	Gasóga na hÉireann/Scouting Ireland			
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	SID-YP01	14 th Dec. 2003	10 th Feb. 2018	Feb. 2021
	Category: Youth Programme			
Youth Involvement Policy				

Related Documents
SID-64/10 – Scout Method Policy

Revision Schedule		
Revision	Date	Description
C	10/02/2018	Overall Document Revised
B	25/11/2012	Cub Forum Ammended, An Chéim Ammended
A	29/01/2011	Document Revised
#	14/12/2003	Document Issued

Principles:

- Scouting is a movement of young people, supported by adults.
- Young people are central to the decision-making process of their organisation.

In Scouting Ireland:

1. Youth Involvement is a capacity-building process, based on enabling young people to actively share responsibility with adults for making decisions that affect their lives, and the lives of others in their community.
2. Scouting achieves the highest level of age-appropriate Youth Involvement.
3. Youth Involvement occurs first and foremost within the Scout Group, then in the support structures of Scouting Ireland.
4. The Scout Method is to be used in all activities and meetings involving Youth Members.
5. Youth Programme provides for the expression of views and for the training of Youth Members in practical skills of decision-making and leadership in Scouting and in the wider community.
6. The role of the Scouter is to encourage and facilitate the progressive personal development of the Youth Members through a rich and varied partnership with them.
7. Scouting Ireland works with other National Scout Organisations/National Scout Associations and relevant Statutory Bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations/Civil Society Organisations in developing resources and support for Youth Members and Scouters in achieving the objectives of this policy.

Policy Support and Guidelines: Enabling

Youth Involvement

Youth involvement is supported through:

1. Roles for Youth Members and adults: Youth Members engage in active roles in Scouting (e.g. Sixers/Patrol Leaders, County Representatives (Reps) and Youth Delegates), while adults act as facilitators.
2. Shared process: young people and adults work together, in their respective roles, to make decisions.
3. Capacity building: experiences and training to enable Youth Members to gain skills, knowledge and confidence to take on responsibility in Scouting and the wider community.
4. Supports/Opportunities: proactive inclusion of young people by ensuring access, communication of opportunities and support by adults.

Understanding Youth Involvement

Following the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) guidelines to help develop Youth Involvement, with use of the Ladder of Young People's Participation, developed by Roger Hart, it provides a model by which we can assess and help improve levels of Youth Involvement. Using this model, the suitable degree of involvement for Youth Members is - 'Young people initiated projects, decisions shared with adults' (see Appendix 1).

Implementing the Policy

Beaver Scouts:

Lodges and Colonies

- Roles: Beaver Scouts decide on programme in their Lodges; Scouters facilitate the decision-making process.
- Shared Process: In Lodges and Log Chews decision-making is facilitated by the Scouters.
- Capacity Building: Beaver Scouts are encouraged to take on leadership roles in their Lodges.
- Supports/Opportunities: Programme Scouters as facilitators; Lodges/Colonies are guided in their decision-making.

Group Life

- Roles: Beaver Scouts' opinions gathered using creative tools; Programme Scouters represent the section.
- Shared Process: Beaver Scouts consulted in an age-appropriate manner; at least once a year, Group Council members visit Log Chews to provide Beaver Scouts with choices regarding the Scout Group.

- Capacity Building: Group decision-making; support for Scouters.
- Supports/Opportunities: Programme Scouters act as advocates; Group supports Youth Involvement in its decision-making; Group Leader ensures youth voice is heard; Groups provided with resources.

County

- Roles: Beaver Scouts' opinions gathered using creative tools; Programme Scouter represents Colonies at County meetings; Scouters with County roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: County Beaver Scout programme is run by Programme Scouters and County Programme Co-ordinators (CPCs)/Assistant County Programme Co-ordinators (ACPCs) considering the priorities and interests of Beaver Scouts.
- Capacity Building: Beaver Scouts incorporated into the programme decision-making process.
- Supports/Opportunities: County Management Team supports process; Counties provided with resources; young people aware of opportunities.

Province

- Roles: Beaver Scouts are represented by Scouters; Scouters with Provincial roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: Not applicable (NA).
- Capacity Building: NA.
- Supports/Opportunities: Provincial Management Support Team (PMST) ensures Youth Involvement is active in Groups and Counties.

