


Gasóga na hÉireann / Scouting Ireland				
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	Category: Volunteer and Group Support Department			
	Scouting Ireland: Journey to Scouting for New Adult Member Policy			
Related Documents:				
Membership Policy				
https://issuu.com/scoutingireland/docs/bod-ma-001_scouting_ireland_membership				
Group Leader and Mentor Handbook				

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1. Starting your “Journey to Scouting”

- 1.1. This document is for those involved in supporting adult volunteers seeking to become Scouters in Scout Groups. The scope of this policy is to outline the process of supporting adult volunteers joining Scout Groups. Additionally, it describes the method to be applied to new adult volunteers as they join their local Scout Group. It will detail the steps that need to be taken to support them safely and without compromising safeguarding policies and practices. The Scout Group Council through the Group Leader shall oversee this process.

2. Process of starting your “Journey to Scouting”

1. Potential new Scouter identified
2. Initial contact with Group
3. Conversation with Group Leader about the Scouting in their community and Group Life
4. Follow up chat and begin the Induction Process with Group Leader (see Group Leader and Mentor Handbook) or appropriate Scouter approved by Group Council.
5. Invitation to set up Scouting Ireland Profile on the Scouting Ireland Database (www.myscouts.ie)
6. Complete and submit Garda Vetting/Access NI to the Scouting Ireland Garda Vetting/Access NI staff.
7. On completion of Garda Vetting/Access NI (Each applicant will receive official confirmation from the statutory agency as will Scouting Ireland) the 12-week process begins from this date.
8. Safeguarding Online – “On My Honour”, completion of course is done with the “Printing of Certificate” (download and save Certificate). A copy of this certificate must be given to your Group Leader for confirmation. This course will be updated on the Scouters Profile on the Scouting Ireland Database.
9. This new Scouter may now attend Group and Programme Sections meetings, activities and events and engage with youth members, however they are not counted as part of the Section Ratios or permitted to attend overnight activities.
10. During this 12-week period the Scouter **must** have completed the “Story of Scouting Experience” Online self-led Course, with the download and saving of the Certificate on completion of the course. A copy will be given to your Group Leader; this will also be updated on the Scouters Profile on the Scouting Ireland Database.
11. The “Story of Scouting Experience” **must** be completed before attending the “Being A Scouter” Course.
12. During the 12-week period a Scouter **must** book and **complete** all elements of the “Being A Scouter” Course as part of their Woodbadge Journey.
13. The New Scouter must complete both “The Story of Scouting Experience” (Online self-led Course) and “Being a Scouter” (In person or blended course, including CPAP Safeguarding Course) within the 12-week period following completion of Vetting and online safeguarding. The candidate is not allowed to attend further programme section meetings after this initial 12-week period has elapsed until these courses are complete.

14. As a Scouter further training opportunities are available as part of their Woodbadge Journey to achieve their “Woodbadge Beads”.
15. The new Scouter may decide that they no longer wish to continue in this role and leave the Scout Group or be suitable for an alternative role within the Scout Group and change their membership type to Adult Supporter.
16. The Scout Group may decide that the new Scouter has not meet with the objectives as set out in the Mutal Agreement and/or not to be compatible for the role of a Scouter within the Group, a decision may be made to remain as a member of the Scout Group.

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3. Vetting & Safeguarding

- 3.1. All adult volunteers must be Garda Vetted/Access NI, by law, to be permitted to engage with youth work. Scouting Ireland has an application process that must be followed, which includes a vetting process that must be completed prior to any adult volunteer interacting with young people. This may either involve the individual being vetted by the Garda Vetting Bureau or the Access NI system in Northern Ireland. Garda Vetting/Access NI is the responsibility of the individual and the Group Leader of the Scout Group that the individual is joining.
- 3.2. Following the successful completion of the Garda Vetting/Access NI process, the adult volunteer must then complete the online safeguarding course, "On My Honour" to the satisfaction of Scouting Ireland. There will be a further Safeguarding Module (Child Protect Awareness Programme) in the Being a Scouter Course, where the individual will undertake the National Youth Council of Ireland's (NYCI) Child Protection Awareness Programme (CPAP) Training in the face-to-face module.

4. Group Life Experience

- 4.1. Once an adult volunteer has completed Garda Vetting/Access NI and the "On my Honour" Safeguarding Online Module, they may now engage in Group Life. Group Life can include programme section meetings, various group meetings and day events/outings. This policy specifically states that an adult volunteer may engage with group life for a period up to and including 12 weeks. This 12-week period commences on completion of Garda Vetting/Access NI. By the end of the 12-week period the adult volunteer must have completed the next stage of their training which is Being a Scouter. If the adult volunteer has not completed the "Being A Scouter" course, then they must "Stay Away" until it is completed. It is possible to complete the induction process and the Being a Scouter course in less than 12 weeks.

5. Supervision & Support of new Adult Volunteer

- 5.1. As part of the Induction Process the Group Leader shall appoint a mentor for the adult volunteer (section team lead or programme scouter). It is important that the adult volunteer is supported by their mentor throughout the induction process. The new Scouters must always be supported/supervised by a Scouter who has at least completed their Being a Scouter course or equivalent.

6. Training for new Adult Volunteers

- 6.1. Training for new adult volunteers begins with an online module called The Story of Scouting Experience. This course will become available to the Scouter online via the Scout Training platform once the adult volunteer has completed the "On My Honour" safeguarding course. The "Story of Scouting Experience" is the first course in the Adult Volunteers Woodbadge journey.

7. Person Responsible

7.1. It is the responsibility of the Group Leader and Group Council to ensure that new adult volunteers and their mentors adhere to the Scouting Ireland “Journey To Scouting” Policy. If the potential new Scouter has not completed the “Being a Scouter” training within the 12-week introduction period, they are not permitted to attend **ANY** Scouting Activities until the “Being A Scouter” is completed.

8. Personal Responsibility

8.1. Each member of Scouting Ireland has an individual responsibility to ensure their Garda Vetting/Access NI and Safeguarding is always in date.

9. Monitoring of the Implementation of the Journey to Scouting Policy

9.1. The monitoring shall be undertaken nationally by the Training & Development Officer with the support of the Training Administrator for Scouting Ireland, directed by the Manager of the Volunteer and Group Support Department. It will be reviewed on a regular basis by the National Training Team Lead. The Group Leader shall have responsibility to monitor at Group Level.

10. Reporting Systems

10.1 The CEO, Department Manager and the Board will be updated regularly on the progress of this Policy. The National Training Team Lead, the Training & Development Officer and Training Administrator will have project overview responsibility for this to keep the data live and up to date.