

Annual Report  
2023/2024



SCOUTING  
IRELAND

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# Company Information

**Company Registration Number**  
397094

**Charity Number**  
CHY3507

**CRA Number**  
20004347

**Registered Address**  
National Office,  
Larch Hill,  
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**CEO**  
Seán Sheehan

**Bankers**  
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**Solicitors**  
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Hayes Solicitors, Lavery House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

**Auditors**  
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Dublin 18



## **Annual Report 2023/2024** **1st September 2023 - 31st August 2024**

Note: This report includes the audited financial statements for the years ended 31st December 2023 and 31st December 2024.

## Statement from Board of Directors

# We remain committed to safe, inclusive, adventurous Scouting

Dear Members,

It is my privilege to present the Chairperson's Report for Scouting Ireland for 2023/2024.

The year under review was one of significant challenge, transition, and ultimately progress for our organisation. The first half of 2023/2024 was marked by a series of events that tested both the resilience of our governance structures and the strength of our movement. Most notably, the Board faced the difficult decision to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to remove two directors. This decision was not taken lightly. It followed careful consideration, open discussion, and a commitment to ensuring that Scouting Ireland continues to uphold the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability in all aspects of its governance.

Alongside this, there was a degree of uncertainty surrounding the arbitration process. For much of the early part of the year, the outcome and implications of arbitration were unclear. This created a challenging environment for decision-making, as the Board sought to balance the need for continuity in our operations with the responsibility to plan for multiple possible scenarios. During this time, I am deeply grateful to my fellow directors, our professional staff, and our volunteer leaders for maintaining their focus on the delivery of quality Scouting experiences for our members.



Richard Forde, Chairperson

However, it is important to acknowledge that the latter half of the year brought a marked improvement in stability and outlook. The resolution of key governance issues and greater clarity on the arbitration process allowed us to refocus our energy on the future. The atmosphere within the Board became more constructive, and we were able to return our attention to strategic priorities, operational delivery, and building stronger relationships across all levels of the organisation.

The Board concluded our external governance review conducted by David W Duffy of the governance institute and our governance subcommittee mobilised in turning this review into key actionable tasks.

From a governance perspective, the events of 2023/2024 reinforced the importance of robust processes, open communication, and early intervention when challenges arise. The Board has committed to ongoing training, clearer role definitions, and improved channels for engagement with members. These measures will strengthen our capacity to manage future challenges while keeping our focus firmly on our mission.

Looking ahead, 2025 presents opportunities to build on the lessons learned in 2024. Our priorities will include delivering on our strategic plan, continuing to improve transparency and member engagement, and supporting the ongoing recovery and growth of our organisation.

Above all, we remain committed to providing safe, inclusive, and adventurous Scouting experiences that help young people develop skills for life. In 2024 the Board of Scouting Ireland recruited a new CEO, Seán Sheehan, in fact his first official day of work was at Cruinnúí last year.

I would like to thank my fellow directors for their service, often in the face of difficult circumstances; our Chief Executive Officer and professional staff for their dedication; Joe Marken, who filled in as Interim CEO during this period, stepping up at a crucial time for the organisation; and, most importantly, the thousands of volunteers who deliver Scouting every week in communities across Ireland.

## Statement from CEO

# Scouting is the answer, now what's the question!

Dear Members,

It is my privilege to introduce the 2023/2024 Annual Report. Collectively we remain steadfast in our commitment to youth, to empower them through adventure and challenge to be ready for life and primed to maximise life's opportunities.

No other organisation on the Island of Ireland delivers anything close to what we achieve, creating ethical leaders, problem-solvers, change-makers and welcoming of all without distinction. Scouting is the answer, now what's the question!



Welcome to the Annual Report for 2023/24.

As Interim CEO for most of 2023/2024 I want to take the opportunity to thank you all in Scouting Ireland, our youth members and their parents, our volunteers, and our staff, and all those who have helped us provide Scouting supports and services to our youth this year.

Through your work and support we provided young people with safe, positive, outdoor, structured social



Seán Sheehan, CEO

Looking ahead, the coming years represent an amazing opportunity for Scouting on the Island.

We will continue to meet our obligations to survivors and deliver transformative learning and development experiences for our youth.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all our volunteers who each and every day deliver an incredible contribution to society, inspiring our youth as active citizens and delivering towards a peaceful and inclusive world.

engagement, challenge and learning, developing skills for life and priming them to take advantage of life's opportunities.

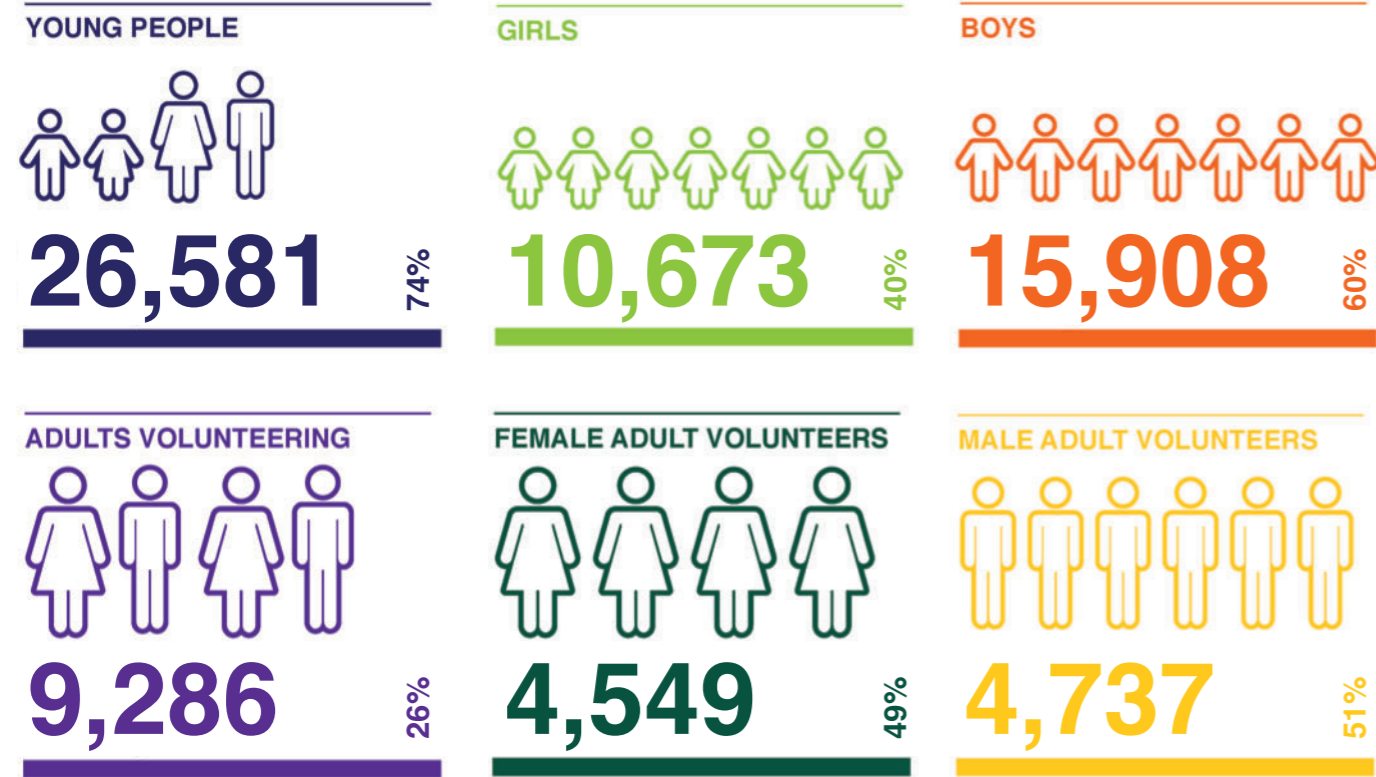
The year under review was not without its challenges and although tested we remained active and engaged in every community and supported the ongoing recovery and growth of our organisation.

