

The Scout Group Constitution

For Scouting Ireland Scout Groups registered in the Republic of Ireland

Constitution of Scout Group Scouting Ireland

Executive Summary

Scouting in Ireland is a voluntary, uniformed, non-formal educational movement for young people. It is independent, non-political, open to all without distinction of origin, race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, or ability, in accordance with the purpose, principles and method conceived by the Founder, Robert Baden-Powell as stated by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

A Scout Group is the local and primary vehicle for Scouting in Ireland. It is a registered Charitable Organisation and is registered as a Scout Group with Scouting Ireland. All Scout Groups are supported by Scouting Ireland through a Charter which is renewed annually. All Scout Groups registered with a Charter are members of Scouting Ireland clg (hereinafter “Scouting Ireland”), a company limited by guarantee and itself a registered Charitable Organisation. They attend Scouting Ireland’s Annual General Meeting and elect its Board of Directors. This document is the constitution for the Scout Group. It provides for the aims and objectives of the Scout Group, how the Scout Group is organised and how it achieves its aims and objectives for the young people and adult supporters involved.

Name of the Scout Group

1. The name of the Scout Group is Scout Group (“the Scout Group”).

Fundamentals - Aims and Objectives

2. The aim of the Scout Group is to encourage the physical, intellectual, character, emotional, social, and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, to improve society.
 - 2.1. The Scout Group achieves its aim through a system of progressive self-education, known as the Scout Method, the principal elements of which are:
 - a. Promise and Law - the commitment to a code of living based on the values of the Scout movement.
 - b. Personal Progression - a scheme to support the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes in all areas and to provide recognition for individual and group achievements.
 - c. Learning by Doing - an approach that prioritises learning through practice, first-hand experience, and from both successes and mistakes.
 - d. Small Group System – progressive, democratic and self-governing groups, usually of 6-8 young people, are the basic organisational structure of Scouting.

- e. Symbolic Framework - provides a setting for Scouting that stimulates the imagination through symbols, themes and stories.
- f. Nature and Outdoors - the natural environment is the primary setting for Scouting offering unique opportunities for the development of the young person.
- g. Young People and Adults Working Together - a partnership model in which young people are supported to become increasingly self-governing and independent; and
- h. Service and Commitment - recognises the importance of contributing to society by caring for others and the world around us.

The Scout Principles

3. The principles of the Scout Group are enshrined in the Scout Promise and the Scout Law and they include:
- a. Adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the faith that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom.
 - b. Loyalty to one's community in harmony with the promotion of peace, understanding and cooperation.
 - c. Responsibility for the development of ones' self.
 - d. Participation in the development of society with recognition and respect for the dignity of one's fellow beings and for the integrity of the natural world.
 - e. Use of a method of progressive self-education, known as the Scout Method, comprising programmes adapted to the various age groups.

The Scout Promise and Law

4. The Scout Promise is:

The Scout Promise

On my honour I promise that I will do my best, to do my duty to God, to serve my community, to help other people and to live by the Scout Law.

Gealltanas na nGasóg

Geallaim ar m'onóir go ndéanfaidh mé mo dhícheall, mo dhualgas do Dhia a chomhlíonadh, fónamh a dhéanamh do mo phobal, cabhrú le daoine eile agus Dlí na nGasóg a choimeád.

OR the following variation:

On my honour I promise that I will do my best to further my understanding and acceptance of a Spiritual Reality, to serve my community, to help other people and to live by the Scout Law.

Geallaim ar m'onóir go ndéanfaidh mé mo dhícheall, mo thuiscint agus mo ghlacadh den Réaltacht Spioradálta a chur chun cinn, fónamh a dhéanamh do mo phobal, cabhrú le daoine eile agus Dlí na nGasóg a choimeád.

OR the following variation:

On my honour I promise to do my best, to uphold our Scout Principles, to serve my community, to help other people and to live by the Scout Law.

