



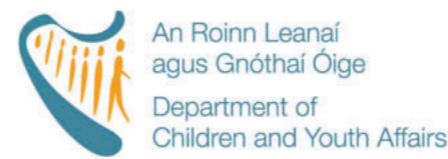
# Scouting Ireland Annual Report 2019



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Scouting Ireland wishes to acknowledge the support and assistance received from the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs through the Youth Services Grant Scheme.

We also wish to recognise the help and support of the Dept of Education Northern Ireland and the Youth Council Northern Ireland



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# Annual Report

## A Year of Change that Strengthens Scouting Ireland for the Future

The Scout Year 2017-2018 was one of the most important in the history of Scouting Ireland. The year can be characterised as one which presented many challenges to our organisation, but one in which we implemented important governance reforms and from which we emerged stronger as an organisation.

### Governance

We faced enormous challenges as we sought to comply with best practice governance as detailed in the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland. The suspension of government funding during the year presented an existential threat to Scouting Ireland and gave added urgency to our governance reform programme. We accelerated our governance programme so as to assure the government that we could meet the governance standards demanded of an organisation of our size and scale.

Substantial progress was made on this project, the result of four years of dedicated work undertaken by a committed team of volunteers and our professional staff. Extensive consultation took place with members and The EGM of National Council voted overwhelmingly for the new company structure and set us a new path for how Scouting is managed in Ireland. It is primarily in the Scout Group that young people

experience the benefits of the Scout programme and this structure represents an opportunity to focus our resources and strategy to support Groups within a child and youth centred organisation.



Our resilience has been shown in the resolve of our volunteers up and down the country to continue making Scouting a wonderful adventure for young people, through the extraordinary commitment and dedication of our volunteers who give so much to bring Scouting to young people, and through the team of professionals at National Office whose work for Scouting regularly goes above and beyond the call of duty.





## Safeguarding

*As a child and youth centred organisation, safeguarding has always been at the forefront of our organisation.*

During the year Ian Elliott, Ireland's foremost safeguarding expert, was appointed to undertake a comprehensive review of safeguarding in Scouting Ireland. The National Management Committee also commissioned an independent barrister's report into the handling of a safeguarding allegation within Scouting Ireland. Mr Elliott delivered an interim report in October 2017, and a final report and recommendations in January 2018. Mr Elliott's work has resulted in a new safeguarding plan that, when implemented in full, will see Scouting Ireland with robust infrastructure and resources in this crucial area for all our members, volunteers and staff.

Abuse of members in our legacy organisations came to the fore in 2018. This has caused a lot of pain to the alleged victims and we continue to work closely with them and the relevant statutory agencies in Ireland and Northern Ireland, reporting any case of alleged abuse.

All parents and all members of Scouting Ireland can be reassured that Scouting Ireland is very different from these legacy organisations, which operated in different times, when society's understanding and approach to safeguarding was not as we now understand it should be. Like many organisations which operated in Ireland in the past, we have learnt from these mistakes.

## Programme Activity

*Youth Programme is the core activity of scouting and 2018 was another excellent example of the activities young people do in Scouting Ireland. The calendar of national activities was the central area of activity with over 60 national activities. These ranged from adventure skills based activities to service based activities.*

- Beaver Scout activities were aimed at supporting local Beaver colonies with running programme. These centred on topics like: Special interest showcase, share and care, and Beavers go tracking.
- Cub Scouts targeted initiatives like "On my honour" to promote a deeper understanding of the commitment of Cub scouting, and the Cub Scout Challenge was the highlight of the year.
- The Scout section focused on the established activities like the Phoenix Challenge, the Crean Challenge expedition and Survivor. Youth participation was also a big feature of 2018 through activities like Patrols on Line and the National Youth Forum.
- Venture Scouts were active in adrenalin adventures like Mountain Havoc and Venture Scout Challenge.

