



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

Scouting Ireland encourages the physical, intellectual, social, spiritual and cultural development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, to improve society.

Scouting Ireland achieves its aim through a system of progressive self-education, known as the Scout Method, the principal elements of which are:

- Voluntary membership of a group which, guided by adults, is increasingly self-governing in its successive age groups.
- Commitment to a code of living as expressed in the Promise & Law, the meaning of which is expanded as the member grows towards maturity.
- The provision of a wide range of attractive, constructive and challenging activities, including opportunities for adventure and exploration both indoors and outdoors.
- The provision of opportunities for leadership and responsibility.
- Learning by doing.
- Encouragement of activity in small groups.
- An award scheme, which encourages participation in its full range of activities and provides recognition of individual and group achievements.

**The Scout Law:**

A Scout is to be trusted.

A Scout is loyal.

A Scout is helpful and considerate to all.

A Scout has courage in all difficulties.

A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.

A Scout has respect for self and others.

A Scout respects nature and the environment



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The Association would also like to acknowledge the support it received from the Irish Youth Foundation



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## Message from the Chief Scout

It must be acknowledged that 2004 was indeed an historic year for Scouting in Ireland. The two former Associations became one and Scouting moved into a new era. Many old friends were united in one association and the seeds of a myriad of new friendships were sown. It was an exciting year with lots of people making huge efforts on behalf of a movement of and for young people which, we fervently believe makes a positive difference in the lives of our youth members and the many others with whom we come into contact through our scouting activities.

It was heartening to see the magnificent efforts of Scout Groups, Scout Counties, Provincial and National teams ensuring that Scouting continued to flourish and grow within the new association. It is thanks to the efforts of these people that we can look back and say that Scouting Ireland got off to a flying start with a lot done and much more still to do.

There were many highlights including the launch in January, presentation of Chief Scout Awards throughout the year, the Venture Scout Challenge and Explorer Belt and the Scout's National Patrol Challenge to name but a few. There is no doubt that one of the key events was the first National Council in October when historic decisions were made and many new friendships were forged.

However, for me as Chief Scout the really important things that happened in 2004 were:

- The first steps were taken in giving ownership of this new association to our members at local level with the acknowledgement that the Scout Group is where Scouting is really delivered;
- We have all made real efforts at two-way communications and the National Management Committee is particularly committed to listening to Group Leaders and County Commissioners to establish issues of concern;
- The Provincial Commissioners have made immense progress in providing support to Scout Counties and Groups particularly with regard to Scouter Training being available locally;
- Many Group Leaders and County Commissioners have participated in briefing and training sessions at Provincial venues to ensure that the setting up of the various structures of this new Association was suitable from the outset
- The welcome and friendship I experienced at events throughout the country was both heart warming and evidence that the Spirit of Scouting is alive and well in our new association;
- At the National Council meeting, I set out a Strategic Vision for Scouting Ireland from 2004 to 2007 and this must continue to underpin everything we do;
- One of the most important things we did in 2004 was to commence a fundamental Review of the Youth Programme.

In looking forward to 2005 and beyond it is essential that collectively we build on the progress made last and year in particular ensure that we:

- Provide as much support as possible to local Scout Groups to assist them with delivery of the Youth Programme;



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- Continue the review of the Youth Programme and develop resource and training material for the new Youth Programme by 2007;
  - Develop Strategic objectives from the Vision and undertake initiatives at Provincial and National level that will contribute to their delivery
  - Deliver an exciting, challenging, adventurous and fun-filled programme for all our Youth members;
  - Make sure we use the Scout Method in all that we do.

*Thank you all for you loyalty and service to Scouting Ireland. Long may it continue as together we do our best to be true to our Scout Promise and try to live by the Scout Law.*

**Martin Burbridge**  
**Chief Scout.**



*Presentation of Chief Scout Awards to Steven Roulston and Padraig Porter from the 3rd Donegal*



*Presentation to Tommy Nesbitt*

## Overview by the Chief Executive Officer

I am delighted and honoured to be in a position to report on the first year of Scouting Ireland's existence. What seemed a distant goal at the commencement of the meetings of the Steering Committee for the new Association in 1998 was achieved. The formation of Scouting Ireland on 1st January 2004, was undoubtedly one of the most significant milestones in the history of Scouting in Ireland.

The Interim National Management Committee took office on the 21st of June 2003 and met on 18 occasions between that date and the first meeting of the National Council on the 16th of October 2004. That Committee undertook a significant task and completed a tremendous amount of work. It reported to the National Council and its hard work was rightly appreciated and acknowledged.