Geallaim ar m'fhocal agus ar m'fhírinne, go ndéanfaidh mé mo dhícheall ár bprionsabail Gasóg a chaomhnú, fónamh a dhéanamh do mo phobal, cabhrú le daoine eile agus seasamh le Dlí na nGasóg.

5. The Scout Law is:

The Scout Law:

- a. A Scout is to be trusted.
- b. A Scout is loyal.
- c. A Scout is helpful and considerate to all.
- d. A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
- e. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
- f. A Scout has respect for self and others.
- g. A Scout respects nature and the environment.

Dlí na nGasóg:

- a. Bíonn Gasóg iontaofa.
- b. Bíonn Gasóg dílis.
- c. Bíonn Gasóg cabhrach agus tuisceanach do chách.
- d. Bíonn misneach ag Gasóg i ngach deachracht.
- e. Baineann Gasóg leas as a c(h)uid ama agus tugann aire d'airí agus do mhaoín.
- f. Bíonn meas ag Gasóg air/ uirthi féin agus ar daoine eile.
- g. Bíonn meas ag Gasóg ar an dúlra agus ar an timpeallacht.

6. The use of different forms of the Scout Promise and different forms of the Scout Law to suit different age ranges and faiths may be permitted by Scouting Ireland provided any such adaptation is in accordance with the policy of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement and is approved by the World Scout Committee.

The Scout Sign and Salute

7. The Scout Sign is:

- 7.1. The thumb on the nail of the little finger of the right hand, the other three fingers joined and extended palm to the front is the Scout Sign.
- 7.2. The Scout Sign is primarily used by a Scout or a Scouter in uniform during the making of the Scout Promise.

8. The Scout Salute is:

- 8.1. The Scout Salute is made by holding the fingers of the right hand as for the Scout Sign, bringing your hand smartly to your forehead, followed immediately by bringing it straight down to your side.
- 8.2. Scouts and Scouters give the Scout Salute on the following occasions:

- a. As a greeting to other Scouts and Scouters.
- b. As a greeting to members of other Scout and Guide associations.
- c. On public occasions when a National Flag is raised or when a National Anthem is played.
- d. When called to alert by a Scouter who salutes.

The Scout Handshake

9. Scouts and Scouters use the left handshake as a greeting to other Scouts and Scouters.

Registration with Scouting Ireland

10. The Scout Group is registered with Scouting Ireland
 - 10.1. The Scout Group Council will register the Scout Group annually with Scouting Ireland.
 - 10.2. The Scout Group registers each year with Scouting Ireland by completing the annual registration form and forwarding same together with the appropriate registration fees to Scouting Ireland.
 - 10.3. The Programme Sections are registered with Scouting Ireland. Applications for the first registration of a Programme Section will subject to the conditions required for application by Scouting Ireland.

Membership

11. The Scout Group shall have the following categories of members:
 - a. Scouts.
 - b. Scouters.
 - c. Support Members.
- 11.2. A Scout is a uniformed youth member who receives the Youth Programme of Scouting Ireland. All Scouts make the commitment of the Scout Promise.
- 11.3. A Scouter is a uniformed adult member who delivers the Youth Programme of Scouting Ireland or who holds an Appointment. All Scouters make the commitment of the Scout Promise.
- 11.4. A Support Member is an adult who wishes to be associated with the work of the Association, for example as a parent, representative of a sponsoring authority, treasurer, secretary or, adviser. A Support Member does not wear a uniform and is not required to make the commitment of the Scout Promise.
- 11.5. Registration of membership and termination of membership shall be in accordance with the policies and procedures stated by Scouting Ireland.

The Scout Group Council

12. The Scout Group Council is responsible for the administration and support of Scouting in the Scout Group.
 - 12.1. The members of the Scout Group Council shall, where possible, be:
 - a. The Group Leader.
 - b. The Group Chairperson.
 - c. The Group Secretary
 - d. The Group Treasurer.