National Committees/Teams

- Roles: Beaver Scouts are represented by Scouters; Scouters with National Appointments or serving on National Teams support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: NA.
- Capacity Building: NA.
- Supports/Opportunities: National Committees/Teams support Youth Involvement in sections, Groups and Counties.

Cub Scouts:

Sixes and Packs

- Roles: Cub Scouts are actively given responsibility, working in their Sixes, especially as Sixers and Seconders; Programme Scouters facilitate and guide.
- Shared Process: decision-making in the Cub Scout Pack happens in Cub Scout Pack Forum and Sixers Council with the assistance of Programme Scouters. Sixers (and Seconders in some Packs) and Scouters make up the Sixers Council, whilst the Cub Scout Pack Forum is comprised of all Cub Scouts.
- Capacity Building: Leadership roles are extended to Cub Scouts, as Sixers and Seconders; leadership training provided for Sixers and Seconders.

- Supports/Opportunities: Scouters facilitate the process; Packs provided with resources.

Group Life

- Roles: Cub Scouts' opinions gathered using creative tools; Programme Scouters represent the section.
- Shared Process: Cub Scouts consulted in an age-appropriate manner; at least once a year, Group Council members participate in a Sixers Council to consult with Cub Scouts; Cub Scout Pack Forum and Sixers Council provide Cub Scouts with opportunities to make decisions on behalf of their Pack and Six.
- Capacity Building: Leadership training; youth experiences of decision-making; Group decision-making; support for Scouters.
- Supports/Opportunities: Programme Scouters act as advocates within the Scout Group; Group supports Youth Involvement in its decision-making; Group Leader ensures youth voice is heard; Groups provided with resources.

County

- Roles: Cub Scouts' opinions gathered using creative tools; Programme Scouters represent the section; Scouters with County roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: County Cub Scout programme is run by Programme Scouters and CPC/ACPCs considering the priorities and interests of Cub Scouts; Cub Scouts feedback and contribute on their priorities and interests through structured fun activities.
- Capacity Building: Leadership training; youth experiences of decision-making; County decision-making; support for Scouters; Cub Scouts feedback and contribute on their leadership training through structured fun activities.
- Supports/Opportunities: County Management Team supports process; Counties provided with resources; young people aware of opportunities.

Province

- Roles: Cub Scouts are represented by Scouters; Scouters with Provincial roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: NA.
- Capacity Building: NA.
- Supports/Opportunities: PMST ensures Youth Involvement is active in Groups and Counties.

National Committees/Teams

- Roles: Cub Scouts are represented by Scouters; Scouters with National Appointments or serving on National Teams support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: NA.
- Capacity Building: NA.
- Supports/Opportunities: National Committees/Teams support Youth Involvement in sections, Groups and Counties.

Scouts:

Patrols and Troops

- Roles: Scouts taking on increasing responsibilities, especially in youth leadership roles; Scouters as facilitators.
- Shared Process: decision-making in the Scout Troop happens through Patrols and the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). Both Patrol Leaders, and Assistant Patrol Leaders in some Troops, and Scouters are members of the PLC, who reach decisions by working together.
- Capacity Building: Leadership training, including programme, Scouting and personal skills; Patrols are given autonomy to develop their own programme; Troop and Patrols run an active programme.
- Supports/Opportunities: Scouters as mentors; Troops/Patrols are provided with resources.

Group Life

- Roles: Patrol Leaders represent Scouts in Group decision-making; Programme Scouters represent the section; youth advocates support Youth Members.
- Shared Process: Scouts involved in Group decision-making in a meaningful way.
- Capacity Building: leadership training.
- Supports/Opportunities: Programme Scouters act as mentors; a youth advocate is provided if needed; Group supports Youth Involvement in its decision-making; Group Leader ensures youth voice is heard; Groups provided with resources.

County

- Roles: Scouts representing each Troop participating in decision-making regarding programme through a County Patrol Leaders Council; County Youth Representatives elected annually at a County Scout Forum to represent Scouts at County Management meetings and to attend the National Youth Forum; Scouters with County roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: A County Patrol Leaders Council, of at least two Scouts and a Scouter from each troop, runs the County Scout programme.
- Capacity Building: County Forum helps upskill Scouts; leadership training.
- Supports/Opportunities: County Scout Forum allows Scouts discuss matters relevant to them; County Management Team supports process; Counties provided with resources; young people aware of opportunities within Scouting and the community.