The initial developments in Youth Programme and Adult Resources and the bills of work drawn up by the Chief Commissioners and the National Youth Programme Committee and the National Adult Resources Committee are ambitious; what they should be for a new Association. These developments (which include the Youth Programme Review and Adult Leader Training) will ultimately achieve the level of progression urged by the decision of the National Councils of Scouting Ireland (CSI) and Scouting Ireland, S.A.I.; to make Scouting Ireland take a fresh look at Scouting in Ireland and meet the changing requirements for young people in modern Irish Society.

The division of Scouting Ireland into 6 provincial entities, under the stewardship of a Provincial Commissioner and professionally supported by a Provincial Support Officer, has been particularly effective and the benefits and advantages of this system has resonated outward to the Groups and Counties in each Province. The Provinces have also benefited from the assistance of various Support Officers based in the National Office, such as Programme Development Officers, SQS, Adult Resources Officer, Child Protection Officer, PR/Marketing & Communications Officer and the Property & Fundraising Officer.

Scouting Ireland's first year has been very successful and has exceeded all expectations; it has been a seamless transition into the new Association and a tremendous level of progress was achieved in setting up its structures.

However, much remains to be done and it is vitally important that the momentum created in the first year is maintained so that this new Association can renew its status in Irish Society as a progressive, relevant and attractive Youth Organisation that offers an exciting and vibrant Scout Programme to the youth of Ireland so that they are enabled to reach their full potential.

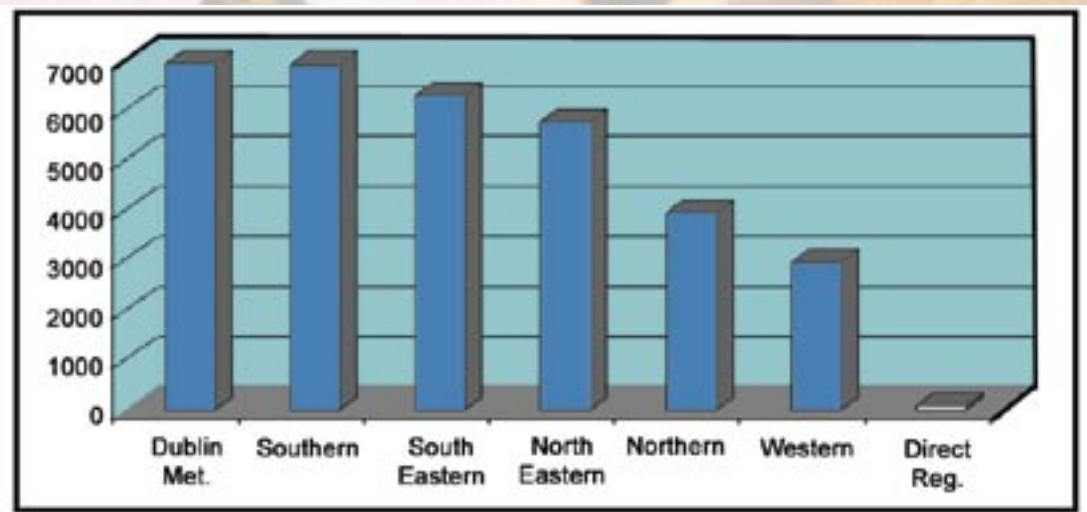
The Association wishes to express sympathy with those members and their families who have lost loved ones over the past year and also with the families of members who have gone home.

The Association would like to record its appreciation to the Government and the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science for its continued support and particularly for its acknowledgement of and support for the formation of Scouting Ireland. The Association wishes to acknowledge the support of the Youth Council in Northern Ireland, the Irish Youth Foundation, and all other contributors and supporters at National or Local levels over the past 12 months.

## Membership Figures 2004

Province	Beaver Scout	Cub Scout	Scout	Venture Scout	Total Young People	Adults	Total
Dublin Met.	1146	2032	1895	416	5489	1425	6914
North Eastern	1256	1883	1395	190	4724	997	5721
South Eastern	1511	2055	1448	116	5130	1129	6259
Western	696	975	634	51	2356	572	2928
Southern	1711	2117	1632	205	5665	1217	6882
Northern	993	1224	867	92	3176	746	3922
Direct Reg.	0	0	0	0	0	53	53
Totals (2004)	7313	10286	7871	1070	26540	6139	32679
Totals (2003)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25822	5429	31251
Difference					+718	710	+1428
Percent. diff.					+2.7%	+11.5%	+4.6%

N/A - Scouting Ireland began operations on 1st January 2004. Total membership figures of both associations are available for 2003. However, a breakdown analysis for comparison purposes is not possible.