With immense gratitude,  
Joe Marken, Interim CEO

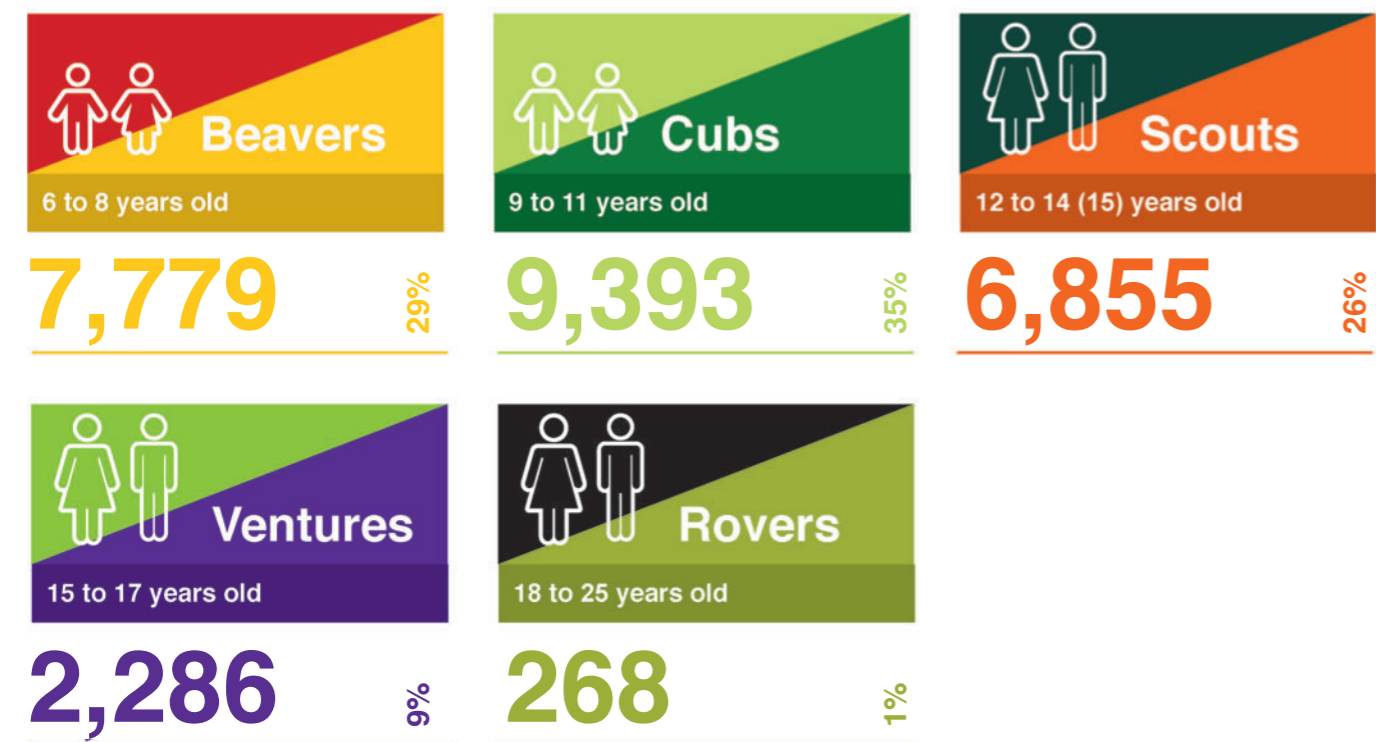
# Year of Scouting

## Scouts in Number

Scouting Ireland at a glance - Numbers of people involved in Scouting Ireland



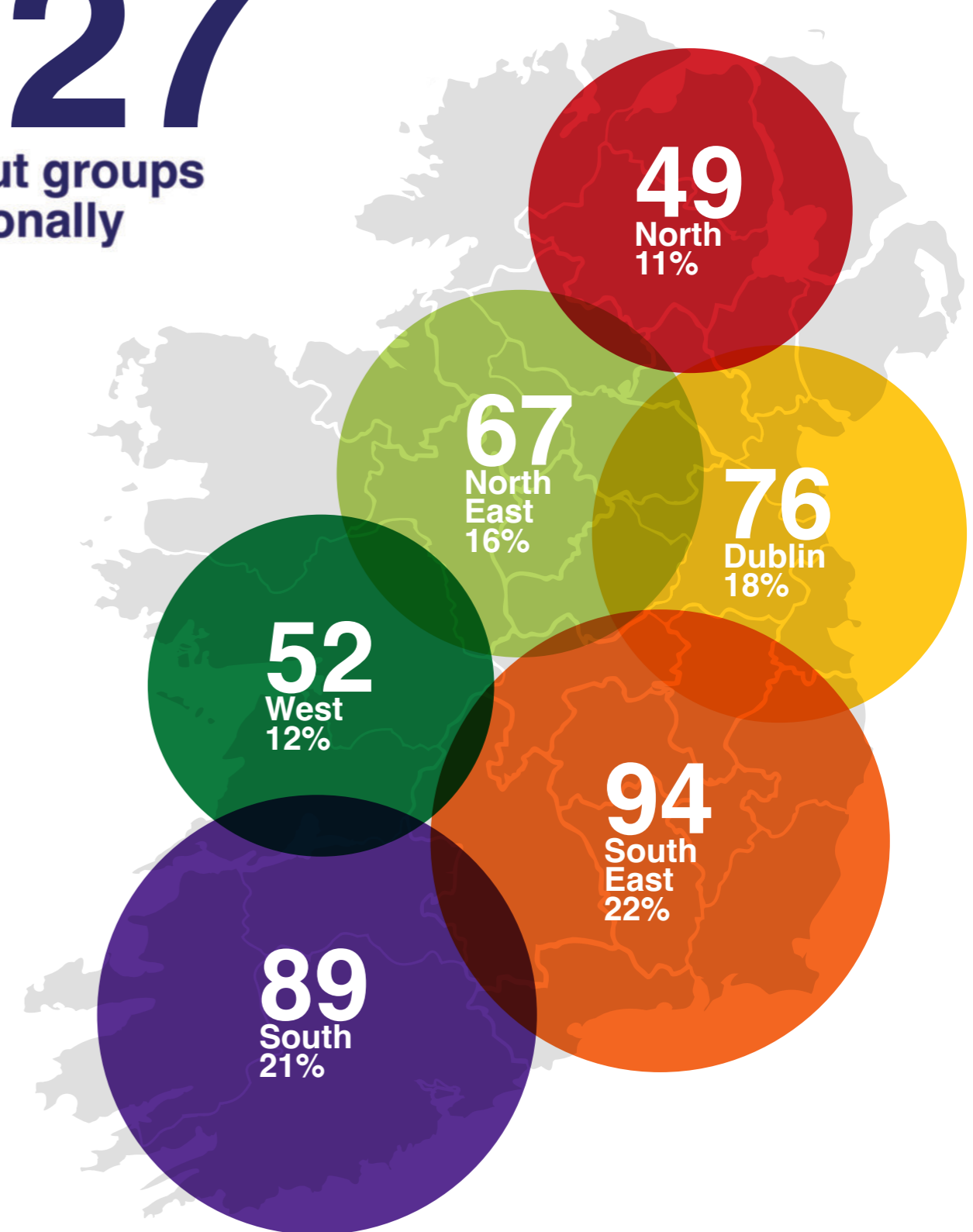
Number of Young People by Sections



Number of Scout Groups by Province

# 427

Scout groups  
Nationally



# Year of Scouting Programme Overview



The 2023/2024 year marked a period of transition and progress for the Youth Programme in Scouting Ireland, highlighted by leadership changes, new initiatives, and national events aimed at enhancing youth engagement and programme delivery.

