

New Rover Crew 6 week meeting plan

This is a six week plan that can be adapted to match the frequency of section meetings. This initial framework will set the foundation for a longer programme cycle. A programme cycle is a period of time comprised of planning, doing and reviewing programme activities and learning objectives. Learning objectives for Rovers, as in all of the other sections, are based on the SPICES.

Recruitment and registration: Week 1

Sources of recruitment are the Ventures moving up to your section, Rover-age group members returning to the area from work/study/ travel, as well as new members from the community or the catchment area. Some potential recruits may have moved into the area for work or study. Recruitment posters, supplied by National Office, can be placed in local Garda stations, hospitals, colleges, universities and sports centres.

A good next step is to invite potential Rovers and existing Rovers to a social night where they can introduce themselves, ask questions and learn more about what it is to be a Rover Scout. As in the other sections the Rover programme is made up of several components such as special interest badges, Chief Scout Award, Adventure Skills, Nautical badge scheme and activities. The unique element to the Rover section is the ASSES which is the programme aims for the section. This is an acronym for Adventurous, Service, Skill, Environmental and Social. All new members would find this information helpful before week two where they will be designing the programme cycle for the section.

Registration of Adult Scouters is currently €25 and it is usually paid by the group. Registration for Rovers who are youth members is €45 and is usually paid by the Rover Scout. Some Rover sections fundraise to subsidise the registration fees and this should be considered as a long term plan once the sections is established.

Rovers who join the section outside of the usual registration timeslot must still register for the year unless they are already registered in another group, in which case, they can wait until the following September.

Planning: Week 2

This week should involve brainstorming project ideas that can be calendared into short and long term programme cycles. Some suggestions for brainstorming are:

- Create a Rover section bucket list
- Choose at least one activity from each ASSES category per programme cycle
- Consider developing adventure skills in small groups
- The chief scout award and the nautical badge scheme should also be considered when making your plans.
- Consider participating in, or running county, provincial or national rover events

Information and support for county and provincial events can be sought from the CPC and PYPR respectively, and information on national events can be found on the SI website.

Forming Crews and the Rover Executive: Week 3

A Rover section or Crew can have any number of members however it is organised into small project-based teams of between 4-8 Rovers. Project teams should ideally have a mix of age, experience and ability. This allows new members to participate in teams that are led by experienced members. Each project team should select their preference for a programme initiative to design and deliver, based on the plan agreed upon in Week 2. In the planning phase of projects, teams must consider learning objectives, project timelines, resources needed, skills required, cost, etc.

The Rover section must also elect a rover executive comprising of a chairperson, secretary and treasurer (at a minimum). Other roles may be added to the executive as needed. The chairperson will accompany the Rover advisor to Group Council to represent the Rover section. The Rover programme calendar should be presented to the group council, ideally at their first meeting.

Project Preparation: Week 4

This is a crew-based preparation meeting prior to the Rover sections first programme activity or event. Things to consider:

- Has information about the project been distributed to all the section members, rover advisor and group leader (Time, date, cost, equipment needed etc.)
- Has the group equipment needed for the event been checked out by the quartermaster
- Have transport arrangements (if needed) been made

These are some general pointers, however the preparations needed will be specific to the project. Try not to be too ambitious with your first project of the year as its purpose is to gel the section and consolidate crews.

Programme Activity: Week 5

This is the week you will be doing your first programme activity of the year. The aim of this project, whatever it may be, is to get everybody engaged in the section. If everybody is participating then this project has been a success. This is a good opportunity to see how the crews are working together and emphasis should be placed on forming relationships between the newest members and the more experienced Rovers.

Review: Week 6

Having experienced the first programme activity together, the Rover section is in a better place to assess where their skills, interests and potential lies. This knowledge can then be applied to the next phase of project planning. You may wish to reconsider the crew's formation based on their performance and dynamic during the programme activity.

It is important to begin considering the individual goals of members throughout all upcoming projects and how these goals can feed into the planned programme cycle of the section. There is no such thing as a perfect programme cycle. Plans change, projects mutate and some goals may even be abandoned. Just remember, the success of a crew will be decided by its members, and the section will be whatever you make it.