

Overview

The Scout Group Council is responsible for the administration and support of Scouting in the Scout Group. The Scout Group Council shall meet at least four times a year including one meeting which will be the Annual General Meeting of the Scout Group Council. The AGM has some special responsibilities to fulfil; these are set out in the Rules of Association.

Relevance to you

As Group Leader, you must ensure that the Scout Group Council and the Scout Group meets its responsibilities to Scouting in the community. It is also part of your job to represent the Scout Group Council at meetings of the Scout County Management Committee.

Functions of the Scout Group Council

Some of the functions of the Scout Group Council include;

1. To plan and co-ordinate all activities of the Scout Group
2. To control and allocate finance and maintain proper accounts
3. To support the Programme Sections in operating the Youth Programme of Scouting Ireland
4. To facilitate the training of all Scouters of the Scout Group
5. To recruit and vet suitable adults to volunteer with Scouting Ireland
6. To co-ordinate a social programme for adult members, as desired.

Members of the Scout Group Council

The members of the Scout Group Council include:

1. The Group Leader and Deputy Group Leader(s)
2. The Group Chairperson, Group Secretary and Group Treasurer
3. The Group Spiritual/Religious Advisors/Chaplains
4. The Group Quartermaster/Bo'sun
5. The Group Trainer
6. Three Members of the Parents and Friends Support Group
7. Up to three Programme Scouters from each section, all Scouters may attend Group Council
8. One Youth Representative from the Scout, Venture Scout and Rover Scout sections.

Operations

The Scout Group Council must agree a set of Standing Orders. Standing Orders are a set of rules that govern the meetings of the Scout Group Council. The Group Secretary, on behalf of the Group Leader, would normally call meetings of the Scout Group Council. The Group Secretary should prepare an agenda for the meeting, in consultation with the members of the Scout Group Council.

Depending on the agenda for the meeting, it may be appropriate to have reports from the Programme Sections and other members of the Group Council (e.g. Group Treasurer or Group Trainer) updating the Group Council on progress in their respective areas. All Scouters may attend Group Council.

It is important at meetings of the Scout Group Council that all members feel that their opinion is valued and respected and that all feel that there is an environment of openness and transparency. This will ensure meaningful decision and debate. While voting may be necessary at Scout Group Council, it is normally considered most appropriate that decisions are reached by consensus, where feasible.

Useful Documents and Publications

SID 01.03 - Scouting Ireland Constitution

SID 01.03a - Scouting Ireland Rules

SID 13.03 - Role and Function of the Scout Group

Where to get help

The County Commissioner should be your first point of contact for any support which you might need in this regard. The Group Support Facilitator and the Provincial Support Officer may also be called upon for assistance.

Other Group Leaders in your Scout County and other Scouters in your Scout Group may have knowledge and/or experience you could draw on if required.

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