In July 2023, Collie Kavanagh retired after 42 years of service to Scouting in Ireland. Youth Programme was Collie's passion, and he has left a lasting legacy in the many programme initiatives that he championed and the many programme resources that he was involved in and produced down through the years. We would like to express our deep gratitude for all that Collie has done for Youth Programme and to wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

Edel McCarthy joined Scouting Ireland as the new Programme Manager in May 2023 and quickly settled into working with the Programme Core Team and the various Programme Team Leads.

The following are some of the highlights from the year in the Youth Programme area:

## **Cruinniú 2023**

The National Youth Programme Team attended Cruinniú in September 2023. As well as our information stand, we also hosted the following workshops: Beaver Scout Programme, National Scout Team – Supports for Counties, Venture Retention and Rover Link, The Future of National Events, ONE Programme, Chief Scout Award and how it works, What makes a Scout Group a Good Scout Group, Free Being Me, BeLonG To: Working with LGBTQ+ young people & Rainbow Awards.

## **SAILS Framework**

The Sea Scouting Team launched the SAILS framework comprising Safety Afloat, Adventures Afloat, Inclusion Afloat, Leadership Afloat, and Sustainability Afloat. The framework provides a programme pathway for all sections that is accessible to every youth member, regardless of their group's ability to host activities afloat.



## **Chief Scout Award**

Changes were made to the requirements for the Chief Scout Award for each section. The process for Beavers and Cubs Chief Scout Awards was simplified with the removal of the registration requirement. A new system was also introduced for the registration and completion of Chief Scout Award / Gaisce joint awards for Scouts, Ventures and Rovers.

## **Programmuary**

In January 2024, the Youth Programme Teams compiled programme resources and published them via the Programmuary campaign as a start-of-year support for youth members and Scouters.

## **Roverway 2024**

A 107-strong Irish Contingent headed to Roverway in Norway from 22nd July to 5th August 2024. The 14 patrols were on different paths for the first five days of the expedition, with some taking place in Sweden and Denmark. After completing their paths, they assembled in the city of Stavanger for a six-day Jamboree with 5,500 Venture and Rover Scouts from around the world. At the end of Roverway, the contingent travelled on to the Netherlands for a three-day post-camp.

## **Measuring Impact of Youth Organisations (MIYO)**

The MIYO project is a collaboration between WOSM, YMCA (Europe) and Maynooth University with the aim of measuring the impact with, for and by Youth Organisations. Scouting Ireland participated in this project alongside Les Scouts (Belgium), Junak

(Czechia), SIM (North Macedonia), Scouteria (Sweden) and YMCA Nederland. The MIYO Impact Measurement Toolkit was completed and launched at the MIYO Conference, which took place in the European Parliament in Brussels on 22nd February 2024.

## **Betterworld.ie**

The betterworld.ie website was relaunched in the summer of 2024. Better World is a space for Scouts to share community projects that have made a difference. The website supports youth members with project forms and resources they need to start creating their own Better World community projects. Scout Groups can access resources and ideas to kick-start their initiatives and can also showcase their Better World projects.

## **New Teams**

At the end of the 2023/2024 Scouting year, the terms of office of the various Programme Team Leads came to an end and the process of recruiting new Team Leads and new Team Members kicked off at the start of summer 2024.

Huge thanks to the Team Leads whose terms concluded – Evan O'Connell & Keith Allen (Cubs), Dylan O'Neill (Scouts), Aoife Fricker (Ventures), Kyran Ross (Rovers), Ciarán Deay (Sea Scouting), Deirdre Byrne (Adventure Skills), Callum Fawdry (Sustainable Scouting), Michelle Murphy (Diversity, Equality & Inclusiveness), and Alan Murphy (Chief Scout Award) – and all the members of their teams for their dedicated service.

# Year of Scouting Programme Overview



## 25th World Scout Jamboree – South Korea

Preparation for the Irish Contingent began in February 2022 with the appointment of the Contingent Leader, giving just eighteen months of planning – the shortest in decades. Within days, the Contingent Management Team (CMT) was recruited, holding its first meeting on Founders Day 2022.

Over 220 members of Scouting Ireland travelled to Saemangeum, North Jeolla, for the 10-day Jamboree and post-event programmes, with the main cohort away for three weeks at a cost of €3,500 – the same as the previous two WSJs. All members rose to the challenge with Scoutcraft, music, song and dance in the true spirit of Irish Scouting.

Sixteen Troop Leaders were appointed through a rigorous process, with balanced Scouter teams supporting them. Troop events, meetings and ongoing liaison ensured a uniformly high experience. Specific Patrol Leader training again proved vital to the success of patrols and Troops. The Contingent theme of ancient Irish Festivals was reflected in Troop names, badges and flags, providing strong identity. The international neckerchief was once again very popular.

IST members worked tirelessly across programme, logistics, food distribution, security, hospitality,

safety and media, showing great commitment and spirit. The Contingent Hub acted as a centre for visitors, CMT operations and IST rest.

The €750,000 budget was managed on a breakeven basis with strong controls and oversight. A Service Level Agreement with National Office was attempted, though disputes remained regarding the 10% fee and lack of clarity on services. Despite this, a surplus was returned.

Challenges arose from heatwave, flooding, and Typhoon Khanun, leading to evacuation under WOSM and South Korean government direction. Cultural visits and concerts replaced the closing days, with the final ceremony in Seoul. The CMT managed conditions calmly, ensuring minimal inconvenience to youth members, with valued support from National Office.

Pre- and post-Jamboree programmes, along with the evacuation schedule, gave the Contingent real experiences of Korea – dancing, drumming, Tae Kwon Do, temples, cheese making and more.

The final word goes to the young people, who brought honour to themselves, their Groups, Scouting Ireland and their country.



There was no national Beaver Scout Team in place in 2023/2024 as no applications were received in response to open calls. However, at the end of the year in summer 2024, applications were received for the new Open Call for Programme Team Leads and Members, and a new Beaver Scout Team was established for 2024/2025.

The Programme Team held a workshop on the Beaver Scout Programme at Cruinniú which was well attended. There was a very interesting and engaging discussion, with participants sharing tips and how to find resources with each other.

Participants also requested that a national Beaver Scout event be organised. The first ever Beaver Survivor Challenge was held in June 2024. This was a Locally Organised National Event, with resource packs provided for Colonies and Counties to run the Beaver Survivor Challenge for their Beavers. 794 Beaver Scouts from all around the country participated in the Challenge.



The Cub Scout Team started off the year at Cruinniú providing support and information on programme resources for Cub Scouts. There were also lots of questions about the National Cub Challenge.

The National Cub Challenge, Blast Off, took place in June, with 159 Cubs in 29 teams descending on Larch Hill. Over the weekend, the Cubs challenged themselves in their camping and pioneering skills and also took part in lots of fun activities including Air Adventure Skills. A huge thank you to Eva Grant, for whom this was the final time as National Cub Challenge Team Lead after a number of years leading the event.

# Year of Scouting Programme Overview



2023/2024 was another busy year in the Scout section. As usual, there were lots of hillwalking events with the four MPCs, two Sionnachs and PEAK. The Crean Challenge brought 32 Scouts to Iceland where they joined up with their fellow Icelandic participants in another amazing event of winter skills and got to see the Aurora Borealis. There were two Scout Survivor events during the year – Sherwood Forest and Fallout.

Once again, the highlight of the Scout section events was the Phoenix Challenge which was held in Cork Showgrounds with the theme of Once Upon a Time. 600 Scouts took part in the event which was staffed by 50 Ventures and 200 Scouters.

The Scout Team attended Cruinniú where they shared the resources that have been developed to support the Scout section including programme cards. Throughout the year they supported provinces, counties and local troops in contributing to the Scouting experience of the youth members in the Scout section.