- e. The Group Quartermaster/ Bo'sun.
 - f. The Group Youth Champion.
 - g. Not more than one other member of the Scout Group, over the age of 18 years, elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Scout Group.
- 12.2. The functions of the Scout Group Council are, inter alia:
- a. To oversee and co-ordinate all activities of the Scout Group.
 - b. To control and allocate finance and maintain proper accounts.
 - c. To convene the Annual General Meeting of the Scout Group.
 - d. To ensure that the Programme Sections operate the Youth Programme in accordance with the Aim, Principles and Method.
 - e. To implement the Youth & Adult Involvement Policies provided by Scouting Ireland.
 - f. To provide support to the Group Scouters in the delivery of the Youth Programme within the Programme Section.
 - g. To consider and approve nominations and proposals for submission to the General Meeting of Scouting Ireland.
 - h. To facilitate the training of all Group Scouters.
 - i. To recruit suitable individuals to membership of the Scout Group and make nominations for appointment as Group Scouters.
 - j. To form a Parents & Friends Support Group.
 - k. To form other sub committees, as required, for the purposes agreed by the Scout Group Council.
 - l. To perform the role of Charity Trustees as prescribed by the legislation within the jurisdiction in which the Scout Group is based.
 - m. To provide continual updates to the members of the Scout Group on the decisions taken by the Scout Group Council and, where necessary, the rationale to those decisions.
 - n. To co-ordinate a social programme for adult members as desired.

Meetings of the Scout Group Council

13. The Scout Group Council will agree a set of Standing Orders.
- 13.1. Every member of the Scout Group Council shall have one vote. The chairperson holds a casting vote.

The Annual General Meeting of the Scout Group.

14. The Scout Group Council shall convene an Annual General Meeting of the Scout Group.
- 14.1. The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Scout Group shall consist of the following:
- a. The approval of the report of the Group Leader.
 - b. The approval of the report of the Group Secretary.
 - c. The approval of the accounts prepared by the Group Treasurer.
 - d. The approval of the report of the Group Quartermaster / Bo'sun
 - e. The approval of the report of the Group Youth Forum.
 - f. The election of the Group Chairperson, Group Secretary, Group Treasurer, Group Spiritual/Religious Advisor/Chaplain, Group Quartermaster/Bo'sun, and Group Youth Champion when necessary.
 - g. The election of up to one other member of the Scout Group Council.
 - h. When necessary, the nomination of the Group Leader and the Deputy Group Leader(s);
 - i. Any other recommendations to the Scout Group Council.

- 14.2. Those entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Scout Group shall be:
- All members of the Scout Group Council.
 - Deputy Group Leader(s).
 - Up to three Programme Scouters from the Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venture Scouts and three members elected by the Rover Scouts.
 - Group Spiritual/ Religious Advisors/ Chaplains.
 - Up to three other representatives of the Parents & Friends Support Group, who are members of Scouting Ireland, subject to the approval of the Scout Group Council
 - The Group Trainer.
 - All members of the Group Youth Forum.

The Programme Sections and Youth Involvement Team

15. The Scout Group consists of Programme Sections.
- 15.1. The Programme Sections operate Youth Programmes developed by Scouting Ireland for appropriate age ranges within the Scout Group.
 - 15.2. The Group Leader oversees and co-ordinates the activities of the Programme Sections and ensures that the policies and programmes provided by Scouting Ireland are observed and operated within the Programme Sections. For such purposes, the Group Leader may convene teams of Group Scouters, as necessary.
 - 15.3. The number of teams required by the Group Leader (aided by the Deputy Group Leader(s) as may be appropriate for the size of the Scout Group) is a matter for the Group Leader. There is a degree of flexibility and the teams and the number of them will vary from Scout Group to Scout Group. Ultimately the Group Leader has the responsibility to ensure that the functions of the Group Leader as set out below are carried out and ultimately therefore it is for the Group Leader to enlist the help of others in that regard as may be required.
 - 15.4. The Group Leader oversees the implementation of the Youth and Adult Involvement Policies provided by Scouting Ireland. For such purposes, the Group Leader should facilitate the convening of a Group Scout Forum.

