



2025 Annual Report



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Annual Report 2025

31st August 2024 - 31st December 2025

Note: The 2025 Annual Report covers the period September 2024 to December 2025 as we transition from a school-year reporting cycle to a financial-year reporting cycle.



Company Information

Company Registration Number

397094

Charity Number

CHY3507

CRA Number

20004347

Registered Address

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Message from the Chief Scout



Eoin Callanan, Chief Scout

I'm pleased to share the outputs of Scouting Ireland's Annual Report for September 2024 - December 2025.

As I reflect back on those 16 months, the main word that comes to mind is transition, as we take a step further into redeveloping our movement. September 2024 was a watershed moment which marked a huge change in Scouting Ireland's leadership; not only did we get a new CEO in Sean Sheehan, but it also was the month I was elected as Chief Scout. The 15 months that followed that, I can only describe as very hopeful, as we both got going with our respective roles.

As Chief Scout, my priorities are to encourage more people to "volunteer up", and rekindling a culture of dialogue, where we have the space and confidence to discuss issues constructively, while always supporting on-the-ground scouting. I'm proud of the progress made here, initially with Hour a Week Clubs and ultimately culminating in Scouting Ireland agreeing to introduce the National Assembly at the AGM in September 2025. We've also seen a reduction in vacancies for key roles such as County and Provincial Commissioners which is a great win for all levels of scouting. Thank you to those who have taken those mantles.

There have been great strides in organisational growth, including an uptick in new Scout Groups opening, as well plenty of large and ambitious events gaining footing such as JamÓige 2027 & Jamboree 2028. National events have been as well attended as ever and are offering high-quality programme and adventure to our young people. Our Board is getting on with the business of Scouting without much

"I'm continually humbled and proud to be a Scout when I see the hard work and steadfast commitment of our volunteers."

fuss after a tumultuous period which is a welcome outcome of 2024's challenges.

Of course, the Group remains paramount and most of my time as Chief Scout is spent visiting Groups in action up and down the country, seeing young people and adults in Scouting doing what they do best. I'm continually humbled and proud to be a Scout when I see the imaginations, hard work, and steadfast commitment that volunteers in local Scout Groups and Counties show as they give their young people the best Scouting experience possible. I want to thank you for your work; it is seen and it is valued.

Looking to 2026 and beyond there are still some hills to climb. Society knows the benefits and opportunities that scouting offers our young people, and this is reflected in the waiting lists that Scout Groups continue to wrangle with. Rising costs are affecting all levels of society, and this too has unfortunately made its way into Scouting. Technology is challenging how we do things and we're still trying to figure out where that line is. The world is also changing and Scouting values of inclusion, friendliness and bravery are needed more than ever. But thankfully we are making progress in all of these areas, and our strategy will help address some of these challenges in keeping Scouting relevant, agile and able to meet the needs of Irish young people.

I think as an organisation we should have our heads held high. September 2024 feels like a long time ago, and that's because it has been – and as I look forward to the second half of my term I am excited by all that there is to come.

Message from the Board of Directors



Aidan Magner, Chairperson

"We are planting seeds today that will grow long after we are gone."

Dear Members,
2025 has been a year of rebuilding. Rebuilding our Board. Rebuilding our staff team. And most importantly, rebuilding trust and confidence between our members and the leadership of Scouting Ireland.

If 2024 was about steadying the ship, then 2025 has been about turning a corner. Across our AGM, our Provincial Conferences and countless meetings the length and breadth of the country, I have felt a renewed sense of positivity. There is a quiet belief growing again within our Movement that we are moving forward together.

I want to sincerely thank our Board members, staff team and senior volunteers for their continued and unwavering cooperation, support and engagement in delivering for our young people.

Our membership stands at circa 38,000 members across the island of Ireland. That is not just a number — it represents thousands of young people experiencing adventure, friendship and leadership in their communities. From County and Provincial Shields to national events such as the Phoenix and Sword, as well as our contingent proudly representing Ireland at the World Scout Moot in Portugal, 2025 has been full of energy and ambition.

What has made me proudest this year is seeing our

young people step into real leadership roles. In every major activity in 2025, youth have been front and centre. They are not just the leaders of tomorrow — they are leaders today. The Chief Scout of 2050 may well be a Scout right now learning how to tie their first knot!

Our new CEO, Sean Sheehan, has quite literally hit the ground running. He has travelled north and south, meeting volunteers, young people, and staff. He has strengthened relationships with key external stakeholders and ensured that our core principle remains central — volunteer led, staff supported. The bond between volunteers and staff is strong, and that matters.

From a financial perspective we are working towards long-term financial stability. Our day-to-day operations remain robust and improve as we continue to challenge ourselves to innovate and deliver strongly for our members. However, our commitment to supporting survivors of historical abuse continues to place significant pressure on the organisation. Midway through the year, the arbitration process with our insurers concluded. This brought an end years of legal wranglings, and whilst the settlement exceeded expectations it still falls short of what is required to fully meet survivors' needs. That reality now demands careful financial planning and debt management.



I want to speak plainly here. I am angered by the actions of a small minority of individuals from many decades ago. I am humbled by the courage of survivors and I am absolutely determined that Scouting Ireland will continue to support them.

Our current safeguarding practices are more robust than ever before and are among the strongest in the sector, as evidenced by the recent affirmation from World Scouting. Scouting Ireland is now one of the first Scout Movements Worldwide to achieve World Scouting's Safe from Harm assessment, the outcome of which is testament to the work of our volunteers and staff. The protection of every young person in our care is our utmost priority. We will never apologise for holding ourselves to the highest bar.

In 2025, the Charities Regulator commenced an investigation into the historic structures of our legacy organisations. We welcome this investigation, we have fully opened our doors, engaged transparently, and will continue to cooperate completely. We have nothing to hide and everything to gain from clarity.

Scouting Ireland is one of the largest youth charities in this country. We are woven into the social and economic fabric of communities across this island. With quiet confidence, I believe we are building something that will endure for generations to come.

We are planting seeds today that will grow long after we are gone. We are building the leaders of tomorrow, today.

Message from the CEO



Seán Sheehan, CEO

“Together, we are renewing Scouting and rebuilding trust in and with the movement.”

A Year of Renewal and Moving Forward

Dear Members,

Scouting on the Island is undoubtedly better because of you, you change lives every day inspiring and developing our youth to be the best they can, to be active citizens and to play a lead role towards an inclusive, peaceful and better world.

This Annual Report for 2025, which is my privilege to introduce, evidences a movement stepping forward, stepping up and ready to further empower our youth to optimise life's opportunities.

In a world increasingly lacking purpose, values, leadership, positive mentors and role models, Scouting delivers, we step in and fill this void, you step in and fill this void!

During 2025, we delivered on many of our key priorities:

- Met our obligations to survivors, with more work still to do
- Successfully concluded Arbitration
- Maintained full compliance with our legal, financial and regulatory commitments across company and charity law

- Invested in programmes, systems, accessible materials and staff
- Invested in the MMS Database and Website
- Achieved the WOSM Safe from Harm assessment
- Turned the dial on negative press and media
- Grew membership by 7%, including new groups and new sections

We can all look forward to 2026 with renewed confidence and vigour, we have a new Strategic Plan approved for the next three years, we will continue to invest in making every day scouting easier, we will implement an 'Early Years' Pilot, develop new partnerships and continue to deliver transformative learning and development experiences for our youth.

Together we are collectively renewing Scouting and rebuilding trust in and with the movement, we are now recognised as one of the safest Scouting movements in the World.

My thanks to each and every one of you for your support and contribution in 2025.