## Operations of the National Management Committee

The first National Management Committee of Scouting Ireland took office after the meeting of the National Council and held its first meeting on the 13th and 14th of November 2004. The Committee commenced work immediately to build on the work of the Interim National Management Committee up to the meeting of the National Council, in October. Amongst the first tasks of the new Committee were the further development of the Strategic Vision for the Association; the appointments of International, Communications, Programme and Training Commissioners and attending to the various matters arising from the National Council meeting (including the adoption of a new Uniform).

### Membership and Growth

A very significant achievement in 2004, in the first year of its existence, has been a growth in membership of 1428 (718 young people and 710 adults) and this translates into a growth rate of 4.6% in 2004. This positive growth at the outset of Scouting Ireland is very encouraging, especially when compared to a number of years of declining membership in both former Associations, but the growth momentum will need to be maintained if the Association is to remain viable and relevant and attractive to young people. The growth in 2004 brings the membership of the Association (recorded at its Annual Registration in January 2004) to 32,679 (26,540 youth members and 6,139 adult members).

### Professional Staff

Whereas significant work was completed on the structures for the new Association prior to the 1st January, the task of bringing together the Professional Staff from the two former Associations did not occur until December '03/January '04. A new Staff Structure, that would offer maximum support to the Volunteer Membership, was devised and members of staff were offered positions that, complemented their skills, abilities and experience. New Job Specifications and Contracts were outlined and Support Staff were assigned Annual Targets that would challenge them in achieving their work objectives. With the assistance and co-operation of all Staff, the transition to Scouting Ireland was relatively seamless and quite significant progress in supporting Scouting Ireland's Structures has been achieved in 2004.

### Finances

The Association, with the support and co-operation of the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science, has retained the Service Grant that was issued to the two former Scout Associations and, in addition, the Youth Affairs Section allocated a €50,000 Grant to assist in the process of integrating the two former Associations. The projected income from membership fees in 2004 was achieved and this, combined with the Service Grant and Integration Grant, has helped to maintain the Association on an even financial footing in the first year of operations. The Irish Youth Foundation allocated a grant of €15,000 to Scouting Ireland, for the second consecutive year, to assist in the process of integration and establishing Scouting Ireland and the Vodafone Foundation has been particularly generous in supporting local projects throughout the country.

Scouting Ireland's first financial performance is outlined in the Financial Statements, which show a positive situation with income slightly beating expenditure and the cash flow being positive for the first 12-month period. However, in the coming years, the Association will need to expand its income base to cater for investment in Programme and Campsite facilities and to cater for the future financial demands of maintaining and operating a burgeoning youth organisation. The key challenges, therefore, facing the Association include the reduction of the Association's debt, the careful monitoring and management of expenditure together with a focus on rising additional funding for Scouting.



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## **Youth Programme**

The National Youth Programme Committee co-ordinates the Association's Youth Programme on behalf of the National Management Committee. Following the establishment of the Standing Committee, early in 2004, immediate steps were taken to appoint a Team to undertake the significant task of assisting it in reviewing the entire Youth Programme. A new Association – a new Youth Programme. For the interim period new Programme Teams were appointed for the existing age ranges, with a new emphasis on water and air activities, and their focus was to support the existing Youth Programme and all of its constituents and to bring the schemes operated by the former Associations as close together as possible, paving the way for the eventual introduction of the new Youth Programme. The various National Events were all held including the National Patrol Challenge (34th Limerick (Pallaskenry) being victorious), the Explorer Belt Expedition, Challenge Expedition... The first National Youth Fora under the National Youth Participation Policy were also held and were well attended by our young members.

## **Adult resources**

The focus of the National Adult Resources Committee for the interim period was to bring together the policies and programmes in the Adult Resources areas of both former Associations and re-work them into the structures of Scouting Ireland until such time as they could be reviewed at length. The development of a new Leader Training Scheme took priority and the Training Team did tremendous work in putting it together. County Commissioners Briefings and Provincial gatherings were all held to support adult members in establishing the various organisational structures at Group, County and Provincial levels. The development of Appointment Descriptions also aided this process significantly. A lot of groundwork was achieved in other areas of Adult Resources and a National Adults Awards Scheme was developed, an Annual Fellowship Moot was set up as was the National Young Leaders Forum. Drafting of a Code of Good Practice for Scouters commenced in earnest as did policies for Parents and Friends Support Groups, Safety Guidelines and Managing Risks and Mutual Agreements under the Adults in Scouting Model, produced by W.O.S.M.

