked Tom to be Assistant Regional Commissioner for Scouts, a position he held for 6 years. His innovative approach to the Scout Programme has had a hugely positive impact on the Scout Sections within the Region. During this period of time Tom has continued to work as an Assistant Scout Leader. He hasn't missed an Annual Camp since 1980. Other Scout Sections within our Region have "piggy-backed" on our Annual Camps to ensure that their own Scout Sections had an Annual Camp. The Regional Shields organised by Tom are remembered by Young People and Adults as being of the highest quality with the focus being on Fun, Friendship and Challenge.

Tom has completed his Basic and Advanced Woodbadge for Scouts, Commissioner and Trainer of Trainers. Tom is a very active member of the former National Training Team and currently a member of our Provincial Training Panel and has over seventeen years active service as a trainer.

He has also taken additional training in order to give the Child Protection Course at local and national level and has travelled all over the country presenting this course. He has been awarded his 'fourth' bead as a Trainer of Trainers, which he wears with considerable pride.

As County Training Co-ordinator, he runs a Welcome to Scouting once a month in order to meet the needs of the county. This is all done, while still an active Scouter in the Scout section. Tom also works with Groups to ensure that an 'Identification of Training Needs' is carried out every year and works with trainers within and from outside of scouting to provide courses in the county which meet these needs.

In the Scout Promise, we say 'To give and not to count the cost,' this is very much true of Tom. He will always 'get in there' and get the job done. He never looks for recognition and will shy away from it. He has been awarded his service awards, a Bronze Meritorious Award, a Bar to the Bronze Meritorious Award in '94 and '99 respectively and a Gold Meritorious Award in 2007, but I believe Tom is a very deserved recipient of the Order of Cú Chulainn.