Venture Scouting started back very strong nationally after COVID. The 2023 Venture Sword, held in Larch Hill, saw six Venture teams take part in the National Campcraft Competition. The Connaught Mountain Havoc at the end of September was booked out.

2024 also started strong with the National Venture Ball in February in the Osprey Hotel, Naas, with 360 Ventures taking part. Leinster Mountain Havoc in March was another sell-out, and Mountain Havoc GB also took place that month in Snowdonia, Wales.

The 3rd Bivvy and BBQ in April in Curraghchase, Limerick, had a record 100 Ventures. Venture Challenge 2024, double the size of 2023, took place in the Northeast in July and ended with a five-day base camp at 3rd Monaghan's campsite. One of the most difficult Scouting events, this year's group completed it with incredible determination.

Throughout the year, the National Venture Team worked with National Venture Reps and Programme Services to create resources, advise on policies, and begin a full programme review. The Team looks forward to 2024/2025 and further growth of the section and events.



The year kicked off as usual with tent pitching at Electric Picnic. This year saw one of the highest amounts raised for the Rover Action Week fund. In October, Rover Survivor Three Days in Hell took place in Cork.

Rover Focus was held in Galway in November with workshops, programme ideas and social activities. Unfortunately, the Explorer Belt Challenge did not

take place in 2024 as there were no applicants for the Event Team Lead position. There was a successful open call in autumn for an Event Lead for Explorer Belt 2025, and planning has started for next year's event.

Roverway 2024 took place in Norway in July/August, with 107 Ventures, Rovers and Scouters travelling from Ireland.

# Year of Scouting Programme Overview

## Sea Scouting



In 2023/2024, the Sea Scouting Team moved waves to promote better access in supporting ocean literacy and resource availability for our members.

We launched 300 pages of “Adventures Afloat” resources across the programme sections, which has resulted in hundreds of new young people getting a taste of the marine and the spirit of adventure afloat. These resources were complemented by a series of webinars and workshops supporting programme development, access, and safety on the water.

All Scout Groups hitting the water must have the appropriate skills and awareness to do so—anything from a paddle in your local puddle to a coastal expedition. There is legislation, support, and training tools all available to help you make adventures afloat a reality.

The annual Master Mariner Competition, showcasing the leadership and seamanship skills of our Ventures and Rovers, was held at the National Marine Institute in Galway, Ireland’s HQ for marine research and STEM. Always a treat, competitors get the opportunity to meet the guest panel of external examiners - Ireland’s top marine influencers and experts - from meteorologists, cruise ship captains, and chief officers to marine accident investigators and everything in between!

The competition calendar continued with tradition and excitement with events like the 53rd Annual Sailing Regatta, the 110th Annual Rowing Regatta, and the 106th Fry Cup Senior Seamanship Competition, to name but a few - two of the oldest Scouting events in the world right on our shores!

Amid the buzz of events and competition, the reopening of key Scouting Groups such as Tuskar Sea Scouts in Rosslare, Blackrock Sea Scouts in Louth, and the reopening of New Ross Sea Scouts’ new Scout Den has revitalised local Sea Scouting presence, supporting coastal communities and enhancing young people’s access to the marine.

Sea Scouting is both a symbolic framework and a programme theme within Scouting, blending the core traditions of Scouting with a distinct emphasis on adventure and expedition afloat. Thriving on both land and water, Sea Scouts participate fully in the wider Scouting programme while also benefiting from extended opportunities to develop technical skills, embrace challenges afloat, and experience unique adventures on the water.

If you want to learn more about Scouting with a nautical flavour, you can follow our now award-winning social media presence (Gold Award for Social Media Strategy of an NGO!) or get onboard and email us at [seascouting@scouts.ie](mailto:seascouting@scouts.ie).

# Year of Scouting National Events

National Events	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Ventures	Rovers	Scouters	Total
2023 Mountain Havoc				36		15	51
2023 Mountain Havoc - Connaught				48		22	70
2023 Mountain Pursuit Challenge - Connaught			67			45	112
2023 International Mountain Moot					31	32	63
2023 Maamturks Sionnach			44			15	59
2023 Mountain Pursuit Challenge - Ulster			57			32	89
2023 Rover Survivor					6		6
2023 Sionnach			47			15	62
2023 National Mountain Moot					40	40	80
2023 Scout Survivor			80			20	100
2024 Bivvy and BBQ				34		15	49
2024 Crean Challenge			32			12	44
2024 National Venture Ball				200		25	225
2024 Mountain Havoc - Leinster				55		30	85
2024 Venture Survivor Challenge - Hunted				36			36
2024 Mountain Havoc GB				20		9	29
2024 Mountain Pursuit Challenge - Munster			88			23	111
2024 PEAK			11	20			31
2024 Scout Survivor Challenge			152			30	182
2024 Mountain Pursuit Challenge - Leinster			81			27	108
2024 Beaver Survivor Challenge	794						794
2024 Iolar	152	152	53	52		134	543
2024 National Cub Challenge		159				25	184
2024 Roverway				15	85	12	112
2024 Venture Challenge				54			54
2024 Phoenix Challenge			600	50		200	850
<b>Total</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>1312</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>4129</b>



# Operations



The Operations Function led by Joe Marken continued its core objective to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the organisation. The function transcends all activities, supporting and improving all processes, systems and projects, and ensuring a culture of continuous improvement.

The function is accountable for 6 core activities:

- **Communications** To be the custodian of the Scouting Ireland Brand and media presence, developing and enhancing an awareness of Scouting within Ireland to demonstrate and evidence our benefit to society, as well as engagement, trust and support.
- **IT and Change Management** Oversee and co-ordinate external IT providers to ensure reliable, secure and user-friendly systems and applications. Manage and develop the website and database to ensure both are fit for purpose and support the organisations strategic goals and ambition.

- **National Scout Centres** - ensure the effective operation, maintenance, and strategic development of the Scout Centres providing a safe, welcoming and resource-rich environment that supports scouting activities, training and national events.
- **Administration** - provide efficient administrative support to Volunteers and staff, delivering and assuring value for money in all we do.
- **Insurance** - ensure comprehensive coverage and risk management by arranging, maintaining and advising on insurance policies and clauses, that protect members, support Scout Group's and volunteers.
- **Data Protection** Ensure that all personal data is collected, stored and processed in accordance with GDPR Legislation, safeguarding the rights and privacy of members, volunteers and key stakeholders.

# National Scout Centres



Significant progress was made in the year to September 2024 across all these core activities. Key highlights include:

Our communications strategy and activity ramped up in the year to September 2024, with a focus on internal and external stakeholders driving an enhanced understanding of the broad societal benefits of Scouting. Active refocus on Government as a key stakeholder with renewed governance and engagements.

Decision to exit the failed OSM Database development and invest in a significant upgrade to the existing database.

A benchmarked development plan for the National Scout Centres was created, with risk assessments carried out, security measures enhanced and approved contractors put in place.

A core focus of the activity within the administration team revolved around two key objectives, namely; the provision of relevant and timely information to

Scout Groups and the efficient and effective running of National Events. Everything from financial rebates to Groups, 12 days of Christmas, legal and insurance supports as needed etc.

The Operations team in conjunction with their finance colleagues ensure members are covered, adequately insured, effectively administered and supported when carrying out scouting activities at home or abroad. The strong governance ensures a competitive renewal alongside any trends in claims or accidents are addressed and learned from the perspective of the Safety Advisory Team and indeed from a commercial reality.

Refresher training was provided to all staff and volunteers in respect to the proper use, protection and management for data and information.

Looking forward into 2024/25 primary focus will be on the delivery of the database enhancements and a fit for purpose website that delivers to both external audience and internal colleagues, supporting easy access to resources and materials.