Province

- Roles: Scouts representing Groups/Counties participating in decision-making through Provincial initiatives; Scouters with Provincial roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: Scouts and Scouters work together on Provincial initiatives.
- Capacity Building: leadership skill training.
- Supports/Opportunities: PMST ensures Youth Involvement is active in Groups and Counties.

National Committees/Teams

- Roles: Nine (9) Youth Representatives elected annually at the National Youth Forum based on their skill set matching a role profile to serve on National Committees/Teams – National Youth Programme Committee (NYPC) (2), Scout Programme Team (2), Adventure Skills Team (2), International (2) and Communications (1); Scouters with National Appointments or serving on National Teams support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: Youth Members and scouters reach decisions by working together.
- Capacity Building: National Youth Forum helps upskill Scouts; specialised training provided; mentoring system.
- Supports/Opportunities: National Youth Forum allows Scouts discuss matters relevant to them; National Management Committee supports process; Committees/Teams provided with resources; young people aware of opportunities within and outside of Scouting; opportunities for other Youth Members to join Committees/Teams.

National Council

- Roles: Scouts participate as Group Delegates, County Reps and National Reps; Scouters support.
- Shared Process: Youth Members and Scouters reach decisions by working together.
- Capacity Building: Orientation process provided for Youth Delegates/Reps.
- Supports/Opportunities: National Council supports Youth Involvement in its decision-making; full consideration is given to the needs and capabilities of Youth Members in deciding the format, style, and venue of National Council; Groups and Counties provided with resources.

Venture Scouts:

Crews and Units

- Roles: Venture Scouts taking on increasing responsibilities, especially in their Crews; Scouters act in a supporting role.
- Shared Process: decision-making in the Venture Scout Unit happens through Crews and the Venture Scout Executive, who design and implement programme; Scouters support process.
- Capacity Building: leadership training, including programme, Scouting and personal skills; Crews/Units are given autonomy to develop their own programme; Crews/Unit run an active programme.
- Supports/Opportunities: Scouters as support structure; Crews/Units are provided with resources.

Group Life

- Roles: Venture Scout Executive represent Venture Scouts in Group decision-making; Programme Scouters represent the section; youth advocates support Youth Members.
- Shared Process: Venture Scouts involved in Group decision-making in a meaningful way.
- Capacity Building: leadership training.

- Supports/Opportunities: Programme Scouters act as support structure; Venture Scouts advocate for themselves; Group supports Youth Involvement in its decision-making; Group Leader ensures youth voice is heard; Groups provided with resources.

County

- Roles: Venture Scouts representing each Unit participating in decision-making regarding programme through a County Venture Scout Executive; County Youth Representatives elected annually at a County Venture Scout Forum to represent Venture Scouts at County Management meetings and to attend the National Youth Forum; Scouters with County roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: County Venture Scout Executive, of at least two Venture Scouts from each Unit, and the CPC/ACPC, with support from Programme Scouters, runs the County Venture Scout Programme.
- Capacity Building: County Venture Scout Forum helps upskill Venture Scouts; leadership training.
- Supports/opportunities: County Venture Scout Forum enables Venture Scouts to discuss matters relevant to them; County Management Team supports process; Counties provided with resources; young people aware of opportunities in Scouting and the community.

Province

- Roles: Venture Scouts representing Groups/Counties participating in decision-making through Provincial initiatives; Scouters with Provincial roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: Venture Scouts and Scouters work together on Provincial initiatives
- Capacity Building: leadership skill training.
- Supports/Opportunities: PMST ensures Youth Involvement is active in Groups and Counties.

National Committees/Teams

- Roles: Nine (9) Youth Representatives elected annually at the National Youth Forum based on their skill set matching a role profile to serve on National Committees/Teams - NYPC (2), Venture Scout Programme Team (2), Adventure Skills Team (2), International (2) and Communications (1); Scouters with National Appointments or serving on National Teams support Youth Involvement; other Venture Scouts provided with opportunities to participate on National Committees/Teams, or in special projects; Scouters with National roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: Youth Members and Scouters reach decisions by working together.
- Capacity Building: National Youth Forum helps upskill Venture Scouts; specialised training provided.
- Supports/Opportunities: National Youth Forum enables Venture Scouts discuss matters relevant to them; National Management Committee supports process; Committees/Teams provided with resources; young people aware of opportunities

within and outside of Scouting; opportunities for other Youth Members to join Committees/Teams.