Year of Scouting

Scouts in Numbers

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

YOUNG PEOPLE



27,881 73%

GIRLS



11,027 40%

BOYS



16,854 60%

ADULTS VOLUNTEERING



10,132 27%

FEMALE ADULT VOLUNTEERS



4,991 49%

MALE ADULT VOLUNTEERS



5,141 51%

Number of Young People by Sections



8,041 29%



9,857 35%



7,148 26%



2,500 9%

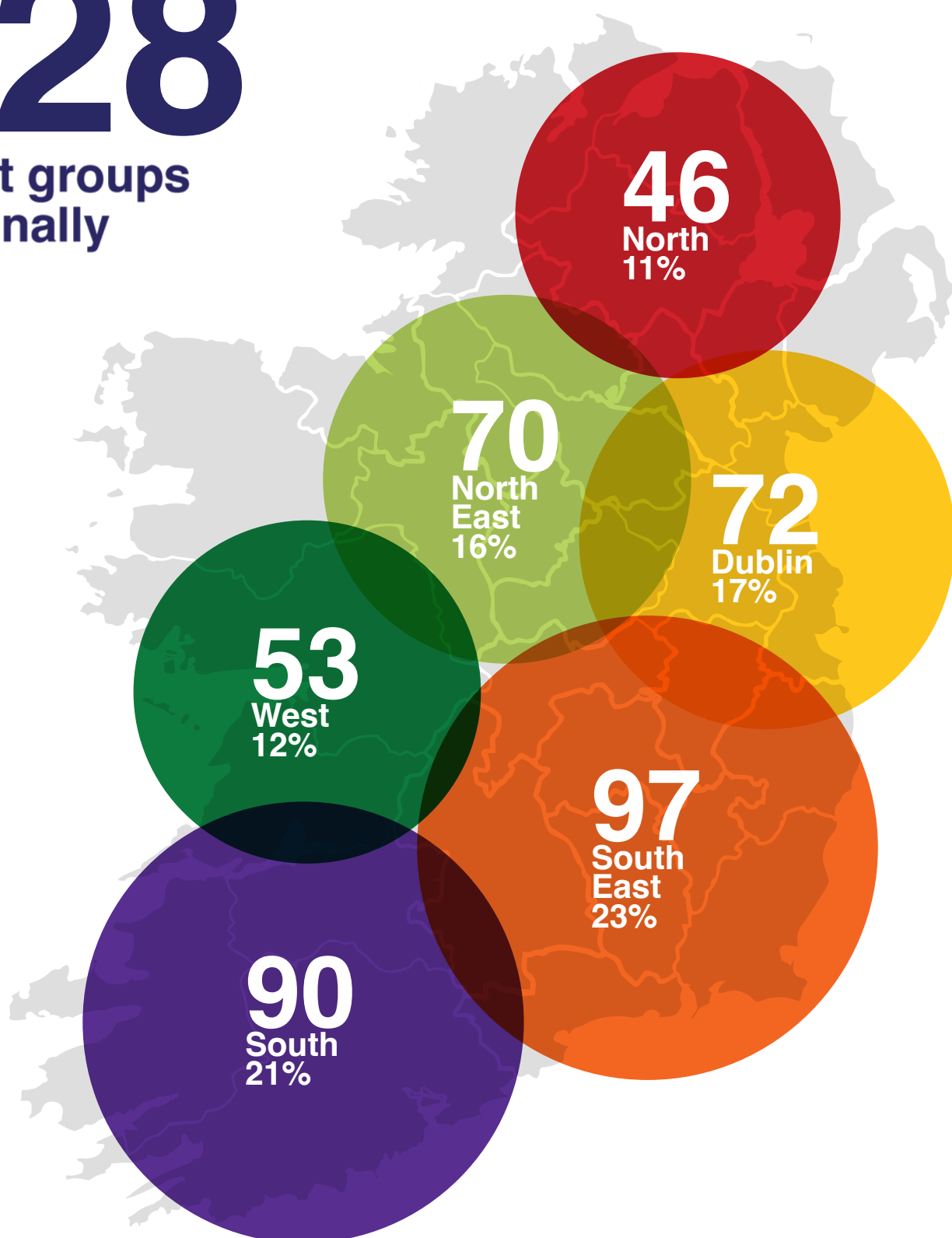


335 1%

Number of Scout Groups by Province

428

Scout groups
Nationally



Year of Scouting Programme Overview



The Programme Department was busy throughout 2024 and 2025, with work taking place on programme review, new resources, Adventure Skills and national events.

One of the largest pieces of work during the period was the development of **Scouting360**. Work began on creating a central platform for programme resources, giving Scouters easier access to activities, guidance and programme support materials. The project brought together the work of a number of Programme Teams and will continue to develop in the coming years.

The **Adventure Skills Team** launched the new Swimming Adventure Skill, with Stages 1-6 published during the year. This adds another practical skill pathway to the Adventure Skills framework and

provides young people with opportunities to develop their swimming ability and water safety knowledge.

The **Sea Scouting Team** also launched Adventures Afloat following extensive work on the resources and framework. The programme provides guidance and support for Groups delivering activities on the water and is an important step in strengthening accessibility to scouting on the water across the movement.

The **Programme Review Team** continued its work during the period and engaged with members from across Scouting Ireland. Consultations, workshops and discussions took place with youth members, Scouters and Programme Teams, giving members the opportunity to share their experiences and ideas for the future of the programme. The feedback



received will help inform the next stages of the programme development process.

National events remained a major part of the programme. From Cub Challenge and Phoenix to PEAK, Sionnach, Survivor, Venture Challenge and Venture Sword, young people from across the country had opportunities to challenge themselves, develop new skills and meet Scouts from other Counties and Provinces. Many events reported strong participation levels and continue to grow year on year.

Adventure continued to feature strongly throughout the programme. The Crean Challenge returned to Iceland while PEAK, Sionnach and the Mountain Pursuit Challenge provided challenging expedition

opportunities closer to home. A wide range of training opportunities were also organised for Scouts, including Mountain Leadership, Winter Skills, Outdoor Risk Management and Off-Site Safety Management courses. The Survivor programme continued to expand through the L.O.N.E. (Locally Organised National Event) model.

The work carried out by Programme Teams during the period would not have been possible without the commitment of volunteers across the country. Through the development of new resources, support for national events and the delivery of programme initiatives across the movement, volunteers continue to provide young people with opportunities for adventure, learning and personal development.

Year of Scouting Programme Overview

Sea Scouting



Sea Scouting had a really strong and busy year in 2024/2025, with a wide mix of events, training, and new programme developments. Across the year, hundreds of young people got out on the water, built skills, and took part in everything from competitions to large national camps. There's a clear sense that the programme is growing, with more opportunities available and more groups getting involved than before.

A number of standout events helped define the year. Splashdown 2025 in Lough Dan brought together large numbers for a well-run and energetic camp weekend, with Odin's Challenge as the centrepiece competition. This tested a wide range of practical skills, including navigation, ropework, first aid, and boat building. The Master Mariner Competition, held at the headquarters of Irish Lights, continued to be the highest level of individual seamanship competition. It also marked an important milestone, with female participants winning both the Venture and Rover categories for the first time in the competition's 30-year history. This was a significant moment for representation within the programme.

The Sailing and Rowing Regattas also drew record numbers, showing just how much interest there is in competitive Sea Scouting. These events continue to carry strong traditions, such as the Wood-Latimer Cup, first raced in 1914 and recognised as the oldest

Scouting competition in the world, and the Fry Cup, which dates back to 1918. The annual Swimming Gala also remains a key part of the calendar, offering an inclusive event where members of all sections can take part across different swimming and lifesaving disciplines.

There was also clear evidence of adaptability throughout the year. The planned Liffey Descent had to be relocated due to low water levels, but the move to the River Boyne ensured the event still went ahead successfully. This flexibility is a strong reflection of how Sea Scouting continues to operate, making the most of available opportunities while keeping safety at the centre. Tall ship voyages were another major highlight, with around 100 young people taking part in week-long trips through Sail Training Ireland. These voyages offer a unique experience of teamwork, responsibility, and life at sea, and remain one of the most memorable opportunities available within the programme.

Alongside events, a lot of work went into strengthening the programme itself. Leadership Afloat, the internal certification system for supervising activities on the water, is now fully available online. This gives leaders a clear and structured pathway from foundation level up to assessor level, with all resources, logbooks, and guidance in one place. It's an important step in



making training more consistent and easier to access nationwide.

A new Swimming Adventure Skill was also introduced during the year, recognising that water safety is something every Scout should have access to, regardless of whether they regularly take part in boating. This addition strengthens the overall programme by ensuring essential lifesaving skills are part of the core experience. At the same time, the SAILS framework continues to expand, helping more groups - especially those without a strong maritime background - get involved in water-based activities for the first time.

To support this growth, over 300 pages of “Adventures Afloat” resources were developed and made available, alongside workshops and webinars for leaders. These resources are designed to make it easier for groups to run activities safely and confidently, and they’ve already been widely used across the country. Together, these developments show a strong focus on not just running events, but also giving leaders the tools they need to deliver quality programmes locally.

One of the biggest moments of the year was the On The Water Conference in Galway. This brought together leaders, volunteers, and key organisations such as the RNLI, Water Safety Ireland, Irish Sailing,

Canoeing Ireland, the Marine Institute, Sail Training Ireland, and the Irish Naval Service. The attendance of the Minister for the Marine highlighted the growing recognition of Sea Scouting’s role in youth development and maritime education. The event combined presentations, discussions, and hands-on activities, giving participants a chance to both learn and practise skills.