The 2023/24 year was a significant one for our National Scout Centres (NSCs). After more than two years of dedicated service to the national humanitarian response — providing accommodation for Ukrainian refugees at Larch Hill, Lough Dan, and Killaloe — this extraordinary chapter came to a close. Refugees departed Lough Dan in May 2023, with Larch Hill and Killaloe following in Summer 2024. While this commitment was an important expression of our values, it also had a notable impact on the year’s statistics, as shown in the accompanying data table. Nevertheless, camping activity continued at Larch Hill throughout the year, reaffirming its importance as a key venue for Scouting activities.

In September 2023, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) approached Scouting Ireland regarding the possible

use of Castle Saunderson as an emergency accommodation centre. Discussions continued over several months, but the proposal did not proceed, and the site remained closed until April 2024. To mark its reopening, a “Welcome Back” Camp was held in June 2024, attracting members from across the country for a vibrant weekend of activities, fellowship, and renewed energy. The event was a great success, re-establishing Castle Saunderson as a thriving hub for Scouting activity.

As the centres returned to their primary mission, efforts focused on reinstating core programmes, expanding the customer base, and strengthening links with local communities, national partners, and international groups. Staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to prepare facilities for normal operations, carrying out essential maintenance and completing long-deferred improvements.

## Key Achievements and Developments

### Accessibility Improvements at Larch Hill

The Campfire Circle was upgraded to provide full wheelchair access, reinforcing our commitment to inclusivity and ensuring all members can participate fully in outdoor activities.

### Woodland Conservation at Lough Dan

A Woodland Management Workshop was held in preparation for the Annual Tree Planting Event 2024, resulting in the successful planting of 350 native trees and strengthening our environmental stewardship efforts.

### Network Sites Workshop

In March 2024, a productive workshop was held with representatives from Scouting Ireland's Network Sites. The session focused on identifying how Scouting Ireland can better support these sites

moving forward, fostering collaboration and sharing best practices.

### GAISCE Adventure Journey Accreditation

Larch Hill, Lough Dan, and Castle Saunderson were formally recognised as GAISCE Approved Adventure Journey Providers in 2024, broadening the personal development opportunities available to young people.

### Environmental and Nature Programmes

With support from the Youth Climate Justice Grant, centres introduced new trail cameras, nature engagement programme, and an environmental education initiative, all aimed at deepening young people's connection with nature and inspiring climate action.



### Percentage Type of Business for Each Centre

	Larch Hill	Lough Dan	Castle Saunderson	Killaloe
International Groups	2.78%	6.97%	23.53%	-
Scouting Ireland	11.35%	57.82%	68.02%	5%
IGG/CGI	0.26%	1.74%	0.00%	-
Youth Groups/Schools/NFP's	1.70%	24.24%	1.27%	-
External Companies	0.29%	2.83%	2.73%	-
Other	83.63%	6.40%	4.45%	95%

Figures reflect exceptional circumstances in 2023/24 due to the use of Larch Hill and Killaloe for Ukrainian refugee accommodation, which is recorded under "Other"

## Volunteer & Group Support



The Volunteer & Group Support (VGS) Department continued to play a central role in supporting Scouting Ireland during 2023/24, focusing on training, heritage, awards, and provincial development.

### Training and Development

The National Training Team focused on delivering inclusive, high-quality training to equip Scouters with the skills and knowledge required to lead effectively.

During the reporting period, 5,248 training spaces were offered, with 4,001 Scouters in attendance, representing strong engagement across the movement. Key programmes included:

- **Being a Scouter:** Total Spaces 1,430, Total Attended 1,282, Attendance Rate 89.65%
- **Youth Led Programme:** Total Spaces 319, Total Attended 232, Attendance Rate 72.73%

- **Scouting Together:** Total Spaces 246, Total Attended 120, Attendance Rate 48.78%
- **You The Scouter:** Total Spaces 136, Total Attended 95, Attendance Rate 69.85%
- **Learning For Your Team:** Total Spaces 649, Total Attended 478, Attendance Rate 73.65%
- **Group Leader Training:** Total Spaces 75, Total Attended 75, Attendance Rate 100%
- **Safeguarding Refresher Training:** Total Spaces 2,393, Total Attended 1,719, Attendance Rate 71.83%

Overall: Total Spaces 5,248, Total Attended 4,001, Attendance Rate 76.3%  
This year also saw significant contributions from the Training Operations and Design & Development Teams, alongside Provincial Training Coordinators and "Train the Trainer" supports.

# Volunteer & Group Support



## Heritage Project Team

The Heritage Project Team continued Phase II of recording and categorising Scouting Ireland's extensive archives. Having completed Phase I (boxing and listing 270 archive boxes), the team is now re-organising materials by theme, such as Irish Jamborees, World Scout Jamborees, and Melvins. This phase is expected to take 18–24 months, with Phase III (document-level recording) projected to take a further 3–5 years.

Looking ahead, the team is preparing resources for the 2027 centenary of the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland, with plans to publish a history of the CBSI and host a commemorative exhibition.

The team also continued to respond to frequent historical queries from Scout Groups and Counties, particularly those approaching milestone anniversaries. Work also began on the collection of items from the Mt. Melleray Museum, with the long-term goal of developing a permanent exhibition centre.

## Provinces

### South East Province

The South East Province delivered a vibrant programme of activities in 2023/24, including Spraoi, Spraoi Óige, the Provincial Conference, Youth Forum, and South East Superstars.

Several awards and recognitions were presented, including the Order of Cu Chulainn to Jemma Brennan, service and training awards to Niamh Fitzgerald, Kevin Murphy, Paddy Lynch, and Dermot Moore, and Wood Badges to Paul Byrne and Niall Donovan.

Group development remained active across the province, with new or re-opened groups in Monasterevin, Ballymore Eustace, Bray, Kilmacthomas, Tuskar, and Riverchapel, alongside some groups becoming inactive.



### North Eastern Province

The North Eastern Province began the year with "The Gathering," focusing on re-engagement and rebuilding networks after the COVID pandemic. Under the leadership of Provincial Commissioner Alan Kearney, counties and groups reconnected through county events, joint activities, and the flagship event Camp North East at Portlick Campsite, themed "The Movies." Led by Chiefs Declan Heaney and Gail Fitzgerald, the camp was a highlight of the year, bringing together Scouts, Venture Scouts, and dedicated volunteer staff, showcasing the strength of Scouting in the province.

Adult training remained a priority, with 1,181 Scouters trained across a range of courses, including Being a Scouter (273), Safeguarding (572), and Learning for Your Team (76), alongside leadership and skills development programmes.

At county level, the province supported 63 active groups, with 310 awards issued and 24 Wood Badge beads presented. Counties such as Louth and Reachra were particularly strong in recognising volunteers' contributions.

Towards the end of the year, Provincial Commissioner Alan Kearney stepped down, with the province thanking him for his service. In July 2024, Peter O'Brien joined as Development Support Officer, further strengthening the provincial team.

The North East closed the year with a renewed sense of connection and growth, reflecting the commitment of volunteers at provincial, county, and group level.

### Dublin Scout Province

In 2023/24, Dublin Scout Province delivered a vibrant programme supporting Scouting across Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire, Rathdown, and Scout Dublin. Key highlights included the Scouting Together Friendship Day, Provincial Conference, Charity Registration Workshop, and participation in national and community events such as Darkness into Light and St. Patrick's Day parades.

Group development was strong, with the merger of Dún Laoghaire and Cois Ferraige to form Dún na Ferraige County, and the merger of the 80th and 160th Dublin Scout Groups in Cluain Toirc. Many groups upgraded their dens, including Glendale Lodge, HQ Dartry, 92nd Dub Clontarf, and 139th Dub Chapelizod.

A total of 232 Chief Scout Awards were earned across the province in 2023/24, and over 350 adult awards were presented, including Wood Badges, Train the Trainer recognitions, and service awards from 5 to 50 years.