National Council

- Roles: Venture Scouts participate as Group Delegates, County Reps, and National Reps; Scouters support.
- Shared Process: Youth Members and Scouters reach decisions by working together.
- Capacity Building: Orientation process provided for Youth Delegates/Reps.
- Supports/Opportunities: National Council supports Youth Involvement in its decision-making; full consideration is given to the needs and capabilities of Youth Members in deciding the format, style, and venue of National Council; Groups and Counties provided with resources.

Rover Scouts:

Crews

- Roles: Rover Scouts taking on complete responsibility; Crew Leader is the point of contact between Group and Crew; Rover Scout Advisors provides support.
- Shared Process: decision-making in the Rover Scout Crew happens in Activity Crews, who design and implement their own programme.
- Capacity Building: leadership training, including programme, Scouting and personal skills; Crews are given complete responsibility to develop their own programme; Crews run an active programme.
- Supports/Opportunities: Scouters as support structure; Crews are provided with resources.

Group Life

- Roles: Rover Scouts represent Youth Members in Group decision-making; Rover Crew Leader represents the section.
- Shared Process: Rover Scouts participate in decision-making processes.
- Capacity Building: leadership training.
- Supports/Opportunities: Rover Scouts advocate for themselves; Group supports Youth Involvement in its decision-making; Group Leader ensures youth voice is heard; Groups provided with resources.

County

- Roles: Rover Scouts representing each Crew participating in decision-making through a County Rover Scout Crew; County Youth Representatives elected annually at a County Rover Scout Forum to represent Rover Scouts at County Management meetings and to attend the National Youth Forum; Scouters with County roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: County Rover Crew, of at least two Rovers from each Crew, one being the Rover Crew Leader, runs the County Rover Programme; CPC/ACPC supports.

- Capacity Building: County Rover Scout Forum helps upskill Rovers; leadership training.
- Supports/Opportunities: County Rover Scout Forum allows Rovers to discuss matters relevant to them; County Management Team supports process; Counties provided with resources; young people aware of opportunities in Scouting and in the community.

Province

- Roles: Rover Scouts representing Groups/Counties participating in decision-making through Provincial initiatives; Scouters with Provincial roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: Rover Scouts and Scouters work together on Provincial initiatives.
- Capacity Building: leadership skill training.
- Supports/Opportunities: PMST ensures Youth Involvement is active in Groups and Counties.