Partnerships are clearly a big part of the future direction. Work is underway on a formal agreement with Irish Sailing, which will help align qualifications and strengthen links between local sailing clubs and Scout groups. A deeper partnership with Sail Training Ireland is also being developed, with the aim of expanding access to tall ship voyages. In addition, the Killaloe National Water Activities Centre has been identified as an important resource that could support further growth in the programme once fully activated.

Overall, the year shows Sea Scouting in a very strong position. There’s a good balance between maintaining long-standing traditions and introducing new ideas, with a clear focus on safety, accessibility, and progression. With strong partnerships, growing participation, and continued investment in training and resources, the programme is well set up to keep expanding and offering meaningful experiences to even more young people in the years ahead.

Year of Scouting

National Events

National Events	Beavers	Cubs	Scouts	Ventures	Rovers	Scouters	Total
2025 Crean Challenge			32			14	46
2025 Burren Sionnach			58	24		20	102
2025 Galtees Sionnach			41	13		13	67
2025 Mountain Havoc Connaught				50		36	86
2025 Mountain Havoc Munster				50		70	120
2025 Mountain Havoc GB (Scotland)				17		27	44
2025 MPC Connacht Autumn			192			98	290
2025 MPC Leinster (Autumn)			92			43	135
2025 MPC Munster			92			43	135
2025 MPC Ulster			92			43	135
2025 National Cub Challenge		287				178	465
2025 National Mountain Moot						50	50
2025 Alpine Moot						30	30
2025 Phoenix Challenge			704	50		242	996
2025 Beaver Survivor Challenge - Survive the Lost Island	618					123	741
2025 Venture Challenge				40		14	54
2025 Bivvy and BBQ				55		10	65
2025 National Venture Sword				129		40	169
2025 Venture Ball				360			360
2025 Scouting Ireland Explorer Belt					24	12	36
2025 Cub Survivor Challenge		436				62	498
2025 Scout Survivor Challenge			216			64	280
2025 Eryri International Mountain Moot						62	62
2025 Patrols in Action			18	11	4	14	47
2025 Venture Survivor Challenge				40		10	50
2025 PEAK			4	20		3	27
2025 Rover Survivor			1		6	4	11

Year of Scouting

National Events



Venture Challenge

We had 20 teams take part in the event with ventures coming from North-East, Dublin, South-East and South. This was the largest number of teams registered in a number in years, so this increase has shown a great need and want for the event. Our training weekend took place in Curraghchase in Limerick with a lot of learning opportunities for all across the weekend. Our expedition took place in the East of Ireland ending up in Castle Saunderson, Co. Cavan. Over the 10 days, the ventures took in some amazing scenery and spoke with the local people across counties Meath, Kildare, Roscommon, Monaghan, Louth and Cavan. The ventures enjoyed a thoroughly enjoyed a jam-packed basecamp with amazing activities and even a trip to the spa when the staff put together a relaxing afternoon with footbaths, face masks, bubbles and more. The ventures had an amazing time getting to not only see new places and meet the local people along the way, they had the opportunity to meet new ventures from around Ireland and develop on their skills as they took part in this adventure of a lifetime.



Cub Challenge

National Cub Challenge is an event where Cub Scouts from all over the island gather to take part in a weekend of adventure, skill-building, and teamwork. National Cub Challenge 2025 took place in Kilcully Scout Centre, Cork, built around the Arctic Explorers theme, with igloos, polar bears and snowshoes appearing across the campsite. Cubs spent the weekend moving around different challenges, putting their teamwork, campcraft and skills into practice, as well as preparing their own test meals and building out their sites, with 14th Clare Sixmilebridge finishing as the overall winners. There was plenty happening throughout the day, with teams meeting each other, swapping badges and making new friends along the way using their Cub Challenge Passports. There was even a surprise visit from some penguins - who had clearly taken a wrong turn from the Antarctic!

Year of Scouting

National Events



Sionnachs

The Sionnach Adventure is a national hillwalking event running two or three times a year, usually in September and October. Patrols from all over the island gathered for a two-night hiking adventure focusing on navigating, endurance, learning and having fun along the way! In 2024, there were two Sionnachs, one in the Mourne and one in the Knockmealdowns. 20 patrols for each event challenged themselves with the terrain, full packs, navigation skills and putting into practice all the theory. Sionnachs create shared memories lasting a lifetime, showing off the beauty in Ireland.

PEAK

PEAK a Patrol Expedition Adventure Kamp is a weeklong event for scouts and ventures to put their skills to test! It is an intensive training and adventure camp held in the heart of Donegal at Gartan Adventure Centre. It is designed to empower scouts and ventures to lead their own expeditions and increase their confidence on the hills. The week begins with a period of skill buildings in teamwork, self-resiliency, navigation and more before in patrols they embark on their own expedition in the Glenveagh National Park putting their new skills to the test!



MPC

The Mountain Pursuit Challenge (MPC) ran six events between September 2024 and December 2025 across the four provinces, with strong participation throughout. Designed for Scouts, each event is based on patrols of four Scouts and one Scouter, with numbers typically reaching around 25 patrols per event - equating to approximately 100 Scouts taking part each time. Over the course of a fully self-sufficient weekend, patrols navigate mountainous terrain by both day and night, travelling between campsites and checkpoints while carrying all required equipment. The MPC provides an opportunity for Scouts to develop and apply skills such as map reading, compass work, teamwork and lightweight camping, while also building confidence, independence and an appreciation for the natural environment.

Crean Challenge

The Crean Challenge Expedition 2025 kicked off on February 14th with 32 Irish scouts and 12 scouters safely arriving at the Úlfjótuvatn Scout Centre in Iceland. Despite minimal snow, the Aurora Borealis made a brief appearance, setting the stage for an unforgettable adventure. The Irish scouts tackled Icelandic hiking conditions, learned new skills, and participated in cultural exchanges with Icelandic

Year of Scouting

National Events



The Phoenix Challenge

2025 marked 20 years of the Phoenix Challenge, and we marked the occasion with the theme of '20in25', a celebration of The Phoenix Challenge over the last 20 years, in Sallesian's College Pallaskenry. This included programme based off some of the bases over the last 20 years, a focus on celebration within logs and the site, a birthday bash on the Saturday night and the creation of a time capsule, along with a specially created badge to mark the occasion. We also had a visit from local and national media including a TV spot on Virgin Media News and slots

on local limerick radio/social media, showcasing what the event and scouting is all about. Patrols tackled challenges which focused on teamwork, leadership and challenge. Bases included building bridges, whittling, penny stoves and súgán chairs, and mini teamwork games. On the Scoutcraft side, the challenges continued with an increased gadget amount in campcraft, mystery meals during cooking and eating and a new poster based logbook format. With over 80 patrols and excellent weather, the event was a huge success, and we're looking forward to 2026.

Year of Scouting

National Events



Scouts. With temperatures dropping to -6°C , they embraced the challenge, even enduring wet and muddy conditions during the 15 km expedition on Day 6. Though the route had to be altered due to impassable terrain, the scouts showed great resilience. The event wrapped up on February 22nd with the presentation of the Crean Challenge Expedition 2025 awards in Reykjavik. Special thanks to Chief Scouts Harpa Ósk Valgeirsdóttir, from the Icelandic Scout Association, and Eoin Callanan for attending the ceremony. The Irish scouts returned home with lasting memories and new friendships.

Hillwalking Events

All hillwalking events throughout the year were open calls, ensuring every Scouter had the opportunity to take part, develop their skills, and challenge themselves if they wished. Each event stood as a distinct learning experience. This began with the Moot Expedition in October 2024 in the Lake District (50 Scouts), focused on preparing leaders to bring Scouts and Ventures to this environment. This was followed by the National Moot in Achill Island in November 2024 (50 Scouts), a separate gathering of Scouters aiming to improve their hillwalking and wild camping skills. In January 2025, 11 Scouters attended an Outdoor Risk Management course in Plas y Brenin, Wales, building competence in identifying hazards and operating safely in remote terrain. Later, in May 2025, 16 Scouters completed the Royal Geographical Society Off-Site Safety Management course in Dollymount, focusing on

safety planning for trips both in Ireland and abroad.