## **National Spiritual/ Religious Advisory Panel**

The National Spiritual/Religious Advisory Panel provides guidance on matters of spirituality/religion. The Panel provides resources to the National Youth Programme Committee and the Programme Teams in the development of the spiritual aspects of the youth programmes produced by Scouting Ireland and also to the National Adult Resources Committee and the Training Team in the development and delivery of spiritual aspects of the youth programme through adult leader training. Membership of the Panel is open to a representative of every faith or spiritual interest and contact has been made with a number of different religions and faiths inviting them to participate. The Interim National Management Committee made provisions for the establishment of structures for supporting the religious and spiritual development of the members of the Association and in particular the establishment of National Faith Fora which individual members of the Association may attend. The Panel has also promoted the development of Appointment Descriptions for Group and County Spiritual/ Religious Advisers and these documents were published in 2004.

## **International**

Scouting Ireland officially became a member of the World Scout Community on the 1st of January 2004. Many letters of congratulations were received from all associations throughout the World. The Association attended its first International

Conference in Iceland in April 2004 when the Chief Scout, the International Commissioner and two youth delegates represented the Association. A structure for how the Association will co-ordinate World Scouting Centenary Celebrations in 2007 and our own centenary celebrations in 2008 was adopted by the Interim National Management Committee and appointments were made to the various positions in the Task Group towards the end of the year. In June the Association played host to 10 Eagle Scouts and 2 Leaders from the US on a trip sponsored by Ireland Funds (Texas Branch). 12 Irish Scouts and 3 Leaders will reciprocate that trip in June 05. Apart from co-ordination of representation of the Association at many other Seminars in Europe and elsewhere in 2004 the International Team were busy with the development of Guidelines for Groups travelling abroad, Jamborees on the Air and on the Internet, advising foreign Scouts who had planned Summer Camps and Expeditions in Ireland and the issuing of letters of introduction and assistance to well over 100 Groups from all over the country who decided to engage in an international Scouting experience in 2004.

## Communications

Communications is important to any organisation and Scouting Ireland is no different. The new Association provided an opportunity to recreate the Scouting brand in Ireland and all opportunities were embraced. The car sticker promotion was successful and there were many public and media appearances to coincide with the launch of the new Association. The new SI logo received a broad welcome and is now well established and visible at all events and functions of the Association. A new website was developed with almost 60,000 hits every month since its launch. New resource materials, policy documents and news in general are constantly added to the site and it is the centrepiece of Scouting Ireland's information strategy, together with the Scouting Ireland News and Management Bulletins. In addition to the public relations aspects and promotion of the new Association, the Communications Commissioner initiated the research required for strengthening public awareness and relations with other



organisations. Scouting Ireland was also well represented in 2004 by many of our members including a successful representation at the National Youth Council of Ireland Annual Assembly in November.

## Campsites and Scout Centres

The very nature of the Out-of Doors ensures that programme activities no matter how

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often repeated, have a different and refreshing quality about them. Without the Out-of- Doors, the quality, and uniqueness of Scouting's programmes would be lost. A new policy document adopted by the Interim National Management Committee highlighted the importance of our Campsites and Scout Centres throughout the country (both National and others) to the delivery of the Youth Programme to our youth members. The Policy envisages the development of a network of Campsites/ Scout Centres throughout the country providing facilities which will complement and support the delivery of our Youth Programme through programme activities. The establishment of a Programme Team with responsibility for Camping and Campsites/ Scout Centres towards the end of 2004 will aid the Association's focus in this regard. During 2004, significant further work was completed by the committee charged with responsibility for the development of the Castle Saunderson project, to secure significant statutory funding for the development of this campsite as a permanent Jamboree Campsite cum Peace & Reconciliation Youth Centre. Phase 1 of the Project will cost circa €10 million. At this juncture, progress is at an advanced stage in securing very significant grants from Statutory Agencies, which will facilitate the successful development of this Project. If the work in progress comes to fruition, then it is likely that site works will commence in the Autumn/Winter of 2005/2006

**Eamonn Lynch,  
Chief Executive Officer.**



## Youth Programme .... *A message from the Chief Commissioner.*

2004 for the National Youth Programme Committee was all about setting up, forming Programme Teams from the programme partnership groups set up from the former associations, taking a detailed look at what the new association inherited and commencing the planning for the future. I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Eugene McHugh, the Chief Commissioner for the interim period, to the establishment of the various structures for the development of Youth Programme in Scouting Ireland and the groundwork prepared for new initiatives. The various National Events were all guided to success through the hard work and supervision of the relevant Programme Teams. I accept that it was no easy task to merge the events calendars of two busy associations into Scouting Ireland. Already the groundwork for National Events for Scouting Ireland has been set.

