

## **Focus Group Information Sheet for Participants**

### Research on the impact of scouting on young people in Scouting Ireland



*Young people from Scouting Ireland have been invited to participate in a focus group to share their experience of Scouting. This Information Sheet is for parents and youth members.*

*Expressions of interest to participate can be made by a Group Leader or Scouter on behalf of their section by emailing [programmeservices@scouts.ie](mailto:programmeservices@scouts.ie)*

*If you would like to participate, you and your parent/guardian are asked to give consent. You can give consent by filling out the consent form at the end of this document.*

*Youth members who are 18 years old do not require parental consent.*

*Thank you for your participation.*



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[www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie)

## Information Sheet

*We recommend that you and your child read this together.*

### 1. What is the purpose of this focus group?

The focus group is part of an international research study called 'Measuring the Impact of Youth Organisations' (MIYO). MIYO aims to explore the impact of youth work on young people so that staff and volunteers of youth organisations can better understand the impact of their work and youth work practice. The research will strengthen the competence of youth organisations to administer focus groups and surveys to capture the experiences of young people.

### 2. Who is organising this research?

The research for this study is led by World Organisation of the Scouting Movement (WOSM). Erasmus + is funding this project. Please find out more about the research here: <https://impactofyouth.org/>

### 3. Why have I been chosen?

Your Scout Group has indicated to Scouting Ireland interest in participating in the research. We are extending this invitation to you to participate. We aim to engage 6-10 young people in a 1-hour focus group.

### 4. Do I have to take part?

Participation in this focus group is voluntary. Please note you can leave the focus group at any stage. If you agree to participate you must fill out the Parental/Guardian & Young Persons Consent Form. This form should be filled out by the parent/guardian and young person together.

### 5. How do I take part?

Once you are satisfied with the information provided in this sheet, you can access the consent form at the end of the document. When the parent/guardian and young person have given consent, the focus group facilitator will be in contact with a Scouter from your Scout Group to help arrange a suitable date, time and venue at your convenience between December 2023-February 2024. Please note that the focus group is for young people. The role of parents/guardians is to support the research project by consenting to the participation of their child. Please note that refreshments will be provided.

### 6. What happens in a focus group?

A focus group is a research method that brings a small group of people together to answer questions and discuss key topics. The style of this focus group will be fun and activity based. The discussions will be audio-recorded. The Facilitator will work with the Scouters of the young people to ensure the needs of the group are understood and met, and to support coordination of venue logistics. The Facilitator will be accompanied by a staff or volunteer member of Scouting Ireland who will be present in the room for note-taking and ratios.

### **7. What are the possible risks of taking part?**

While we hope your experience will be pleasant, it is possible that an unexpected discussion may make some people uncomfortable. A participant can choose to leave the room at any time. Support will be available if you need to do this and you can come back in if you wish. You can withdraw from the study at any time.

### **8. How will the data collected from the focus group discussion be used?**

The focus group discussion will be audio recorded. The recording will be transcribed by an external company and anonymised. Any personal data or identifiers will be removed during this process. The only data that will be included is geographic e.g. Province, urban or rural. The anonymised data will be shared with Maynooth University to compile a research report. This may be published in academic journals, in other reports or presented at conferences. Once the transcription is completed the audio files will be securely destroyed. The external transcription company is subject to a confidentiality agreement and will not retain any data after the process is complete.

Scouting Ireland will securely store the anonymised transcriptions on our internal server and will retain for 2 years by June 2025.

### **9. What will happen to the results of the project?**

All the information that we collect about you during the research will be kept strictly confidential. Participants will not be identified in any reports or publications, and your name and other personal information will be anonymised/excluded.

### **10. What happens at the end of the project?**

The anonymous findings will be:

- published in a report and shared with MIYO partners and Maynooth University.
- written up and submitted to an academic journal which may be published in the future.
- shared with other youth organisations in Ireland and internationally, and with academic institutions as part of best practice sharing to improve the provision of youth work services.

You may request a summary of the research findings by contacting Scouting Ireland at [programmeservices@scouts.ie](mailto:programmeservices@scouts.ie). You will not be able to request a copy of your contribution as all data will be anonymised and no names will be kept on file.

**What should I do if I have any further questions?**

Please contact the following for questions about:

Focus Group Participation: [programmeservices@scouts.ie](mailto:programmeservices@scouts.ie)

Data Protection Queries: [dataprotection@scouts.ie](mailto:dataprotection@scouts.ie)

**Consent Form:**

Please click the link to access the consent form: <https://forms.office.com/e/zuXAwvqNeg>