

Overview

The Group Leader is nominated by the Scout Group Council, recommended by the County Commissioner and appointed by the Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources). The Group Leader is primarily responsible for the management and co-ordination of the resources of the Scout Group in accordance with the Policies of Scouting Ireland.

So your role is to manage people and resources to provide a quality youth programme experience to the young people in your area.

You are a member of Group Council, where the decisions on how your Scout Group is run are made. You will also be working with and relying on the Parents and Friends Support Group who are there to provide the resources your Programme Scouters need to operate their Programme Sections effectively.

It is your job to know every adult who is working with the youth members of your Scout Group, you are required to approve all applications for appointment of Programme Scouters; so you must make sure that you are approving those who are ready, willing, and able to look after the young people properly and who are committed to enabling them to avail of the youth programme. You must agree with them what they will be doing in the Scout Group and ensure that they undertake the required training for their role. You must also ensure that they receive the supports and encouragement which they need to do the job. You must take the time to give them appropriate feedback on how they are doing and to arrange that they get appropriate recognition when it is called for.

You represent your Scout Group at the Scout County Board where decisions which directly affect Scouting in your Scout County are made and also at the Scout County Management Committee whose role it is to support every Scout Group in your Scout County.

The recommended term of your Appointment is three years but you may be re-appointed for a further term of three years and subsequent one-year terms subject to the necessary approvals as set out in the Rules.

Your County Commissioner oversees the operation of every Scout Group in the Scout County; you should expect to see them frequently. They will help you to set meaningful goals for your Scout Group and to review progress with those. They can also provide you with advice, support and guidance if you need it.

Specific Group Leader training is available to help you understand your role, to recognise how best to approach key aspects of it and where you can get help and support when you need it. This training is most useful and it is advisable to attend it shortly after to your appointment to the role.

Useful Documents and Publications

The Group Leaders Handbook (this publication) contains a comprehensive reference to the materials that are available to support you in your role.

Where to get help

All of the Scouters and other adults involved in your Scout Group are there to play their part in running the Scout Group and so helping you in your role. The Parents and Friends Support Group should also provide invaluable assistance.

You will meet other Group Leaders at meetings of the Scout County Management Committee and will have the opportunity to discuss any issues you are encountering, to benefit from their experiences and to work together with them on joint or common issues.

The County Commissioner is responsible for supporting all of the Scout Groups in the Scout County and is on hand to help you if you need it. They will meet with you from time to time to discuss how things are going for you and, if help is required, how best that could be provided.

The Group Support Facilitator and the Provincial Support Officer are members of Scouting Ireland's staff who are responsible for supporting Scout Groups and they are also ready to help if asked.

You can contact Scouting Ireland's National Office on 01 495 6300 if you require any advice during normal office hours. You can also use the same number on Monday night's between 7pm and 9pm to contact a member of the National Adult Resources Committee.