Further opportunities continued throughout the year. In June 2025, the Moot 4000+ expedition in Saas-Fee, Switzerland (29 Scouters and 2 Rovers) provided specialised alpine training. October 2025 saw a separate Moot Expedition in Eryri National Park (50 Scouters), again focused on leading groups in a different environment. This was followed by the National Moot in Ireland in November 2025 (50 Scouters), another independent event aimed at developing hillwalking skills. Also in November, 14 Scouters took part in a dedicated Mountain Leadership course centred on group control and positioning. The team also held a Winter Skills course in December 2025 at Glenmore Lodge, Scotland (10 Scouters and 1 Rover), equipping participants with the techniques needed to progress from hillwalking into mountaineering.

Venture Ball

The annual Venture Ball returned on 1 February 2025 and proved to be the biggest and most successful event in its history. With a magical Yule Ball theme, the evening welcomed 360 Venture Scouts and 30 adult volunteers for a night of celebration, friendship, and fun. The event began with introductions and welcomes before guests enjoyed a three-course meal, followed by a best-dressed parade that showcased the creativity and effort put into the theme by participants.

Year of Scouting

National Events



The evening concluded with music, dancing, and a lively atmosphere that kept the dance floor full until the end of the night. The continued growth of the event highlights its popularity among Venture Scouts, providing a unique opportunity for members from across the country to come together in a social setting. The record attendance this year has been so significant that planning is already underway to find a larger venue for the future.

Bivvy & BBQ

Bivvy and BBQ returned to Curraghchase Campsite in Limerick in April 2025, with the venue once again proving to be an ideal location for this outdoor skills-focused weekend. A total of 41 Venture Scouts and 14 adults attended, enjoying a programme designed to develop practical bushcraft and camping skills in a fun and engaging environment.

Throughout the weekend, participants learned essential outdoor skills including knife safety, cooking over open fires, building natural shelters, and traditional trapping techniques. Alongside the training sessions, the Ventures took part in an intensely competitive game of frisbee and had plenty of opportunities to socialise and work together. The event concluded with a BBQ and campfire, providing the perfect setting for participants to relax, reflect on the weekend, and strengthen friendships made through Scouting.

Venture Sword

The National Venture Sword 2025 took place in Lough Dan from the 22nd to 24th August 2025 and has continued the growth in numbers in recent years. 18 crews from groups all across Ireland took part in the Sword showcasing their fantastic scouting skills in areas including pioneering, raft building, emergencies, cooking and campfire skits. For many ventures who have grown up competing at the National Cub Challenge, Phoenix and County Shields this is an opportunity to continue with the experience of a scoutcraft competition in a relaxed atmosphere where mixing, having fun and learning new skills is the main element of the weekend.

It was great to see the level of mixed crews that took part with ventures coming together with friends they have made around the country at different scouting events over the years. This is a unique feature of the National Venture Sword as we recognise that by the time youth members get to Ventures they have likely acquired a large network of friends the length and breadth of the country and so can form their own teams which mix geographic location, backgrounds and interests and allows the ventures to take a far greater ownership of their teams. We also received quite a number of visitors over the weekend from around Ireland who had heard of the event and were interested in finding out more with the hope of entering a team in 2026. The feedback from them was very positive and we are looking forward to growing the event again in 2026.

Year of Scouting

National Events



Survivor

From September 2024 to December 2025, the Survivor programme continued to grow and offer adventurous experiences across a number of Scout sections. Alongside the traditional Scout and Venture Survivor Challenges, the introduction of L.O.N.E. (Locally Organised National Events) allowed Beaver and Cub Scout Groups to run Survivor events in their own local areas using nationally developed programme packs, resources, badges, and event materials. Venture Survivor 2025 took participants to the unique setting of Spike Island in Co. Cork, while the Scout Survivor Challenge returned to Castleconnell Campsite, providing challenging and

rewarding outdoor experiences. The Cub Survivor Challenge gave Groups the option of beginner and advanced programmes through the Kappa and Zeta subcamps, where Cubs developed skills in navigation, fire-lighting, shelter building, teamwork, and campcraft through a range of practical activities and challenges. Across all sections, Survivor remained focused on adventure, problem-solving, resilience, and teamwork, giving young people opportunities to challenge themselves, build confidence, and create lasting memories, while also making the programme more accessible than ever through locally delivered events.

Year of Scouting National Events



Chief Scout Award Ceremony

Over 100 Scouts, Venturers and Rovers achieved their Chief Scout Awards this year, with over 80 awardees attending the ceremony at DCU Drumcondra Campus to receive their awards.

Young people from across the country were recognised for their dedication, leadership and service to their communities. Their projects included environmental work, community support, fundraising, mentoring and wellbeing initiatives. The ceremony also celebrated the many young people who achieved CSA/Gaisce and CSA/Duke of

Edinburgh's Award dual awards, recognising their achievements across the different programmes.

The CSA Support Team would like to thank our invited guests for joining us, including Avril Ryan, CEO of Gaisce; Kate Thompson, Director of the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Northern Ireland; Amanda O'Sullivan, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Girl Guides; and Julie Donnelly, Chief Commissioner of the Catholic Guides of Ireland.

Congratulations to all the awardees on their achievements.

Year of Scouting International



2025 was a busy year for Scouting Ireland internationally.

Group Activities

There were 254 camp applications approved, with more than 3,300 members contributing to a total of over 25,000 international nights away with their Scout groups.

Popular destinations included the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, Poland.

Scouting Ireland's most visited campsites included Kandersteg International Scout Centre (Switzerland), Waddecarr Scout Activity Centre and Gilwell Park (England), Venture Centre (Isle of Man), Anglesey Outdoors (Wales), Jersey Scout Centre (Jersey) and Scoutcentrum Rotterdam (Netherlands).

Two highly attended international events were Lockerbie 2025 Summer Camp, which was organised by the Northern Province at the Manor Adventure Centre in Scotland, and Kent International Jamboree.

International National Activities

A number of Scouting Ireland's national events and activities afforded members international experiences. The Crean Challenge brought Scouts to Iceland in February, the Hillwalking Adventure Skills Team organised an expedition to the Swiss Alps in June, Rovers traversed across Hungary and Slovakia for the Explorer Belt in July, and the International Mountain Moot saw Scouters hiking and camping in Eryri National Park, Wales in October.

Jamboree on the Air & Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA-JOTI)

JOTA-JOTI took place over the weekend of 17-19 October. JOTA-JOTI is the world's largest digital and radio Scout event, and the only annual World Scouting event. It allows more than two million Scouts from over 170 countries to connect every year. 1,600+ members of Scouting Ireland registered on the official JOTA-JOTI platform in 2025, with some participating at home and others joining groups for planned events with their scout groups or scout counties. As always, the Radio Scouting team played a vital role in supporting groups across the country to get on the airwaves, sharing their enthusiasm, equipment, skills and expertise to give more young people than ever the opportunity to engage with other scouts around the world.



World Scout Moot

Scouting Ireland participated in the 16th World Scout Moot in Portugal in July/August 2025. Alice Spencer led the 20-person contingent, which comprised of 2 Contingent Management Team members, 3 International Service Team (IST), and 15 Rover participants aged between 18 and 25 at the time of the event. This contingent was supported by non-travelling CMT members, Eoghan Byrne, Steven Cull, and Steven Maclean. The Moot began in Lisbon, bringing everyone together for an opening

ceremony by the sea. Following this, participants were divided into their paths and went to experience different parts of Portugal. Everyone came back together for Main Camp in Cortegaça (Ovar). The Scouting Ireland contingent held a short post-camp in Lisbon before travelling home. It was a positive and memorable experience for everyone involved, with participants experiencing great opportunities to develop international friendships, engage in cultural exchange and personal development, and engage with the wider Scouting community.

Year of Scouting International



European Scout Region Governance Events

2025 marked the end of a three-year cycle in the European Scout Region, and the beginning of the new one. The European Scout Region's Symposium took place in Sweden in March, bringing together representatives from around Europe to discuss the priorities of member organisations and begin work drafting the new Regional Scout Plan. This was attended by Máire Fitzgerald, International Commissioner.

Two preparatory weekends were held with the delegation for the European Scout Conference, one in Larch Hill and a second in Gilwell Park in London, which was completed jointly with the delegation from The Scout Association in the UK.

The European Scout Conference took place in Vienna, Austria, in July. Over four days, our delegation joined Scouts and Guides from all across Europe to shape the future of Scouting in our Region. Scouting Ireland's delegation consisted of six delegates, Máire Fitzgerald (International Commissioner and Head of Delegation), Steven Cull, Alice Spencer, Rúairí Hamaltún, Aidan Magner (Member of Board of Directors) and Seán Sheehan (CEO). Mary Nugent, another member of Scouting Ireland, was also in attendance in her capacity as a member of the World Scout Bureau. Key outcomes

from the Conference included the adoption of the Regional Scout Plan for 2025-2028, approval of important resolutions (motions) on youth leadership, sustainability, and peace education, and election of the new European Scout Committee.

