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**National Secretary**



# **Educational Proposal**

Prepared by  
The National Youth Programme Committee  
Scouting Ireland  
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Scouting Ireland  
is built on a shared respect for the uniqueness  
of young people.

We believe in the abilities of young people  
and their wish to discover and harness their  
own potential.

We help them achieve this by providing them  
with the support and encouragement they  
need.

*“We accept each young person as he or she is – a unique human being  
with his or her own personal background and experience of life thus far,  
variations in needs, capacities, interests and pace of development.”*

*‘Scouting: An Educational System’ WOSM 1998*



This document has been produced by the National Youth Programme Committee of Scouting Ireland, with the assistance of the Programme Review Team. We used the methodology outlined in the *Renewed Approach to Programme* document as devised by the World Organisation of Scout Movements. To ascertain the needs and aspirations of young people in Ireland today, we surveyed young members in our Association, as well as young people not involved in scouting from a variety of senior and junior schools. Care was taken to ensure that those surveyed represented a good geographical mix of young people in Ireland. We also surveyed adult members of our Association and other stakeholders including parents, teachers and community representatives, to get their opinions on the challenges and opportunities facing young people today, as well as their views and expectations of the role of scouting.

## Our association

Scouting Ireland is a uniformed, non-formal educational movement which is part of the World Organisation of Scouting Movements. Membership is open to all young people, girls and boys, aged between 6 and 25 on the island of Ireland.

Our aim is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and as responsible citizens to improve society.

We achieve this aim through a commitment to a set of beliefs, values and principles as enshrined in the Scout Promise and Law. We provide active and creative programmes through which young people acquire skills and knowledge which contribute to their personal development through the process of the Scout Method.

## Our society

Scouting was founded by Baden Powell in 1907, in reaction to what he saw as the ever-increasing drive to a more materialistic and selfish society. His response at the time was to develop an environmentally based, progressive, outdoor educational program. A lot of these same issues are being faced by our young people; however there are also many opportunities in today's society, such as:

- **Technology**  
Advances in technology have brought the world to our doorstep. We can communicate quickly and cheaply with our friends and relations throughout the world. Technology has made our lives easier: information and entertainment are more accessible and affordable.
- **Liberal society**  
Irish society has become more liberal allowing us to express our individuality, to be who we are and who we want to be.
- **Cultural diversity**  
In recent years, Ireland has become a more culturally diverse society. This allows us an opportunity to challenge our preconceptions, to experience a wide variety of new things, and to strengthen our own traditions and values.
- **Employment**  
There is close to full employment in our country; we can be reasonably confident that, with the appropriate training and skills, we can get a job when we leave school or college.
- **Affluence**  
Our society has become wealthy. We can do more with our lives; we can experience more than previous generations and expand our horizons. We are more comfortable and we have more choices.

Young people today face many challenges. Some have been faced by generations of young people before them; others are particularly relevant to today's society. All have an impact on their lives, including:

- **Peer pressure**  
This can take many forms. Young people need to gain the confidence and internal strength to assert their own individuality, make their own decisions and stand by their own values.
- **Parental expectations**  
There is great pressure on young people to achieve in many areas of their lives, such as education. They need support to keep these pressures in perspective.
- **Family structure**  
A growing number of young people are now part of what might be considered a non-traditional family structure and may need help to cope with the impact this can have.
- **Cultural diversity**  
In recent years Ireland has become a more culturally diverse society. Each one of us has the right to be treated with dignity and respect. Young people need to have the same opportunities regardless of their cultural background.
- **Materialism**  
Our society has become wealthier; many people have more material possessions. It is important to encourage young people to learn the true value of all things rather than just the monetary value of material possessions.
- **Sedentary lifestyle**  
Some young people today have less opportunity for outdoor activity or are seduced by television, electronic games, etc. leading to less healthy living. They should be provided with the opportunity and encouraged to lead a more balanced lifestyle.

## Young people's needs and aspirations

It has long been accepted in a mature and supportive society, that young people have needs and aspirations. We believe scouting has a significant role to play in meeting these needs, which include:

- **Physical needs**  
Young people need to be able to explore their physical capabilities and be provided with physical challenges. They need the opportunity to experience adventure safely and to learn new physical skills.
- **Intellectual needs**  
Young people need to be able to develop a sense of right and wrong and gain new perspectives. They need to be able to acquire knowledge and learn new skills. They aspire to setting and achieving goals and taking on greater responsibility.
- **Emotional needs**  
Young people need to feel valued, accepted and respected. They need to

develop friendships and relationships based on mutual respect and trust. They should be given the skills, support and encouragement to realise their full potential and be able to experience a sense of achievement.

- **Social needs**

Young people need to belong; they need the chance to participate and to be proactive in their relationships with others. They need to have positive role models in their lives; to be proud of their culture; and accepting of the cultures of others.

- **Spiritual needs**

Young people require the courage to be true to themselves and to identify their own spiritual beliefs. They need to be given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and their relationship with themselves, others, God and nature.

## Our methodology

We achieve our aim to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and as responsible citizens to improve society through:

- The use of the Scout Method.
  - Committing to a set of values
  - Learning by doing
  - Working in small groups
  - Increasing self governance
  - Voluntary membership
  - Providing attractive, constructive, challenging activities
  - Working in the outdoors
  - Giving opportunities for personal exploration
  - Recognising achievement
- An appropriately challenging programme based on developmental age ranges, which is delivered to different sections in a safe and controlled environment.
- A quality scout programme, delivered by a trained and resourced leadership team.
- An adult-youth relationship based on mutual respect and trust.
- Recognising the value of peer education and the importance of positive role models.
- Encouraging our members to identify and make use of all the available resources within their community.

## Our goal

Using our methodology, Scouting Ireland endeavours to encourage young people to:

- Learn respect for themselves and others, the world they live in, and the environment that surrounds them.
- Have the strength of character to appreciate right from wrong and understand the impact of their actions upon themselves and others.
- Listen to and respect others and their ideas and beliefs.
- Be true to themselves and their God, and have the courage of their convictions.
- Show the confidence required to adhere to their beliefs but also have the humility to change them upon reflection.
- Be strong in the face of adversity, but be willing to seek help and advice when required.
- React to injustice and inequality and help build a fair society.
- Have the courage to grasp opportunities and the enthusiasm to follow their dreams.
- Be able to generate ideas and create a plan to see them through.
- Try their best at all times but never be afraid to fail.
- Play a constructive role in their community and help those around them when needed.
- Learn the true value of things and the importance of family and friendship.
- Lead an active and healthy lifestyle.
- Understand the importance and benefits of education in all its forms.
- Understand and celebrate their culture and the cultures of others.