Appointments

16. Group Scouters
- 16.1. The following individual Appointments are collectively known as Group Scouters:
 - The Group Leader.
 - Deputy Group Leader.
 - Programme Scouter.
 - Group Trainer.
 - 16.2. Subject to the procedures set out for nomination below Group Scouters are appointed by Scouting Ireland pursuant to the policy and procedure provided by Scouting Ireland. All Appointments made may be cancelled, withdrawn or suspended by Scouting Ireland at any time pursuant to the Scout Group Appointments Policy and Procedures.
17. The Group Leader
- 17.1. The Group Leader is a Scouter nominated by the Scout Group, for appointment by Scouting Ireland.
 - 17.2. The Group Leader is appointed for a term of three years and is eligible for reappointment for one further term of three years. On the expiry of the second three-year term,

the Group Leader may be reappointed for subsequent one-year terms subject to the approval of the Scout Group Council.

- 17.3. The duties and functions of the Group Leader include:
 - a. To ensure that the Scout Group, the Programme Sections, and the Group meets their responsibilities to Scouting in the Scout Group and in the community.
 - b. To ensure that the Programme Sections meets their responsibilities to the Scout Group and to Scouting Ireland.
 - c. To represent the Scout Group Council at meetings arranged by Scouting Ireland.
 - d. To co-ordinate and support the Youth Programme in operation by the Programme sections to achieve a continuity in the youth programme offered by the Scout Group.
 - e. To approve the nomination by the Scout Group Council of Programme Scouters for appointment by Scouting Ireland.
18. The Deputy Group Leader and Group Trainer
 - 18.1. A Deputy Group Leader is a Scouter nominated by the Scout Group for appointment by Scouting Ireland.
 - 18.2. The Deputy Group Leader holds his/her appointment concurrently with the Group Leader in office at the time of appointment.
 - 18.3. The Deputy Group Leader assists a Group Leader in carrying out the duties and functions of a Group Leader in addition to any other duties and functions as directed by the Scout Group Council.
 - 18.4. The Group Trainer holds his/her Appointment concurrently with the Group Leader in office at the time of Appointment.
19. Programme Scouters
 - 19.1. Programme Scouters are Scouters nominated by the Scout Group Council, approved by the Group Leader and appointed by Scouting Ireland.
 - 19.2. The name of the part of the Youth Programme, which the Scouter delivers, will appear on the Appointment.
 - 19.3. Any change of Appointment of a Group Scouter from one Programme Section to another is subject to the approval of the Group Leader.
20. The Group Officers
 - 20.1. The Scout Group appoints the Group Chairperson, the Group Secretary, the Group Treasurer, and the Group Quartermaster / Bo'sun at the Scout Group AGM.
 - 20.2. The Group Secretary is the Secretary of the Scout Group and inter alia has the following duties:
 - a. To keep a register of all members of the Scout Group and ensures that the Scout Group and its members are registered with Scouting Ireland.
 - b. To record decisions made by the Scout Group Council and the Annual General Meeting of the Scout Group.
 - c. To ensure that meetings of the Scout Group Annual General Meeting and the Scout Group Council are properly summoned in accordance with the Standing Orders.
 - 20.3. The Group Treasurer is the Treasurer of the Scout Group and prepares the accounts of the Scout Group.
 - 20.4. The Group Quartermaster / Bo'sun is responsible for the maintenance of equipment belonging to the Scout Group and keeps a Register of all equipment.
21. The Scout Group Council in consultation with the Scout County sets out other duties of the Group Secretary, the Group Treasurer, and the Group Quartermaster / Bo'sun.
22. The Group Spiritual/ Religious Advisor/ Chaplain
 - 22.1. The Scout Group Council should appoint Group Spiritual/Religious Advisors/Chaplains.
 - 22.2. The Group Spiritual/Religious Advisor/Chaplain assists with the spiritual development of the Scout through the Youth Programme delivered by the Scout Group.

23. The Group Youth Champion
- 23.1. The Group Youth Champion is appointed, through election, by the Scouts of the Scout Group, in accordance with the Youth Charter.
- 23.2. The Group Youth Champion represents the interests of the Scouts of the Scout Group at meetings of the Scout Group Council and convenes meetings of the Group Youth Forum as necessary.