Rover Scouts dedicated the year to developing service projects and their development. This was done through the Rover Action Week and Ceiliúradh, and activities like tent pitching at Electric Picnic and Castlepalooza. Showcase projects included the "Time to be Welcome" project that was run in Greece and lasted 14 months and AGORA 2018 - a European Rover Scout event hosted in Ireland that saw 23 partner Scout Organisations attending and contributing to the event. Programme Development was also a key factor for the year. A year of programme ideas was supplied to sections through the national mailing and is there as a resource to reference and use. Provincial programme support was also used to tailor the specific needs of groups and counties.

### **JamboRí**

JamboRí was the focal point of the year. The programme was designed and led by a national team of volunteers and delivered to over 4000 participants. Scouts and Venture Scouts were the two key sections receiving programme while Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts received special JamboRí days. A notable



success of the event was the Venture Scout programme which saw young people aged 14-18 both receiving programme while also taking a real responsibility for running programme for younger Scouts.

#### **World Scout Moot 2021**

The Moot Advance Planning team made fantastic inroads into the foundation element of Moot 2021 preparations. Iceland, hosts of the last world scout moot, met with teams from Scouting Ireland early in 2018 in order to share lessons learned and offer tips and advice. This was a very successful weekend and helped to map out a strategy for the next phase of planning. Meanwhile a core team has been working on budgets, facilities and marketing. As with other positions the recruitment of a Moot Director has been put on hold pending confirmation of funding, in the interim Collie Kavanagh is the acting moot director.



We have received generous support from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to fund the run up to the Moot. We might also have to supplement this as we near the event. Once we are in a new space we can seek additional grants and supports from government.

#### **International Camping**

International camping continued to be one of the organisation's key strengths. Over one-fifth of Scout Groups travelled abroad for their annual camp during 2017 and 2018 – an impressive figure that ensured Hick-a-Maliah was heard across the world!

A contingent of Irish Ventures, Rovers & Scouters also travelled to the Netherlands for Roverway – reports were that this was not a camp to miss. Our young people grew in an environment many of their peers will never have the opportunity to experience. Thank you to each of those young people who represented Scouting Ireland, who gave their all and made irreplaceable friendships. Particular thanks also go to Fintan Sheridan & Gary Gaughan for their leadership as joint Heads of Contingent, also to their Management Team and the staff support who made sure each person was able to travel and enjoy this experience.

Scouting Ireland is a relatively small association in WOSM, and yet we are consistently called upon to take up positions in Regional and World teams. Congratulations to each volunteer who took up such a position in the previous Scouting year. These individuals are able to grow within Scouting and are also able to grow Scouting.

#### **Training**

Trainers continue to deliver Woodbadge Training across the country to exceptionally high numbers. In particular, Being A Scouter courses seem to fill very quickly. Each of the Provincial teams are owed a debt of gratitude for their achievements over the past year. Special thanks to the Provincial Training Coordinators who work tirelessly to ensure that training is being delivered in their Provinces.

The number of courses rolled out now includes: Being A Scouter, Youth Led Programme, Scouting Together and the Adventure Skills Facilitator – Backwoods with additional Adventure Skills to be rolled out in early 2019. Safeguarding Refresher Courses and Learning for your Team continue to be featured on the Training Calendars. Group Leader/Commissioner courses at Basic and Advanced level are also being run and to date are fully booked.

A review of the implementation of training is commencing. We are looking at all the course evaluations, comments and course reports and will commence working with stakeholders in summer 2019.

January 2017 saw 28 participants complete the Train the Trainer programme. All participants got the opportunity to show their true potential and by now are welcome and valuable additions to the Provincial panels.

Basic Group Leader/Commissioner Courses were held in all provinces and an Advanced course was held in Lucan in March. More than half of the participants have completed their Group based projects and have been awarded their Woodbadge.



## Communications

Our photo and video team continues to actively travel to most national activities and other events to capture content. This has been getting uploaded to Flickr which continues to be an incredible resource for producing documents in house.

Scouting Ireland has made many appearances on national and local media. It may seem hard to notice but there's been lots of positive coverage, unfortunately lots of this has been over shadowed by negative stories which grab headlines.