Scouting Ireland Volunteers

Scouting Ireland has a strong tradition of Rovers and adult volunteers supporting various international projects, and 2025 was no different. A number of Scouting Ireland volunteers joined Kandersteg International Scout Centre's volunteers (known as Pinkies); Anna, Alex, Aoife, Elliott, Jack, Jack F, Gráinne, Jodi, Saoirse, Saige and Shauna. Lydia Keating (former Pinkie) who works for KISC was promoted from her role in Senior Leadership Team Administration Support to Staff Development Director.

A small number of Scouters and Rovers participated in a range of other events, including KISC's International Rover Week (Switzerland), IMWe (Germany), Agora (Albania), the Norwegian Jamboree (Norway), Gilwell Reunion (England), the Scout and Guide Academy (Greece), IMWester (Germany).

Thank you to all of the Scouters who continue to go above and beyond to support our youth members to experience the rich depths of international scouting.

Operations



The reporting period has been a successful year for Scouting Ireland's Operations function, with continued progress across GDPR, National Scout Centres, events, health and safety, risk management and communications. This work has strengthened governance, improved systems and supported the safe and effective delivery of Scouting across Ireland.

GDPR & Data Protection

Scouting Ireland has maintained strong compliance with GDPR and data protection legislation. Data breaches have been appropriately managed and reported within required timeframes, while Data Protection Policies, Processes and Procedures have been reviewed and updated. Training has continued for professional staff, including certified development for the Data Protection Officer, with ongoing advice and support provided to Scout Groups, volunteers and members.

Risk Management & Safety

Risk management remained a key priority across Scouting Ireland. Risk assessment and mitigation have been strengthened across local activities, National Scout Centres and major events, with risk responsibilities embedded within event teams.

This has contributed to a reduced injury profile and greater awareness of safety across the organisation. Volunteer event personnel have also received training, supported by continued engagement with insurers and relevant national bodies.

Communications

Work continued to strengthen Scouting Ireland's communications foundations and public visibility, with a focus on promoting the impact of Scouting in communities across Ireland.

The restructuring of scouts.ie commenced, alongside work to address limitations with the current Issuu-based document platform and improve how information and resources are published and accessed online. Dedicated websites for the National Scout Centres started being developed, with communications supporting teams and the wider organisation with internal and external communications and their distribution.

Overall, this work provided a stronger foundation for the continued development of Scouting Ireland and supported the organisation in delivering safe, positive and rewarding Scouting experiences for young people and volunteers across Ireland.

Operations Events



Cruinniú

Cruinniú 2025 took place from 12–14 September 2025 at Larch Hill and marked the third year of Scouting Ireland’s national gathering. The weekend brought together Scouts, Venture Scouts, Rover Scouts, Adult Members, volunteers, staff and national support teams from across the country.

Over 400 people attended the event, which provided an opportunity for members to meet, share experiences and take part in discussions about the future of Scouting Ireland. The programme included the National Conference, Group Leader and County Commissioner Conference, Annual General Meeting, National Youth Forum, workshops and discussion sessions.

A wide range of topics were covered throughout the weekend, including safeguarding, programme and training reviews, neurodiversity and inclusion, safety, structural review, national events, Scouting Ireland’s strategy and youth programme development. The information village also gave members the opportunity to speak directly with national teams, support services, external organisations and project groups.

Cruinniú 2025 provided a valuable opportunity for members from across Scouting Ireland to come together, contribute to important discussions and connect with the wider Scouting community.

National Scout Centres



The period from September 2024 to December 2025 marked a year of renewal, growth, and investment across Scouting Ireland's National Scout Centres. With the humanitarian accommodation programme concluded, our focus returned fully to delivering quality outdoor adventure experiences, expanding programmes, and investing in our facilities.

Significant progress was made across the centres through new initiatives, infrastructure improvements, and enhanced services for members and the wider community. These developments have strengthened our centres, enhanced the overall visitor experience, and positioned the National Scout Centres for continued growth while remaining committed to providing safe, inclusive, and memorable outdoor adventures.

Castle Saunderson successfully rebuilt its customer base following its reopening, with organisations including Cavan Fire Brigade and Cavan Civil Defence, who now regularly utilise the centre for specialist training, demonstrating the growing confidence of community partners in our facilities.

At Killaloe, essential health and safety works were required across the site, which delayed the full reopening until 2026 as planned upgrades were prioritised to ensure the centre meets the highest safety standards for future use. During this period, the centre was still able to accommodate a small number of limited bookings where appropriate, allowing some continued use of the facility while works were ongoing.

Following a detailed review of required works and associated costs, it was concluded that the investment required to restore Mount Melleray was not sustainable. As a result, Scouting Ireland returned the site to the Abbot and Cistercian Community, bringing to a close a valued partnership spanning nearly five decades.

Across all centres, dedicated staff and volunteers continued to play a vital role in delivering programmes, maintaining facilities, and creating welcoming environments for Scouts, schools, community groups, and visitors.

Key Achievements and Developments

Sports Capital Funding Secured

The National Scout Centres were awarded €56,000 under the Sports Capital Grant Programme, enabling further investment in adventure equipment and expanding the range of activities available across our centres.

Introduction of In-House Catering at Larch Hill

A new in-house catering service was launched at Larch Hill, significantly enhancing the visitor experience while providing greater flexibility and efficiency for residential groups, events, and training courses.

Launch of Larch Hill Adventure Camp

During July 2025, Larch Hill hosted its first dedicated Adventure Camp, welcoming over 100 children, including both Scouting Ireland members and non-members. This camp was a tremendous success, introducing many young people to Scouting through a fun, engaging, and activity-filled summer experience.

New Climbing Wall at Castle Saunderson

A state-of-the-art climbing wall was installed at Castle Saunderson, supported through previous Sports Capital Grant funding. This exciting addition significantly enhances the centre's adventure offering and provides participants with a modern, high-quality climbing experience.

International Volunteer Programme

A new International Volunteer Programme was introduced at Larch Hill, welcoming both short-term and long-term international volunteers from across Europe. Their involvement in day-to-day operations, programme delivery, and site maintenance has been invaluable, while also supporting cultural exchange and strengthening international Scouting links.

NSC Events

Our annual programme of events continued to grow, including the popular Annual Tree Planting Event at Lough Dan, an Easter Event at Larch Hill, and the newly introduced Halloween Event at Lough Dan. Across the centres, both new and returning events have been reintroduced and are proving highly popular with members.

The continued progress during this reporting period reflects the dedication of our staff and volunteers alongside targeted investment and strong community partnerships. The National Scout Centres have further strengthened their role as leading destinations for Scouting, outdoor education, and adventure, delivering experiences that inspire young people and support the growth of Scouting across Ireland.

Percentage Type of Business for Each Centre

	Larch Hill	Lough Dan	Castle Saunderson	Killaloe
Scouting Ireland	62.4%	53.3%	41.4%	85.0%
International Groups	6.3%	2.7%	0.0%	-
IGG/CGI	6.8%	0.7%	0.0%	-
Youth Groups/Schools/NFP's	13.4%	17.0%	35.8%	15.0%
External Companies	11.1%	26.4%	22.8%	-



Volunteer & Group Support



The Volunteer & Group Support (VGS) Department continued to play a central role in supporting Scouting Ireland during 2025/25, focusing on training, heritage, awards, and provincial development.

Oíche na nÓige – Youth Night 2025

Scout Groups across the country opened their doors to the public. It was a great event, with many groups welcoming visitors to their halls and dens. Visitors were introduced to the programme being delivered by the groups and had an opportunity to meet the leaders and learn more about recruitment and retention. We are already looking forward to Youth Night in November 2026.

Charity Registration Roadshows

Several roadshows on Charity Registration were held to consult with and inform the membership about the responsibility of Scout Groups to register as charities. These events were well received and well attended by Group Leaders and Scouters from throughout the country. The roadshows were facilitated by the Volunteer and Group Support Department Manager, Neil Collins, and led by CEO Sean Sheehan. Events were held in Dublin, Cork, Kildare, Dunboyne, Longford, Cookstown and Limerick.

The registration of groups continues in the Republic of Ireland, with groups in Northern Ireland already having completed the registration process.