Active county programmes included environmental initiatives like Dodder County's River Clean-Up, outdoor activities in Mountpelier, and the DART Challenge in Cluain Toirc. Counties also focused on communications, leadership training, group governance, and community engagement.

The Provincial Management Support Team (PMST) met regularly to support county development, adult training, grants, and group growth. The province thanks all volunteers for their dedication and ensures young people continue to experience the adventure of Scouting.

# Volunteer & Group Support



## Western Province

Over the past year, the Province focused on group support, training, and programme delivery, with Provincial Support Officers, management teams, event teams, and local leaders all contributing to a productive and successful year. The aim remains to consolidate structures for a smooth transition while continuing to grow and expand youth-led programmes and events, ensuring quality Scouting experiences for all communities.

Membership is showing a slow recovery, with volunteer availability still a limiting factor. Notable successes include the reopening of the 12th Mayo Mulranny Scout Group and a 33% increase in overall membership in Mayo. Year-on-year section trends show growth in younger members—Beavers (+32%) and Cubs (+10%)—while Scouts decreased slightly (-1%). Ventures (+5%) and Rovers (+5%) remained stable, and Scouters decreased by 9%. Short-term goals for 2025 include sustainable growth, reopening closed sections, expanding existing sections, supporting counties in establishing new groups, and identifying communities where Scouting does not currently exist.

Training and programme delivery were major highlights in 2024. Across 36 courses, 796 training places were offered, representing 92% of the 864 registered adult Scouters. Courses included Being a Scouter (245 participants), Youth Led Programme

(60), Overnight Adventures & International Planning (91), Learning for Your Team (51), Adventure Skills Facilitator (42), REC3 revalidations (9), Scouting Together (26), Safeguarding Refresher (257), and You, The Scouter (15). This 13% increase in training compared to 2023 reflects strong engagement from adult volunteers, with over 345 hours spent on course delivery.

Western Province hosted major events including Tir na nÓg Camp (932 attendees), Dúshlán, Venture Ball, and multiple youth leadership activities, showcasing strong participation from both youth and adult volunteers. Programme delivery was supported by County Programme Coordinators and the Provincial Youth Programme Representative, ensuring innovative and high-quality experiences for all sections.

The Welfare Team, Communications Team, and Youth Empowerment Team continued to enhance the Scouting experience across the Province. The Welfare Team developed resources, risk assessments, and event support initiatives. The Communications Team supported major events and created communications guidelines, while the Youth Empowerment Team facilitated youth reps, forums, and leadership training. Collectively, these teams contributed to safe, inclusive, and engaging environments for all members.



## Northern Province

The Northern Province, covering 44 Scout Groups and 2,704 members across four counties (Brian Boru, Down & Connor, Erne, and Errigal), delivered an exciting and active programme in 2023/24.

Youth voice was central to the year, with the Provincial Youth Forum held in February 2024 involving around 60 young people. The forum elected eight Scouts, eight Ventures, and several Rovers, who continue to work alongside the Provincial Youth Programme Representative to ensure youth remain at the heart of decision-making.

Training was a major focus, with strong uptake across a wide range of courses. A new hybrid model for the Being a Scouter course reduced barriers for new volunteers, combining online sessions with in-person training while maintaining quality.

The Provincial Conference in January 2024 brought volunteers together for workshops on safeguarding, sustainable development goals, and inclusive practices, alongside an engaging guest speaker and a celebration dinner.

The Province continues to benefit from additional funding from the Education Authority and Department of Education in Northern Ireland, with finances managed effectively and accounts submitted on time. Group and county development remained a priority, supported by the Provincial Management Support Team and

professional staff, whose work ensured a safe, engaging, and resilient programme across the Province.

## Southern Province

The Southern Province delivered a strong programme of activities in 2023/24, led by Provincial Commissioner Ursula Cosgrove and the Provincial Management Team. The Province is made up of eight Scout Counties - Kerry, Tipperary, Limerick, Cois Laoi, Lee Valley, North Cork, West Cork, and Corcaigh Theas - each supported by their County Commissioners.

Highlights included the Provincial Conference, Southern Province Scout Summit, held in Charleville in March 2024, and Founders Footsteps, a new event created to showcase Scouting locally on Founders Day weekend in February. The All-Cork Shield and the Phoenix were both hosted in the Showgrounds, while Ventact South took place in Kilcully Scout Campsite in September 2023.

Recognition of service was an important part of the year. Awards were presented to Marcus Calvert (50 Years, 11th Cork Cloghroe), June Ward (30 Years, 43rd/70th Cork Bishopstown), Carmel Drinan (25 Years, 109th Cork Ballinora), and Peter Roche (25 Years, 22nd Cork Kildorrey), reflecting long-standing dedication to Scouting in the Province.

The Province will continue to strengthen supports for youth engagement and international opportunities, with the Provincial Youth and International Coordinator roles identified as key priorities for the year to come.

# Safeguarding



Scouting Ireland’s Safeguarding Department, led by a CORU-registered Social Worker with over 20 years’ experience, manages all safeguarding matters for Scouting Ireland. The team includes experienced case officers and vetting officers, supported by robust policies, secure systems, and professional supervision. Staff undergo continuous training, attend national and international safeguarding events, and are connected to professional networks to ensure best practice.

### Key initiatives in 2023–2024 included:

- Launch of On My Honour at Cruinniú 2024, eLearning for all members aged 16+.
- Launch of our youth safeguarding programme, which will be integrated into our One Programme – ongoing review into 2025.
- Ongoing policy reviews, with an updated suite to be launched in 2025/26.
- Expansion of online reporting tools and safeguarding resources.
- Strengthened governance through the Safeguarding Subcommittee and quarterly Board reporting:
  - Engagement with statutory agencies across the island of Ireland, ensuring compliance and cooperation.
  - Ensuring safeguarding standards are high through membership of, and contributions to, National Safeguarding Committees and networks.

- Safeguarding Team being ‘out and about’ at national events, camps, and other events – talking to, listening to, and hearing Scouting Ireland’s members, as well as delivering presentations to update our membership.

Our work is proactive as well as responsive. We are developing a Listening Ear/Welfare Team for national events, collaborating on international initiatives such as the World Scout Jamboree 2027, and working on audits with Tusla – the Child & Family Agency – and WOSM, the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, on our policies and procedures.

Safeguarding remains a standing item at Board level, and our policies cover both children and adults at risk. We are committed to continuous improvement – from enhancing compliance with vetting and AccessNI systems, to addressing emerging safeguarding issues such as online harms, radicalisation, and the rise in anxiety among young people.

Our government ring-fenced funding has been vital in maintaining these high standards, and additional support would allow us to expand preventative work – for example, strengthening mental health supports and increasing youth engagement.

Scouting Ireland’s safeguarding principle is clear: **there is no place in our organisation for anyone who seeks to harm** children/young people, other adults, or our organisation. Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, and it should be effortless – embedded in our culture, our training, and our everyday practice at all levels of Scouting.

# Governance

## Board of Directors

Name	Position	Appointed	Resigned
Ned Brennan	Board Chairperson	10/09/2022	24/03/2024
Paul Mannion	Board Chairperson	24/03/2024	14/09/2024
Richard Forde	Board Chairperson	14/09/2024	
Evan O’Connell	Board Member	10/09/2022	13/12/2023
Donnachadha Reynolds	Board Member	10/09/2022	21/04/2024 <small>Removed</small>
Jacques Kinane	Board Member	10/09/2022	21/04/2024 <small>Removed</small>
Lorraine Lally	Board Member		
Paul Mannion	Board Member		14/09/2024 <small>Retired</small>
Ned Brennan	Board Member		14/09/2024 <small>Retired</small>
Lisa Barnes	Board Member		
Patrick Kidney	Board Member		14/09/2024 <small>Retired</small>
Eoin O’Shea	Board Member	18/11/2023	09/12/2024
Thomas Martens	Board Member	12/05/2024	
Aidan Magner	Board Member	12/05/2024	
John Holland	Board Member	12/05/2024	



# Finances

## 2023



These financial statements cover a 16-month period from the 1st September 2022 to the 31st December 2023. The comparative figures are for the 12-month period to the 31st August 2022.