At a local level groups have been very successful at getting positive articles into their local papers and radio. Local outlets are always willing to take photos, text and even interviews of about what's going on in their area.

The output and coverage of Jamborí last summer was unprecedented. A core team managed to produce an impressive catalogue of photo, video and stories to sell Scouting for years to come. The internationally-sourced team captured many videos that successfully documented the camp for those that experienced the week in Stradbally, and for those that couldn't make it this time.

Hitting the correct tone on Social Media has been a challenge for teams which has led to limited content going online, but we continue to have a very successful following on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Our Facebook pages have a combined reach over 35,000, Instagram nearly 10,000 impressions, and Twitter nearly 35,000 impressions during a sample week. Year on year we have been growing at a very comfortable rate.



## Investing in National Scout Centres

Continuous investment in our National Scout Centres has seen upgrades in infrastructure, programme opportunities and indoor accommodation. As well as any surplus made by the Scout Centres being reinvested, funding has also come from central reserves and the Maryville Fund. A tailored booking system has proved very successful in the management of bookings and income.



Larch Hill International Scout Centre has reinvested in new tented accommodation and equipment. The nature area has been redeveloped and this project continues to develop and offer young people programme opportunities and environmental learning,

The Meitheal Teams have done an amazing job landscaping and upgrading the campfire circle, further enhancing the programme opportunities on the site.

Mount Melleray continues to invest and improve the facilities in the centre. The roof and guttering have been maintained and repaired, and the addition of a self-catering kitchen has given Scout Groups the opportunity to design their own programme in the centre.

Significant investment in the fire and alarm system will take place over the coming months, ensuring compliance with all safety requirements. Work has also been completed indoors with many of the dorms being plastered and painted to a very high standard and the heating system being upgraded and zoned to ensure value for money.



With thanks to investment of €170,000 from the Maryville fund, €50,000 from Clare County Council and an interest free loan from Scouting Ireland reserves of €50,000 the building refurbishment project at Killaloe has been completed. It had been envisaged that the project would be completed by the end of 2016/early 2017 however, due to building costs, the original plans had to be revised and submitted for planning. There were some difficulties getting a company to complete the project within budget and this process took a number of months.

University of Limerick, who have an adventure centre next door to Killaloe Scout Centre, expressed interest in leasing the accommodation to extend their activity offering. Scouting Ireland was not in a position to employ a campsite manager in Killaloe and kit it out with all the equipment required. Therefore it made sense to work with UL so that we would gain an income for the centre and also provide water activities at a preferential rate for Scout Groups.

Lough Dan continues to nurture, grow and develop interesting, interactive eco-friendly programme activities for all ages. Innovative and interesting programmes are drawn from the beautiful surroundings of the site. From rafting to stargazing, Lough Dan promotes an appreciation of our surroundings and living in harmony with our surroundings.

The coffee dock in Castle Saunderson brings a new vibrancy to the centre and has quickly become a hub for networking and catching up. A revamp of the bathrooms and bedrooms has added a warmth to the accommodation that is inviting and comfortable. New breakout rooms for training have proved successful and the outdoor improvements have been of huge benefit for skills training.