Volunteer & Group Support



National Training Team

The Training Department, operating within the Volunteer and Group Support Department, continued to strengthen Scouting Ireland by delivering high-quality learning and development opportunities that support volunteers in providing safe, inclusive and engaging Scouting experiences.

During 2025, the department delivered more than 200 training courses, supporting over 6,000 participants across a broad range of learning opportunities. Online learning continued to expand, with 2,198 volunteers completing On My Honour and 196 completing the *Story of Scouting Experience*.

Significant milestones included the successful delivery of the National Trainer Conference and National Training Seminar, as well as the continued work of the Training Review Team, including the introduction of the Story of Scouting Experience. The department also invested in the development of ScoutTraining.ie, implemented Articulate to enhance eLearning, improved Wood Badge administration, and strengthened quality assurance through new Standard Operating Procedures and closer collaboration with the Programme and Safeguarding teams.

Training remained focused on improving the volunteer experience by expanding access to

online learning, supporting a 12-week induction pathway for new volunteers, reviewing leadership development programmes, and enhancing support for Groups, Counties and Provinces through Provincial Training Coordinators.

While the department continued to grow and innovate, challenges remain around administrative capacity, the availability of volunteer trainers, increasing demand, and further digital system development.

Looking ahead, the work undertaken during 2025 provides a strong foundation for the implementation of the new Training Strategy, centred on five priorities:

- Developing Excellent Trainers
- Training that Meets the Needs of Scouters
- Strengthening Programme Delivery
- Building Sustainable Training Infrastructure
- Embedding Continuous Analysis and Improvement

The National Training Team extends its sincere appreciation to all Trainers, Provincial Training Coordinators, Project Teams, Subject Matter Experts, the Training & Development Officer, the Training Administrator, and colleagues across Volunteer and Group Support, whose commitment made these achievements possible.

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 over 350 archive boxes), the team is now re-organising materials by theme, e.g. Irish Jamborees, World Scout Jamborees, Melvins etc. This phase is expected to take a further 6 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. A hearty congratulations to the 1st Dublin (Fairview) and the 1st Wicklow (2nd Dublin) (Greystones) on reaching their Centenaries in 2025 and 2026 respectively. The Team has plans for the placing of building of a small Heritage Centre in Larch Hill. We will be seeking the support of Scout Groups and individuals in this regard.

Awards Team

Merit and Honour Awards: The Awards Team met on four dates (October 2024, February 2025, May 2025 and September 2025) to review submissions from Groups, Counties and Provinces for Merit and Honour Awards. Many Scouters and Adult Supporters were recognised for their contribution to Scouting.

Cú Chulainn Awards: This award was presented to three Scouters during this period.

Service Awards: Service Awards are issued weekly to Groups. During this period, over 1,000 Service Awards were awarded to Scouters and Adult Supporters.

In January 2026, service pins for 10-, 15-, 20-, 25- and 30-year service will revert to pins. Cloth badges will remain for 2-year and 5-year Service Awards. The 40-year and 50-year pins will remain unchanged.

In late March 2025, a new Awards Team was appointed, along with a new Team Lead. The team now consists of eight members, representing all Provinces except the Northern Province.

The team attended Cruinniú in September and also attended Provincial Conferences where possible.

Volunteer & Group Support



Neurodiverse Team

The Neurodiverse Team continued to provide direct support in response to queries and worked alongside the Safeguarding team where required during this period.

A key focus was the development of the team's workshop into a full 3-hour format, with the aim of having it approved as Learning For Your Team. Approval is currently outstanding, reflecting the continued demand for this area of learning among participants. The team also expanded its group of workshop facilitators to increase geographical reach and successfully trialled an online workshop format to support wider national coverage.

The workshop provides practical guidance to support inclusion and becoming Scouting For All. It is unique in that it focuses not on explaining

neurodiverse members, but on supporting Scouters to create more inclusive environments for all

There is increasing recognition of the important role Scouting can play as an inclusive activity for neurodiverse young people. With greater awareness of neurodiversity across society and increased expectations from families, Scouting has an opportunity to continue developing inclusive practices that benefit both young people and adult members.

The team recognises the importance of supporting adult Scouters, who are volunteers and not specialists in this area. Through continued development of resources, workshops and support, the team aims to help Scouters build confidence and capability in supporting neurodiverse members across Scouting.

Volunteer & Group Support



Provinces

South East Province

The year started strongly, with Scouters attending Cruinniú, the AGM and again in September 2025. The Provincial Conference, held in Whites of Wexford in March 2025, was a great success with over 150 delegates attending. The Conference featured a wide variety of breakout sessions and a Marketplace, providing a valuable networking opportunity.

Awards & Recognition: Four Beads were presented to Paddy Lynch and Kevin Murphy for their commitment to Training, while Three Beads were presented to Dermot Moore. Alan Murphy of the 8th Waterford Tramore was also presented with his Cú Chulainn Award.

System of Quality Scouting (SQS): The annual SQS was held in the Dolmen Hotel in both 2024 and 2025, with the introduction of a new “Exceptional” category in 2025 for groups who went beyond the Excellent category. This provided an opportunity for the Provincial Team to work with County Commissioners and identify supports for groups across the province.

Youth Programme: Youth Reps coordinated and ran events including Spraoi, Spraoi Óige, Venture Craic and the Youth Forum. Over 500 youth members

attended Spraoi in Woodlock House, with over 200 Beavers and Cubs attending Spraoi Óige.

The Youth Superstars Awards continued, recognising youth members in the categories of Peer Mentor, Scouting Spirit and Community Ambassadors. These awards highlight youth members who embody the values of Scouting.

Group Development: In 2025, Ballymore Eustace opened, and Monasterevin and Tuskar Sea Scouts reopened. The province also opened 20th Wicklow Bray, while unfortunately closing Baltinglass and Oulart. New group-specific Being a Scouter courses were also delivered.

Adult Training: Adult training remained a key priority, with 794 Scouters attending courses across the province. This included Being a Scouter (278), Overnights (96), Learning for Your Team (158), and other Wood Badge journey courses (262). During the period, 30 Scouters received their Wood Badge Beads.

The South East Provincial Team continues to go from strength to strength, with continued focus on youth leadership, programme innovation and supporting Scouting across the province.

Volunteer & Group Support



North Eastern Province

The North East Province (NEP) had an exceptionally active and successful year, marked by growth, leadership development, and continued investment in programme delivery.

The year began with the Provincial Conference in the Knightsbrook Hotel, bringing together Scouters from across the province. The conference also marked the launch of Camp North East 2025, with Group Leaders taking part in workshops and Q&A sessions, providing opportunities for networking, collaboration, and leadership development.

A significant milestone was the election of a new Provincial Commissioner (PC), Gail FitzGerald. The province also welcomed new County Commissioners: Shane Richardson (Fingal), William Oldwin (Reachra), Gerry Finnegan (Louth) and Deirdre O'Brien McGivney (Lakelands), strengthening leadership across the province.

The province celebrated continued growth with the opening of new Scout Groups:

4th Westmeath – Moate

4th Cavan – Bailieborough

1st/10th Westmeath – Mullingar

2nd Louth – Blackrock

201st Dublin – Holywell, Swords

New Venture Scout sections also opened, providing more young people with the opportunity to continue their Scouting journey.

Programme support remained a significant focus throughout the year, led by Provincial Youth

Programme Rep, Pauline Lucas. Programme workshops were delivered across all sections, offering practical guidance, sharing best practice, and supporting Scouters in delivering engaging, youth-led programmes. Sixer/Seconder and Patrol Leader/Assistant Patrol Leader training was rolled out across the province, strengthening youth leadership.

Training continued to be a key priority under Provincial Training Coordinator (PTC) Stephen Halpin. A total of 1,916 training attendances were recorded across a wide range of courses, with Safeguarding Training continuing to have the highest participation. Strong engagement was also seen in Being a Scouter, Learning for Your Team, Adventure Skills Facilitator and Overnights Training.

Recognising the commitment of volunteers remained an important part of the year's celebrations. More than 150 adult volunteers received Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards, together with Long Service Awards. Special congratulations to Gerry Finnegan and Fintan Sheridan, who were presented with the Order of Cú Chulainn, Scouting Ireland's highest adult award.

The achievements of the past year reflect the dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment of volunteers across the North East Province. Through strong leadership, continued investment in training, support for programme delivery, growth of new Scout Groups and Sections, and recognition of outstanding service, the province continues to provide young people with safe, inclusive, and adventurous Scouting experiences.