Scouting Ireland has had a welcome return to scouting activities and the results of this include an increase in membership fees following a decline as a result of Covid-19. Our members have been enjoying a return to our many scouting activities around the country including our national events programme which included the Crean Challenge, the Phoenix Challenge, the Explorer Belt, Mountain Havoc and of course Cruinniu are starting to have a positive impact on the finances of the Company. Membership income has increased in 2022/23 following a decline in numbers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

One of the highlights of the year was our involvement in the 25th World Scout Jamboree, which was organised by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and hosted in SaeManGeum, South Korea in August 2023. The Scouting Ireland Contingent had a very successful trip despite difficult conditions.

During the current financial period Scouting Ireland has continued to make our National Scout Centres available to assist the government's humanitarian effort to house

Ukrainian refugees. The contract with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for the Lough Dan scout centre ceased on 31st May 2023 while a decision was made to extend the contracts for our National Scout Centres in Killaloe and Larch until the summer of 2024.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (Accounting and Reporting by Charities) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective from 1 January 2015).

These financial statements cover the activities of Scouting Ireland at a National level, including National events and National Scout Centres. The activities of the Scout Provinces based in the Republic of Ireland are included in the financial statements of Scouting Ireland (Association). The activities of the Northern Scout Province are included in the financial statements of The Scout Foundation (NI).

National Scout Centres' income and expenditure excludes our National Scout Centre at Castle Saunderson, which is included within a related entity, Scouting Ireland Campsites and Facilities CLG.

### Financial Highlights

- Net Expenditure of (€3.656m) in 2022/23 compared with Net Income of €0.242m in 2021/22. This figure includes legal provisions of €4.071m for the 16-month period (€0.240m in 2021/22)
- Net Income before legal provisions was €0.415m in 2022/23 (€0.482m in 2021 /22) a decrease of 14% (pro rata decrease of 35%)
- Income from charitable activities increased by 57% to €3.900m (pro rata increase of 18%) whilst membership income increased by 48% to €3.016m (pro rata increase of 11%)
- Spending on charitable activities increased by 147% to €10.710m (pro rata increase of 85%); spending on charitable activities net of legal provisions increased by 62% in the period (pro rata increase of 22%)
- Income from the National Scout Centres has continued to increase in the financial period from €0.639m in 2021 /22 to €1.421 m in 2022/23, an increase of 122% (pro rata increase of 67%)

### Results Income

Total income for 2022/23 amounted to €7.111 m compared with € 4.622m in 2021/22, an increase of 54% (pro rata 15%).

In 2022/23, we received wonderful support from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for our core grant of €1.684m and other grants of €0.111 m. We received a grant of €0.233m from the Department of Social Protection for a Community Employment Scheme, which is based in Larch Hill. We also received a grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs of €0.200m under the DFA 2022 Global Citizenship Education Grant Scheme.

During the financial period Scouting Ireland has continued to make our National Scout Centres available to assist the government's humanitarian effort to house Ukrainian refugees at Larch Hill, Lough Dan and Killaloe. Our National Scout Centres income has increased from €0.639m in 2021/22 to €1.421 m in 2022/23. The contract covering Lough Dan scout centre ceased on 31st May 2023 whilst a decision was made to extend the contracts for Larch Hill and

Killaloe until June 2024 and July 2024 respectively.

### Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2022/23 amounted to €10.767m compared with €4.380m in 2021/22, an increase of 146% (pro rata increase of 84%). This increase was driven by an increase in legal provisions of €4.071 m over last year. Our National Scout Centres' expenditure increased by €0.51 Sm and insurance costs increased by €0.21 Sm over last year.

As per the charities SORP (FRS 102), expenditure on charitable activities includes expenditure relating to Youth Programme, Development of Scouting, Adult Support & Training, Support & Services to Members and Hosted Events.

### Reserves

Restricted and unrestricted reserves at the end of the period decreased by €3.656m. Restricted funds are those received which have been earmarked for a special purpose by the donor or the terms of an appeal. Unrestricted funds are those received which are not subject to any special restriction. Unrestricted funds are divided between general funds and designated funds. Designated funds comprise amounts set aside by the Directors for a particular purpose. On 31 December 2023, the unrestricted reserve was in a deficit position of (-€8.807m) (2021/22: (-€5.148 m)). The directors wish to increase the current level of reserves so that they are holding 3 - 6 months operating costs plus cover for additional potential costs such as redundancy costs. The Directors recognise that it will take time for membership numbers to recover to pre Covid-19 levels, which will have a resultant impact on income and therefore their ability to increase reserves in the short term.

### Unrestricted General Funds Reserve

The Reserves Policy of the Company establishes an appropriate target range for the level of general 'free' reserves. The range is based on a risk assessment of the probability and likely impact on the Company's activities that might be caused by a global pandemic, a decline in income, an inability to meet financial obligations, or an inability to reduce expenditure in the short term.

### Tangible Fixed Assets

The Company made capital investments during the year of €0.21 Om.

# Finances

## 2024



These financial statements cover the financial year from the 1st January 2024 to the 31st December 2024. The comparative figures are for the 16-month period from the 1st September 2022 to the 31st December 2023.

Scouting Ireland has had a welcome return to scouting activities and the results of this include an increase in membership fees following a decline as a result of Covid-19. Our members have been enjoying a return to our many scouting activities around the country including our national events programme which included the Crean Challenge, the Phoenix Challenge, the Explorer Belt, Mountain Havoc and of course Cruinniú which are starting to have a positive impact on the finances of the Company. Membership income has increased in 2024 following a decline in numbers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the current financial period Scouting Ireland has continued to make our National Scout Centres available to assist the government's humanitarian effort to house Ukrainian refugees. The contract with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for the Lough Dan scout centre

ceased on 31st May 2023 while a decision was made to extend the contracts for our National Scout Centres in Killaloe and Larch Hill until the summer of 2024.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (Accounting and Reporting by Charities) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective from 1 January 2019).

These financial statements cover the activities of Scouting Ireland at a National level, including National events and National Scout Centres. The activities of the Scout Provinces based in the Republic of Ireland are included in the financial statements of Scouting Ireland (Association). The activities of the Northern Scout Province are included in the financial statements of The Scout Foundation (NI).

National Scout Centres' income and expenditure excludes our National Scout Centre at Castle Saunderson, which is included within a related entity, Scouting Ireland Campsites and Facilities CLG.

### Financial Highlights

Net Expenditure of (€1.484m) in the financial year 2024 compared with Net Expenditure of (€3.656m) in the 16-month period 2022/23. This figure includes legal provisions of €0.970m in 2024 (€4.071m for the 16-month period 2022/23)

Net Expenditure before legal provisions was (€0.514m) in 2024 compared with Net Income of €0.415m in 2022/23

- Income from charitable activities decreased by 27% to €2.848m (pro rata decrease of 3%) whilst membership income decreased by 17% to €2.505m (pro rata increase of 11 %)
- Spending on charitable activities decreased by 35% to €6.919m (pro rata decrease of 14%); spending on charitable activities net of legal provisions decreased by 10% in the period (pro rata increase of 19%)
- Income from the National Scout Centres has decreased in the financial year 2024 from €1.421 m in 2022/23 to €0.650m in 2024, a decrease of 54% (pro rata decrease of 39%)

### Results

#### Income

Total income for 2024 amounted to €5.483m compared with €7.111m in 2022/23, a decrease of 23% (pro rata increase of 3%).