### Continued Progress to be made in 2018 - 2019

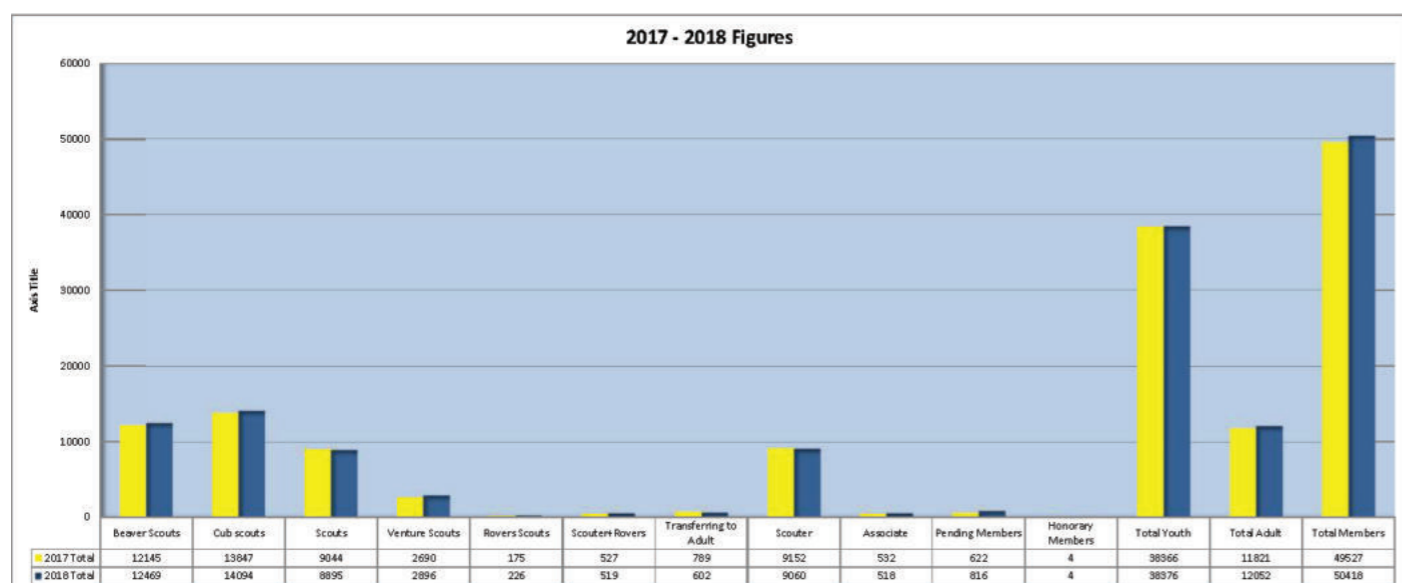
Scouting Ireland has faced many challenges during the year 2017- 2018, and significant challenges await us both on the Scouting Trail and elsewhere in the coming year. We will meet these challenges openly and transparently, working constructively with all our stakeholders.

As we continue to see growing numbers of young people join Scout Groups throughout the country - many with waiting lists of young people eager to join - our focus continues to be on supporting the 14,000 adult volunteers who provide programmes in a safe environment to the many young people who enjoy scouting and the benefits it brings.