Volunteer & Group Support



Western Province

The Western Province, comprising 58 Scout Groups and 3,879 members across five Scout Counties (Clare, Lough Keel, Galway, Mayo, and Yeats), delivered an exciting and vibrant programme in 2024/2025.

The voice of youth members was central to the year, with Provincial Youth Forums electing Provincial Youth Representatives across the Scout, Venture and Rover sections. These representatives collaborated with the Provincial Youth Programme Representative to ensure youth voices remained at the heart of programme delivery.

The Western Province held several events during the year, including Tir na nÓg, Dúshlán, Venture Ball and multiple youth leadership activities. Programme

delivery was supported by County Programme Coordinators, the Provincial Youth Programme Representative and their teams, ensuring quality Scouting experiences for attendees and staff.

Training was a major focus within the Province, with 547 Scouters trained across 31 courses. This included Being A Scouter (268), Youth Led Programme (60), Scouting Together (52), Overnight Adventures & International Planning (52), Learning for Your Team (72), and 43 Scouters achieving their Wood Beads.

The Province, through the Provincial Management Support Team, intends to focus on supporting Counties and Groups to improve their programmes, run their own events, and strengthen governance and compliance across the Province.

Volunteer & Group Support



Southern Province

The Southern Province delivered a strong programme of activities from September 2024 to December 2025, 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.

Highlights included Founders Footsteps, a Provincial event created to showcase Scouting locally, which took place on Founders Day in February. 34 Scout Groups took part in hikes and activities in their local communities, with each activity ending in a campfire at the same time across the province.

The Southern Province held two Scout Summits (Provincial Conferences) during the reporting period. The first took place in Charleville Park Hotel in March, featuring workshops on Challenges in Scouting, Safeguarding and Scout Welfare, International Scouting and the Scouting Ireland Structure Review

project. The second Summit took place in Munster Technical University (MTU) in November 2025, including workshops and the “GLOR” session, allowing members to input and debate topics for consideration by the national organisation.

Limerick Scout County secured Leader Funding and JP McManus Benevolent Fund support to undertake a major refurbishment of Curraghchase Scout Centre. The centre will reopen in September 2026 with 26-bed indoor accommodation and outdoor camping space, complementing the adjacent Limerick County Campsite.

A wide range of youth events took place across the province, including the All-Cork Shield, Phoenix Challenge, Ventact South, Scout & Rover Survivor, Venture Ball National, MPC and Sionnach events. These highlight the broad scale of events organised at local, county and national level, alongside the full programme of county activities supported by youth members across the province.

Volunteer & Group Support



Northern Province

The year 2025 got off to a fantastic start for the Northern Province, beginning with the Provincial Conference in January at Dromantine. The conference was very well attended and provided a great opportunity for Scouters from across the Province to come together, learn and share ideas. There was a wide range of workshops and activities available, including Woggle Burning, Keyring Making, Autism Training, guest speakers, Scouter engagement sessions and input from the National Campsites Team, along with much more. In February, the Provincial Youth Forum was held at Crawfordsburn and once again saw a fantastic turnout, with every County represented. The young people took part in icebreakers, team-building games, workshops and a range of outdoor activities. The Province also delivered a REC3 Wilderness First Aid course at Kilcronaghan Centre, Ballinascreen, giving Scouters from across the Province the opportunity to develop valuable first-aid skills, delivered by Dave Batt.

April was another busy month for the Province, with Autism Training taking place at the Greenvale Hotel. The training counted towards Learning for Your Team and was very well attended, providing Scouters with valuable knowledge and skills to support young people. The Province also held a roadshow at Cookstown Scout Den, giving members another opportunity to engage with the Provincial team and find out more about the support and opportunities available. In May, Rovers from across the Province were brought together in Craigavon for a fun social get-together, enjoying an evening of bowling and the opportunity to meet and build friendships with other Rovers.

The summer months continued to be full of activity across the Province. In June, members travelled to take part in the Belfast Pride Parade, showing the Province's commitment to inclusion and participation. In July, three Provincial Rovers travelled to the USA to take part in the Tomahawk Fellowship. The Province also held its Provincial Camp in Lockerbie, led by Camp Chiefs David Monaghan and Christina Woods. The camp provided those in attendance with a fantastic programme of activities and experiences, enjoyed by everyone. Alongside this, the Rover Recharge weekend was held at Newry Scout Den, bringing Rovers together for another enjoyable and engaging weekend. A further REC3 First Aid course was also held at the Share Centre, with another 36 Scouters successfully gaining their qualification.

Training remained a key focus throughout 2025, with many Scouter training courses delivered across the Province by the Training Team, led by Kevin Oates. Courses including Being a Scouter, You the Scouter and Youth Leadership were available throughout the year, supporting Scouters in developing their skills and knowledge. We would also like to extend a very special thank you to Kevin Ferguson, PSO, and Sinclair Trotter, DSO, who have supported the whole Province for many years and who both retired during the year. Their commitment, dedication and support have made a lasting contribution to Scouting across the Northern Province. Overall, 2025 was a busy and successful year, filled with training, activities, opportunities and events that brought Scouters, young people and Rovers together from across the Province.

Volunteer & Group Support



Dublin Scout Province

The aim of the Dublin Scout Province is to support Scouting in Communities in Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire, Rathdown, and South Dublin, to enable young people to experience, enjoy and development from the adventure of Scouting. What makes this possible are our volunteers. We simply THANK each and every one of you. And we remember those Gone Home and indeed their loved ones, who gave so much to Scouting.

The life and soul of Dublin Scouting lies within our 70 Scout Groups. The impact of Scouting in communities in Dublin was well demonstrated at community festivals, parades, commemorations, Darkness into Light, Dublin Pride, Dart Challenges, river and beach clean ups and through a variety of Good Deeds with others. Over the summer many members actively lobbied our public representatives with a very clear message -advocating for increased funding and highlighting the importance of Scouting in society.

We don't Scout alone; in Dublin our Scout Groups are located in 2 separate 2 ETB catchments – Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown and Dublin City ETBs. Groups availed of many grant opportunities administered through their ETBs and these vastly helped our Groups with den overheads, youth programme, equipment purchase, leadership training, capital projects. A very new initiative in 2025 was the inaugural 'Oíche na hÓige' Youth Night/Week. It was a 'first' with 20 Scout Groups participating in this. Activities by Groups varied from Group Open Community Days, to camp skills demonstrations, to BBQs with music, to Scout Christmas Crafts & Chat Nights with neighbouring community groups, to

Group hosting. And it was heartening to see our local representatives take up invitations and attend many Scout evenings.

The City of Dublin ETB hosted a Volunteer Recognition Night in the Aviva Stadium and we congratulate our Scouter recipients from 6th Dublin (Leeson Park) and 177th Dublin (Glasnevin). Some Scout Groups nominated youth members for Awards outside of Scouting and it is fantastic to see the increase of Scout nominations in the Garda Youth awards with some Scouts winning divisional awards in various categories. 2025 also saw the introduction of the inaugural Dublin Scout Province Provincial Youth Awards. We received over 50 nominations, with 32 youth members receiving Awards. Special thanks to our Scouters for making the nominations, to our Awards Team of Kiernan, Micha, Rebecca, Adam and Matthew.

We extend our appreciation to the Lord Mayor, Cllr Ray McAdam, for giving of his time and his support to Scouting in the City and to the staff in the Mansion House for their hospitality.

We worked closely with Volunteering Ireland and received 58 expressions of interest from adults living in Dublin.

In March we had a programme in place for our Provincial Conference but unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to lack of bookings. We hosted a CEO Road show, which allowed for good discussions and insight into shaping Scouting for the future.

The Scout Counties supported Scouting by the provision of County programme, Scouter socials



and Scouter supports. An increasing number of Cub Packs and Scout Troops participated in County Camp craft competitions and national challenges. Some Beaver colonies marked 40 years of Beaver Scouting with special anniversary activities. Joti/Jota and the Science Days proved very popular and special thanks to the teams behind these events.

We welcomed 23 new Group Leaders, 23 new Deputy Group Leaders, 3 County Commissioners and one Deputy County Commissioner. Many of whom went on to complete the Group Leader/Commissioner Woodbadge Training.

Behind every training course, we have fellow Scouters who are Trainers and give so much energy and time to Leadership Training, we thank you. In 2025 we ran 13 Being a Scouter courses, 4 Youth Led Programme Training, 2 Scouting Together, 4 Story of Scouting Interactive and 6 Learning for Your Team Leadership Training courses in the Dublin Scout Province.