The Parents & Friends Support Group

24. The Parents & Friends Support Group shall provide support and assistance to the Scout Group and is responsible to the Scout Group Council.
- 24.1. The Parents & Friends Support Group shall hold an Annual General Meeting for all parents of members and friends of the Scout Group.
- 24.2. The Group Treasurer is the Treasurer of the Parents & Friends Support Group.

Finances and Accounts

25. All monies received by any member on behalf of the Scout Group shall be lodged to an account held by a recognised financial institution bearing the name of the Scout Group. Every account operated on behalf of the Scout Group shall have at least two signatories who should be mandated by the Scout Group Council. The Group Treasurer shall be a signatory on all such accounts.
26. The Scout Group Council shall prepare accounts annually.
27. The income and property of the Scout Group shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its aim as set forth in these Rules. No portion of the Scout Group's income and property shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit, to the members of the Scout Group.
28. No member of the Scout Group Council shall be paid by salary or fees or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Scout Group. However, nothing shall prevent any payment in good faith by the body of:
- 28.1. reasonable and proper remuneration to any member of the Scout Group (but not a member of the Scout Group Council or connected person) for any services rendered to the Scout Group.
- 28.2. interest at a rate not exceeding 1% above the Euro Interbank Offered Rate (Euribor) per annum on money lent by members of the Scout Group to the Scout Group.
- 28.3. reasonable and proper rent for premises demised and let by any member of the Scout Group (including any member of the Scout Group Council) to the Scout Group.
- 28.4. Reasonable and proper out-of-pocket expenses in connection with their attendance to any matter affecting the Scout Group.
- 28.5. Fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to any company of which a Group Council Member may be a member holding not more than one hundredth part of the issued capital of the company:
- 28.6. Nothing shall prevent any payment by the Scout Group to a person pursuant to an agreement entered into in compliance with section 89 of the Charities Act, 2009 (as the time being amended, extended or replaced)
29. The definition of a connected person for the purposes of clause 28 above means: (i) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister; (ii) a spouse or civil partner; (iii) a spouse or civil partner or any person included in (i); (iv) a business partner; (v) an institution controlled by a member of the Scout Group Council or by any person in (i) to (iv) above or by any combination of persons referred to in this sub-clause; (vi) a body corporate in which a member of the Scout Group Council

or any person in (i) to (iv) above has a substantial interest or in which any combination of persons referred to in this sub-clause has a substantial interest.

30. The Scout Group, through the Group Treasurer, shall submit its annual accounts to Scouting Ireland.
31. The Scout Group Council shall be responsible for all Group property. The Scout Group Council should maintain an up to date register of all Group property and equipment.
32. All property, real or personal of the Scout Group shall be deemed to be held for the benefit of the Scout Group and its aims and objectives. Such property should be vested in appropriate Trustees. Where property is vested in persons other than the trust company service for Scouting Ireland it should be set out in a formal Declaration of Trust which should be held by the Group Secretary and a copy sent to Scouting Ireland.

Amendments and Dissolution

33. The Scout Group must ensure that the Charities Regulator has a copy of its most recent governing instrument. If it is proposed to make amendments to the governing instrument of the Scout Group which requires prior approval of the Charities Regulator, advance notice in writing of the proposed changes must be given to the Charities Regulator for the approval, and the amendment shall not take effect until such approval is received.
34. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Scout Group there remains, after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, it shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Scout Group. Instead, such property shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having main objects similar to the main objects of the Scout Group. The institution or institutions to which the property is to be given or transferred shall prohibit the distribution of their income and property among their members to the an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Scout Group under or by the virtues of Clauses 27 and 28 hereof. Members of the Scout Group shall select the relevant institution or institutions at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provisions, then the property shall be given or transferred to some charitable object with the agreement of the Charities Regulator. Final accounts will be prepared and submitted that will include a section that identifies and values any assets transferred along with the details of the recipients and the terms of the transfer.