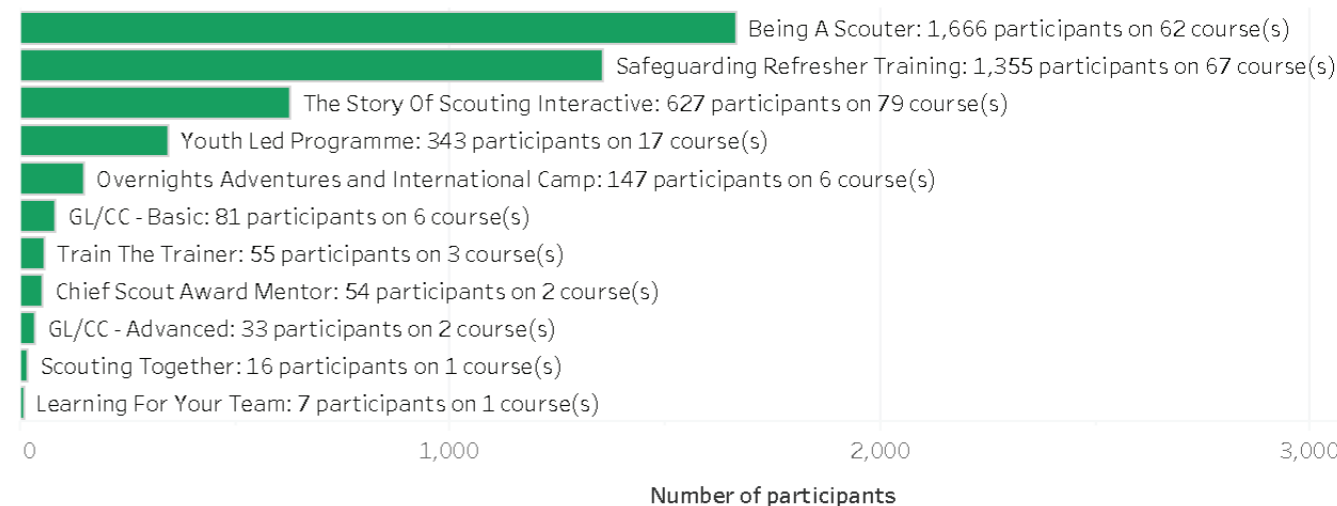
# Appendix 1: Membership

	Beaver Scouts	Cub scouts	Scouts	Venture Scouts	Rovers Scouts	Scouter+ Rovers	Transferring to Adult	Scouter	Associate	Pending Members	Honorary Members	Total Youth	Total Adult	Total Members
Dublin 2018	1929	2497	1850	650	53	126	166	1554	96	147	2	6926	2183	9109
North East 2018	2521	2862	1792	586	19	118	150	1744	60	175	0	7769	2313	10072
Northern 2018	1220	1315	786	248	15	40	53	847	88	97	0	3569	1177	4746
South East 2018	2711	3218	1990	610	56	118	93	1958	152	168	2	8528	2610	11138
Southern 2018	2641	2551	1585	539	48	92	106	1710	78	111	0	7321	2231	9552
Western 2018	1447	1651	892	263	35	25	34	1247	44	118	0	4263	1538	5801
2018 Total	12469	14094	8895	2896	226	519	602	9060	518	816	4	38376	12052	50418
2017 Total	12145	13847	9044	2690	175	527	789	9152	532	622	4	38366	11821	49527
Difference	324	247	-149	206	51	-8	-187	-92	-14	194	0	10	231	891
Percentage	2.67	1.78	-1.65	7.66	29.14	-1.52	-23.70	-1.01	-2.63	31.19	0.00	0.03	1.95	1.80



# Appendix 2: Training

## 4,384 Adult training places provided



# Appendix 3: Adult Awards

## Adult Awards

Order of Cú Chulainn	2
Silver Honour	1
Bronze Honour	2
Chief Scout's Commendat..	6
Gold Merit	25
Silver Merit	64
Bronze Merit	122
Chief Scout's Commendat..	116
40 Years Service	4
30 Years Service	5
25 Years Service	1
20 Years Service	8
15 Years Service	10
10 Years Service	20
5 Years Service	36
Woodbadge - Trainer	4
Woodbadge - GL/CC	4
Woodbadge	62



# Appendix 4: BOD and NMC Meetings

Board of Directors and National Management Committee meetings

		Board of Directors		NMC	
		Eligible	Attended	Eligible	Attended
Greg	Andersen	4	3	3	3
Thérèse	Birmingham	9	7	9	9
Mark	Blake	13	12	13	11
Anne	Browne	4	4	5	5
David	Byrne	9	9	8	7
Annette	Byrne	13	9	13	10
Eoghan	Calnan	4	2	5	4
Kieran	Cody	9	9	8	7
Joe	Doherty	13	13	13	13
Mary	Fricker	9	9	8	8
Gary	Gaughan	9	7	8	6
Stephen	Halpin	13	13	13	13
Ollie	Keogh	0	0	1	1
Derek	Long	13	12	13	11
Claire	McAroe	13	10	13	10
Christy	McCann	9	9	9	9
Kieran	McCann	13	11	13	12
Charles	McGuinness	13	13	13	12
Kevin	Murphy	13	12	13	11
Paudy	O'Brien	9	5	8	5
Pat	O'Connor	4	4	5	5
David	O'Neill	4	4	5	5
Pat	O'Suilleabhan	13	9	13	5
David	Shaloo	9	7	9	7
David	Walsh	9	8	8	6

CEO:

Chief Scout and Chair of Board of Directors:

Chair (Acting, April-October 2018):

Dr John Lawlor

Christy McCann

Annette Byrne