2025 saw the registration of Dun na Farraige Scout County, made up of merging 2 former counties - Dun Laoghaire and Cois Farraige. Lisa Austin, finished her term as County Commissioner in Mountpelier, Anne Browne in Dublinia and Hugh McLain in Dun na Farraige. We thank them for their dedication and commitment to Scouting in their Scout Counties and as members of the Provincial Management

Support Team. Adam Smyth was nominated as County Commissioner in Mountpelier, Niall Kenny in Dublinia and Dun na Farraige is currently vacant. Other County Commissioners busy in the Province are Peter Giles in Liffey West County, Gary Watts in 3 Rock, Harry Moreau in Cluain Toirc County and Dervilla McCann in Dodder Scout County. And Ciara McLain, PYPR, Hugh McLain, PTC, Derek Kinsella, Provincial Secretary, Anna Davy, Provincial Treasurer and Kiernan Gildea, Provincial Chairperson.

In November, the County Commissioners met with the Chief Scout, Eoghan Callanan and Brendan Kiersey, Chair of the Volunteer and Group Support Department, to look at the Province and how to progress the current vacancies. The County Commissioners ended the year with a commitment and plan to run an open call seeking a Provincial Commissioner.

Indeed, we ended the year with optimism, to grow our membership from 7,547 members (2024), 7,825 (2025) to well over 8,000 in 2026, to continue to guide and support an increasing interest from our Scout Groups to register with the Charity Regulator, to the next chapter in the Provincial Youth Awards, to more Provincial events and to keep Scouting strong in Dublin.

Safeguarding



The Safeguarding Department is responsible for leading and overseeing all safeguarding matters across Scouting Ireland. The department is led by a CORU-registered Social Worker with 30 years' experience in child protection, care and safeguarding practice and is supported by an experienced team of safeguarding case officers, vetting officers and specialist administrative staff.

The department operates within a robust governance framework, supported by comprehensive policies, secure case management systems, regular professional supervision, and a strong commitment to continuous professional development. Staff participate in national and international safeguarding forums, specialist training, and professional networks to ensure that safeguarding practice remains informed, current and evidence-based. Staff training and professional supervision remain a priority, ensuring that all safeguarding personnel are supported, professionally accountable, and equipped to respond effectively to complex safeguarding concerns.

Safeguarding Training

With the mandatory online *On My Honour* Safeguarding Course now embedded across Scouting Ireland, the organisation continued throughout 2023/2024 to strengthen its safeguarding training through a range of strategic initiatives.

Work progressed on the development of the 'Beyond Basics' safeguarding programme for experienced Scouters, addressing emerging safeguarding risks including online harm, digital safety, radicalisation and exploitation. The course was trialled through the *Scouting Together* initiative ahead of wider implementation.

The organisation also continued the development of its youth safeguarding programme, which will form part of the One Programme. This programme remains under review to ensure that it reflects emerging good practice and responds to the changing needs of young people, including the increasing prevalence of anxiety and mental health concerns affecting young people today.

Governance & Accountability

Governance arrangements continued to mature during the reporting period. The Safeguarding Subcommittee continued to provide oversight of safeguarding practice, while safeguarding remained a standing agenda item at Board level. Quarterly reports were submitted to the Board of Directors, alongside six-monthly reports to the Department of Education and Youth, ensuring transparency, accountability and continuous organisational learning.

Working with Other Organisations

Scouting Ireland continued to work closely with statutory agencies across both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland, maintaining strong partnerships with Tusla, An Garda Síochána, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Health and Social Care Trust Gateway Services, and other relevant agencies. These relationships support timely information sharing, effective safeguarding responses, and compliance with national safeguarding legislation and guidance.

The organisation also continued to contribute to national safeguarding committees and professional networks, ensuring that its policies and practices reflect current national and international standards and best practice.

Welfare Hub

The work of the Safeguarding Department extends beyond responding to safeguarding concerns. Significant emphasis continues to be placed on support, prevention, education, and the creation of safer environments for children, young people, and adults at risk.

During the year, work progressed on establishing a National Listening Ear/Welfare Team to support the wellbeing of participants at major events. The Welfare Hub is continuing to evolve and will incorporate supports in the following areas:

Zone	Purpose	Features	Department
SfH Youth Programme	Age-appropriate Safeguarding Training	Resources, support, advice	Safeguarding
Welfare / Listening Ear	Welfare & immediate emotional support needs	Trained Listening Ears, seating, refreshments, hankies, inviting and quiet environment, fidget toys, communication aids, contact log, etc. Direct link to the Safeguarding Team.	Safeguarding
First Aid Station	Immediate medical care – onsite service	Certified first-aiders, first aid kits, medications, injury & illness logs. Distinct from the Emergency Skills Team.	Safeguarding
Pride Events	Safe, social hub, resources	Snacks/drinks, games, arts & crafts, low-stress environment, friendly staff	Programme
Chill / Neurodiverse Zone	Quiet support for sensory & neurodiverse needs	Low-light environment, headphones, fidget toys, visual schedules, trained staff	Programme
Faiths & Beliefs	Ensure FaB supports / needs are available	Areas of worship, prayer, faith resources	TBD

Safeguarding Policies

Safeguarding policies continue to apply equally to all our members - children, young people, adults at risk, adults, recognising that safeguarding is a whole-organisation responsibility. Continuous improvements have also been made to vetting and AccessNI compliance processes. The plan for 2025/26 is for a new updated full Safeguarding manual incorporating Policies, processes and essential information.

Funding

The continued support provided through Government ring-fenced safeguarding funding has been essential in maintaining and strengthening these standards. Sustained investment will enable Scouting Ireland to expand its preventative safeguarding work further, enhance mental health and wellbeing supports,

strengthen volunteer training and increase meaningful participation by young people in shaping safeguarding practice across the organisation.

Scouting Ireland remains firmly committed to maintaining a safe, inclusive and respectful environment for everyone involved in Scouting. Our position is unequivocal: there is no place within our organisation for anyone who seeks to cause harm to children, young people, adults at risk, volunteers, staff or the organisation itself.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Our ambition is that safeguarding becomes effortless through being fully embedded within our culture, leadership, decision-making, training and everyday practice, ensuring that every child, young person and adult can participate in Scouting safely, confidently and with trust.

Governance

Board of Directors

Name	Position	Appointed	Resigned
Richard Forde	Board Chairperson	14/09/2024	13/09/2025
Aidan Magner	Board Member	13/09/2025	
Thomas Martens	Board Member	12/05/2024	
Derek McInerney	Board Member	11/04/2025	
Andrew White	Board Member	11/04/2025	
David Connolly	Board Member	31/03/2025	
Norma Judge	Board Member	31/03/2025	
Lucy Kay	Board Member	21/08/2025	
John Holland	Board Member	12/05/2024	13/09/2025







Finances 2025

Financial Highlights

Net Income of €1.913m in the financial year 2025 compared with Net Expenditure of (€1.484m) in the financial year 2024. This figure includes legal provisions of €0.806m in 2025 (€0.970m in 2024).

Net Income before legal provisions was €2.719m in 2025 compared with Net Expenditure before legal provisions of (€0.514m) in 2024.

Income from charitable activities decreased by 10% to €2.574m whilst membership income increased by 21% to €3.039m.

Spending on charitable activities decreased by 6% to €6.530m; spending on charitable activities net of legal provisions decreased by 4% in the financial year.

Income from the National Scout Centres has decreased in the financial year 2025 from €0.651m in 2024 to €0.445m in 2025, a decrease of 32%.

Results

Income

Total income for 2025 amounted to €8.563m compared with €5.538m in 2024, an increase of 55%.

In 2025 we received wonderful support from the Department of Education and Youth for our general funding grant of €1.505m. We also received a capital grant of €0.035m under the Youth Services Grant Scheme and a grant of €0.049m for an organisational review from the Department of Education and Youth.

We received a grant of €0.197m from the Department of Social Protection for a Community Employment Scheme which is based in Larch Hill.

During the financial year the National Scout Centres had operational income of €0.445m (€0.651m in 2024).

Expenditure

Total expenditure for 2025 amounted to €6.650m compared with €7.022m in 2024, a decrease of 5%. This decrease was largely driven by a decrease in legal costs of €0.439m and a decrease in legal provisions of €0.164m, offset by an increase in staff costs during the year.



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

Reserves

Restricted and unrestricted reserves at the end of the year increased by €1.913m. 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 2025 the unrestricted reserve was in a deficit position of (€8.230m), (2024: (€10.243m)). 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 €0.225m.



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



