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CEO_OUT_06012021
Via Email
6th January 2021

Re: Update on Scouting in Current Covid-19 Restrictions

Dear Scouter,

I hope you and yours have had a lovely Christmas although it has been quite different this year.

I'm writing to you in relation to how we Scout now that we have updated advice regarding the public health advice which came into effect at the beginning of the year across the whole island.

Both Governments have been closely monitoring our recent public health situation and have now advised all face-to-face Scouting must cease across the island and where possible to move online. [More information on this is available on our website.](#)

This pandemic has and is incredibly difficult for everyone. Please remember the difference you and your fellow Scouters are having on your young people and the impact Scout Groups have had on your communities. Young people have shared very positive experiences of Scouting during this time.

Scouting, now even if online, provides a safe, structured, social, educational space for our young people. Not all Scout Group will be able to move Scouting online nor will all youth members want to or be capable. However, if you are Scouting online or curious about how to here are a few resources to get you started to support you.

Scout Group Support:

- Here is a [guide on how to run a safe virtual Scout meeting](#)
- [Programme Ideas](#) and [Covid -19 Programme Support](#)
- For some real tried and tested ways of Scouting During Covid-19 why not have a look at our [webinars regarding how to Scout During Covid-19.](#)
- Please contact your [local support officer](#) and or your county Commissioner should you require any support at all during this time.

Reg. No. 397094
Charity No. CHY3507

PATRON Michael D. Higgins PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



Member of World Organisation of the Scout Movement

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Personal Support:

Covid-19 is impacting us in many ways. Should you or any member be having any difficulty remember we have supports in place should they be needed.

- If a young person is affected negatively and may not want to talk openly about it, please share the following information with them: *The Crisis Text Line is available 24/7 if you want to chat through what is on your mind anonymously. Young people in ROI can text SCOUTS to 086 1800 280 to connect with a trained volunteer now. Young people in NI with +44 numbers can access the same service in the UK called Shout on 85258. Standard text message rates may apply.*
- If you or another adult member of your group is affected negatively, please use our [confidential wellbeing, support, and counselling service](#). This service is provided on our behalf by [Inspire Wellbeing](#).

Scouting has a life-long impact on the positive mental health of our young people. They are more likely to have better mental health, reduced mental health inequalities and have a lower chance of developing mood or anxiety disorders. Also, a young person leaving Scouting has increased social mobility, increased self-reliance and greater resilience. These are all skills that are vital to get us through this pandemic. Don't ever forget you and your team are responsible for bringing this positive impact to your young people. Please let us know if you have ideas or examples of how you are continuing to Scout online. We will share this information on the website and through social media, this may help inspire others to do the same. You can email them to communications@scouts.ie

Finally, the National Office Team continue to work from home but all supports are available. Contact us with questions or queries by phone or email, we are here to support every Scout Group

Yours in Scouting,

Anne Griffin
Chief Executive Officer

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