In 2024 we received wonderful support from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth for our core grant of €1.426m. We received a grant of €0.226m from the Department of Social Protection for a Community Employment Scheme, which is based in Larch Hill. We also received a grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs of €0.1 00m under the DFA 2022 Global Citizenship Education Grant Scheme and a grant from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media of €0.006m under the Sports Capital & Equipment Grant Scheme.

During the financial year Scouting Ireland continued to make our National Scout Centre's at Larch Hill and Killaloe available to assist the government's humanitarian effort to house Ukrainian refugees. The contract at Larch Hill continued until June 2024 and the contract at Killaloe continued until July 2024. Total operational income for the National Scout Centres was €0.650m in 2024 (€1.421 m in 2022/23).

### Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2024 amounted to €6.967m compared with €10.767m in 2022/23, a decrease of 35% (pro rata decrease of 14%). This decrease was largely driven by a decrease in legal provisions of €3.101 m over last year. There was a slight increase in HR, Co Sec, legal and professional costs of 0.094m over last year. Our National Scout Centres' expenditure decreased by €0.408m and insurance costs decreased by €0.051 m over last year.

As per the charities SORP (FRS 102), expenditure on charitable activities includes expenditure relating to Youth Programme, Development of Scouting, Adult Support & Training, Support & Services to Members and Hosted Events.

### Reserves

Restricted and unrestricted reserves at the end of the year decreased by €1.484m. Restricted funds are those received which have been earmarked for a special purpose by the donor or the terms of an appeal. Unrestricted funds are those received which are not subject to any special restriction. Unrestricted funds are divided between general funds and designated funds. Designated funds comprise amounts set aside by the Directors for a particular purpose. On 31 December 2024, the unrestricted reserve was in a deficit position of (€10.243m), (2022/23: (€8.807m)). The directors wish to increase the current level of reserves so that they are holding 3 - 6 months operating costs plus cover for additional potential costs such as redundancy costs. The Directors recognise that it will take time for membership numbers to recover to pre Covid-19 levels, which will have a resultant impact on income and therefore their ability to increase reserves in the short term.

### Unrestricted General Funds Reserve

The Reserves Policy of the Company establishes an appropriate target range for the level of general 'free' reserves. The range is based on a risk assessment of the probability and likely impact on the Company's activities that might be caused by a global pandemic, a decline in income, an inability to meet financial obligations, or an inability to reduce expenditure in the short term.

### Tangible Fixed Assets

The Company made capital investments during the year of €0.007m.

# Value of Investment



## Scouting Ireland

Scouting Ireland is one of the largest youth movements on the island of Ireland, a voluntary, educational movement for young people with approximately 26,581 youth members in 2023/2024. Scouting Ireland provides a programme that develops the emotional, social, and practical skills of all its youth members, developing them into active citizens. This results in increased employability, better mental health later in life, better social networks, an increased propensity to contribute to the community and society, and young people who are more confident, resilient, and independent.

## The Value of Scouting to Young People

Through research conducted by Scouting Ireland, four main areas of measurable positive impact were identified by Scouting Ireland's youth members:

- Emotional development – increased confidence, positivity, maturity, and patience.
- Personal development – teamwork, leadership, time management, independence, responsibility, respect, and teaching.
- Social skills – increased friendships, improved sociability, and people skills.
- Practical skills – such as first aid, cooking, navigation, budgeting, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

Birdwell and Wybron (2014) suggest that Scouting provides young people with the skills and attitudes that employers increasingly desire. This research conducted in the UK in 2014 found that engaging in Scouting can assist the development of a wide range of 'soft skills': teamwork, leadership, resilience, and problem-solving, as well as demonstrate commitment and resolve. In addition, Scouting provides members with access to networks and social opportunities that are valuable for future employability.

Research published in 2016 identified that those who

engage in Scouting are more likely to report better mental health later in life. The results are based on a lifelong study of 10,000 people born in the UK in 1959. Scottish researchers found that those who had been active members of Scouts tended to have better mental health by the age of 50. In addition, it was noted that engaging in Scouting activities seemed to remove the higher risk of mental illness in those from poorer socioeconomic backgrounds.

## What Scouting Contributes to Society

Scouting aligns with the national framework, Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures, and the national implementation plan, the National Youth Strategy 2015–2020 of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. Engaging in Scouting provides a package of interrelated positive impacts for all participants, Youth Members and Adult Volunteers. For those involved, the key benefits are fun, friendship, exciting activities, contributing to the community, and improving life chances in terms of education, mental health, and employability.

The Scout Association (Scouts & PACEC, 2012) found that employers agree that the skills gained through engaging in Scouting are important to their organisations, with 41 percent reporting that an applicant's involvement in Scouting is viewed as a positive influence on the decision to employ them.

Research published in 2012 by the UK (PACEC, 2011) demonstrates a substantially higher proportion of those who have engaged in Scouts are more likely to engage in voluntary activities than children and young people not engaged in Scouting. This effect was identified as being long-lasting, with 36 percent of former youth members volunteering regularly (at least two hours per week) as opposed to 26 percent of the general population volunteering regularly. Of the former youth members that do volunteer, 66 percent said that Scouting positively influenced their decision to get involved.

## Value of Investment

Scouting Ireland currently has approximately 9,286 volunteers, which equates to a significant contribution to youth development across Ireland.

**Each Scouting Ireland volunteer commits an average minimum of 200 hours a year.** This equates to 1,857,200 volunteer hours annually from our volunteers.

As a result, each youth member receives 200 hours of youth work annually. This total adds up to 5.3 million programme hours annually for our 26,581 young people.

**If all our volunteers were to be paid for their 200 hours of volunteer youth work at the minimum wage (in 2024) of €12.70, this would cost approximately €23.6 million.**

**Scouting Ireland received in 2023/2024 government funding worth €1,652,000.** However, Scouting Ireland has contributed €23.6 million worth of youth work.

**€1 of Government Funding = €14.29 worth of volunteer youth work delivered by Scouting Ireland**

## Scouting Ireland Professional Staff

Scouting Ireland currently has a team of 44 full-time employees who support this volunteer-led organisation. These are placed across our departments: Finance & Compliance, Programme, Corporate Services, Information and Communication, Volunteer Management and Support, National Scout Centres and Safeguarding.

They support our youth members, adult volunteers, and parents to provide safe, positive, quality Scouting to our young people. Currently, Scouting has a ratio of 1 employee for every 604 youth members and 1 employee for every 211 volunteers.

**1 Employee: 604 Youth Members**

**1 Employee: 211 Volunteers**

## Scouting Ireland requires additional funding

In order to provide the services delivered by Scouting Ireland, there is a need to recruit additional staff. This will allow Scouting Ireland to strengthen governance structures, meet increasing compliance and reporting requirements, and widen access to Scouting for those marginalised or discriminated against in our society.

Scouting Ireland appreciates the support given to us by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. To support the development and growth of our current Scout Groups, there is a requirement for increased funding.

Scouting Ireland requires additional funding to:

- Continue delivering the current level of service.
- Cater to the increasing youth population – we serve 26,581 young people across 427 Scout Groups, with potential to reach more.
- Continue to support and develop training for 9,286 Adult Volunteers.
- Increase integration into communities.
- Ensure children and adults are adequately protected and served.
- Expand existing groups and open new ones.
- Provide county, provincial, and national support to all groups.
- Cope with increasing insurance costs.
- Ensure increasingly strict governance and regulatory guidelines are adhered to.

# Funders and Partners

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 Education Authority Northern Ireland and the Youth Council Northern Ireland. Scouting Ireland would like to acknowledge funding received from:



**An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí**  
Department of Social Protection



**An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail**  
Department of Rural and Community Development



**An Roinn Oideachais agus Óige**  
Department of Education and Youth



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha**  
Department of Foreign Affairs

