

## Overview

An associate member is an adult member of the Association who wishes to be involved in Scouting Ireland but does not wish to be involved in working with youth members. They can offer valuable expertise to the Scout Group. Non-Members on the other hand are not members of the Association and provide occasional assistance, generally with youth programme and specialist skills.

## Relevance to you

### Associate Member

An Associate member can be a huge asset to the Scout Group, they must be registered with the Association, complete relevant adult application forms and must undertake appropriate training. They don't wear the Scouting Ireland uniform or make the Scout Promise and can't hold Appointments or Positions. Associate members can take on roles such as Secretary, Treasurer or Chairperson of your Group Council and are elected annually at the Group Council AGM to these positions. They cannot be Scouters unless they change their membership status to that of a full adult member. Members of the Parents and Friends Support Group can also be registered as associate members of Scouting Ireland. They don't wear uniform and don't make the Scout Promise.

### Non-Member

Scouting Ireland's Non-Member Policy allows you to utilise people with specialist skills on an occasional basis. They can be skills instructors, guest speakers or demonstrators. It is important to be aware of the rules in relation to Garda/Access NI vetting and insurances. Adults who assist in running programme events or provide specialist skills instruction are limited to infrequent visits. A non-member is limited in the amount of time they can provide programme assistance(i.e. no more than 3 days in any 30 day period) and they must not be involved in any overnight activity.

As a Group Leader you can give permission for a Section to use a non-member on a temporary basis but you must ensure that they keep a register of all such helpers and they regularly give it you a copy of this register for your information and records, as you are the person providing permission for their involvement.

Non-members may assist by providing a training input to programmes, perhaps as guest speakers or Instructors. This should not be more regular than 1 occasion per week for

a defined period of time. It must not include any overnight involvement where youth members are in attendance. Such Non-Member Adults must be accompanied by an Adult Scouter at all times but you do not need to register them.

## **Useful documents and publications**

SID 01.03 - Constitution

SID 01.03A - Rules

[www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie) -> Resources -> Adult Resources -> Recruitment

SID 96.13 - Adults in Scouting Policy

SID 36.05 - Policy for involvement of Non-Members

SID 39.05 - Code of Good Practice

SIF 01.04 - Adult Application Form

SID 39B.10 - Garda Vetting Policy

## **Where to get help**

If you are in any doubt about whether an adult fits into the Associate or Non-Member category you should contact your County Commissioner. The Group Support Facilitator and the Provincial Support Officer may also be called upon for assistance.

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.