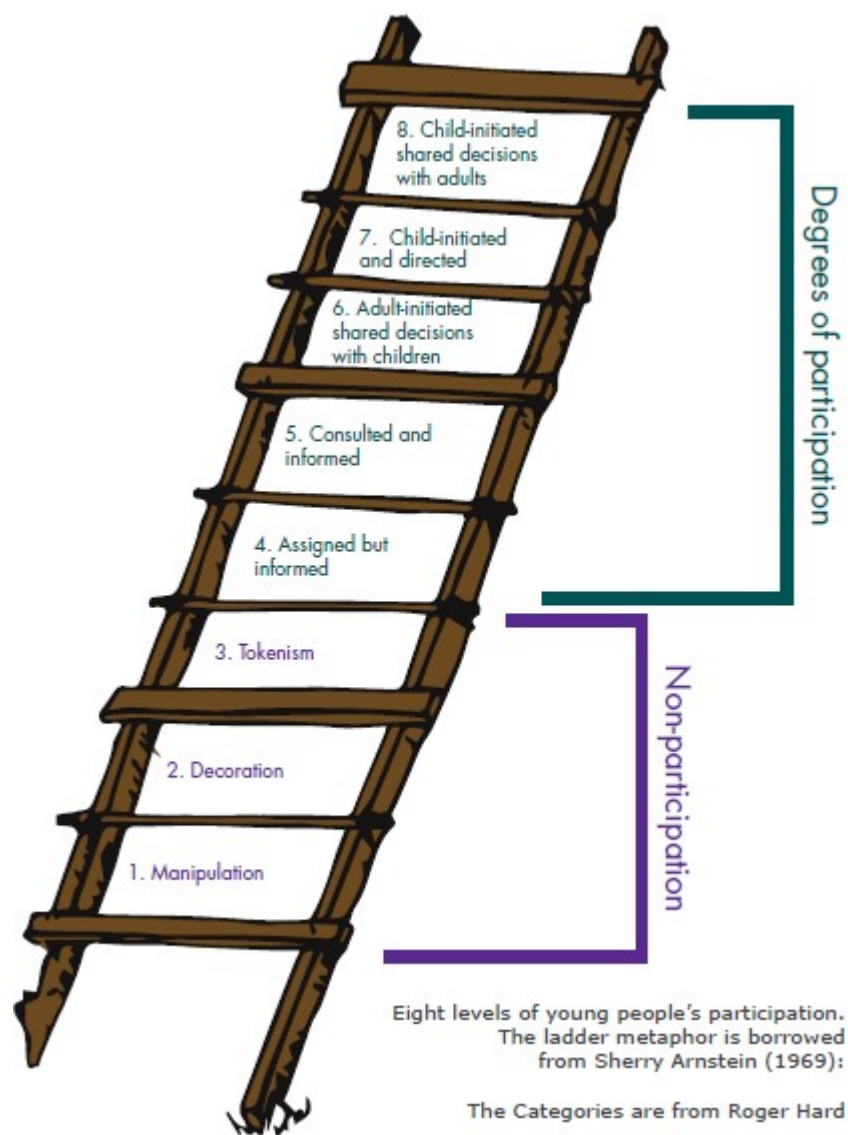
National Committees/Teams

- Roles: Nine (9) Youth Representatives elected annually at the National Youth Forum based on their skill set matching a role profile to serve on National Committees/Teams - NYPC (2); Rover Scout Programme Team (2), Adventure Skills Team (2), International (2) and Communications (1); Scouters with National Appointments or serving on National Teams support Youth Involvement; Rover Scouts provided with opportunities to participate on National Committees/Teams, or in special projects; Scouters with National roles support Youth Involvement.
- Shared Process: Youth Members and Scouters reach decisions by working together.
- Capacity Building: National Youth Forum/Rover Focus helps upskill scouts; specialised training provided.
- Supports/Opportunities: National Youth Forum/Rover Focus allows Rover Scouts discuss matters relevant to them; National Management Committee supports process; Committees/Teams provided with resources; young people aware of opportunities within and outside Scouting; opportunities for other Youth Members to join Committees/Teams.

National Council

- Roles: Rover Scouts participate as Group Delegates, County Reps, and National Reps; Scouters support.
- Shared Process: Youth Members and Scouters reach decisions by working together.
- Capacity Building: Orientation process provided for Youth Delegates/Reps.
Supports/Opportunities: National Council supports Youth Involvement in its decision-making; full consideration is given to the needs and capabilities of Youth Members in deciding the format, style and venue of National Council; Groups and Counties provided with resources.

Appendix 1: The Ladder of Young People's Participation, developed Roger Hart; adapted from WOSM's World Scout Youth Involvement Policy.



Explanation:

1. Manipulation: Occurs when adults use young people to promote a cause they feel strongly about, but do not help young people to understand the cause.

2. Decoration: Young people are often asked to dress in a certain way and perform to support an adult agenda, usually with the aim of prompting an emotional response on the part of adult viewers.

3. Tokenism: This is a situation in which young people are asked to speak before conferences of groups of elected representatives, but without learning anything substantive about the issue, determining their own position or consulting with other young people, who, it is claimed, they represent on the part of adult viewers.

4. Assigned but informed: This indicates that although the young people's participation is decided for them, they understand the aims of the project, who decided that they should be involved and why.

5. Consulted and informed: The project is designed by adults, but young people's opinions are taken seriously in any decision-making.

6. Adult-initiated projects, decisions shared with young people: Young people have an integral role in making decisions, rather than a consultative status.

7. Young people-centred and directed projects: Such projects are infrequently seen, because few adults are willing to relinquish complete control to young people. Because of lack of adult involvement, such projects often fail to become a true community concern and remain marginalized.

8. Young people initiated projects, decisions shared with adults: Adults are involved as facilitators for the goals of the young people, directing them to needed resources, providing support in developing necessary skills, and helping them to evaluate. This type of relationship enhances learning for the young people, builds a sense of community ownership of the project, and provides adults with the opportunity to learn from the enthusiasm and creativity of young people.