The process of implementing the National Youth Participation Policy has been taking time ... but I am convinced that it will reward the Association into the future. That said significant progress was made, the National Scout Forum and the National Venture Scout/ Venturer Forum were both held – new committees elected, in addition there were representatives from those Fora to the National Youth Programme Committee with the representatives making their contribution to the development of the new Youth Programme for the Association and ensuring that it is relevant to the needs of our youth members. In addition there were numerous County Youth Fora held throughout the country. Following representations from the National Youth Fora to the National Council the National Youth Participation Policy will be reviewed and amended – this is what it is all about – participation in decision making by youth members for youth members.

Amongst the initiatives of the National Youth Programme Committee in 2004 were the development of a policy on Campsites and Scout Centres, compilation of the various programme resource materials from the former associations, the development of “Programme Paths” (which complements the Campsite policy), Lone Patrol systems, participation in the “Leave no Trace” initiative and the An Gaisce Award and Duke of Edinburgh schemes, development of a “Beach Badge” to introduce more water activities across the age ranges and exploring Community Scouting Projects (“Chill Zones”).

The youth programme in Scouting is the total experience that Scouting offers to a young person. It is more than simply the activities that Scouts take part in.

Through the youth programme, Scouting provides its members with a process of personal development to help them to become better citizens – of their Village or City, their Country and the World. The concept of youth programme development has been successfully advanced. It is based on two ideas:

- The ‘Fundamentals’ of Scouting should be preserved. This means that the purpose and principles of Scouting, as well as the elements of the Scout method (Promise and Law, learning by doing, working in small groups or the patrol system, nature, progressive scheme...) should not be changed;
- The content of activities and the implementation of the method have to be adapted to the changing needs of young people.

The concept of youth programme development enables associations to change their programmes according to the needs of young people without betraying the fundamentals of Scouting. This is in the spirit of Baden-Powell who frequently insisted on adapting Scouting to young people: “Ask the Boy....”.



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The establishment of a team to research and co-ordinate the start of the most significant review of the Youth Programme for Scouting in Ireland was the first important step in this process in 2004. The team and the National Youth Programme Committee have made much progress. The task in hand will take time and it is important that it is given the time it needs. A more complete update is elsewhere in this Report.

To assist with the further establishment of the structures for supporting the Youth Programme as envisaged in Scouting Ireland and to pave the way for the Youth Programme Review and for the future, the National Management Committee, upon my proposal, decided to establish 7 Programme Teams as follows:

1. Programme Team to undertake the Programme Review
2. Programme Team for the under eleven age group to support, monitor and evaluate the existing Youth Programme (including the programme elements of SQS) in the context of the educational objectives for that age group, and how the Association can best support local Scout Groups to attain the educational objectives.
3. Programme Team for the over eleven age group to support, monitor and evaluate existing Youth Programme (including the programme elements of SQS) in the context of the educational objectives for that age group, and how the Association can best support local Scout Groups to attain the educational objectives
4. Programme Team for National Events. Ideally Provinces or Counties would be invited to host such events. The Programme Team would have responsibility for setting criteria and standards.
5. Programme Team for Participation (e.g. lone patrols, young people with physical or learning disabilities, young people in ethnic minorities or non-national status). This programme team to be responsible for also overseeing the association's Youth Participation policy.
6. Programme Team to oversee the implementation of the Management Committee's policy on Camping and campsites as a unique programme resource.
7. Programme Team to oversee the implementation of the Management Committee's policy on Water Activities as a special programme resource.

**Kiernan Gildea,**  
Chief Commissioner (Youth Programme)



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The National Adult Resources Committee has continued to build on the work done during the interim period from mid-way 2003 focussing on its main function in co-ordinating provisions for the recruitment, training and support of Scouters who will deliver a quality Scout programme to our youth members.

## Adult Resources

*A message from the  
Chief Commissioner*

It is vital that adults who volunteer their time to Scouting Ireland are adequately supported in their roles. Although the primary role of every adult is to serve our young members, each adult should gain in a personal way from their contribution. The need for support and appreciation cannot be over stated.

It was pleasing to note the amount of Award applications. 101 Service Awards and 48 Merit Awards were issued and one Community Award was approved during 2004. Congratulations to John McCormack, Joe Briggs, Eoghan Lavelle and Noel O'Hare who were the first to be inducted into the Order of Cú Chulainn. All holders of the Silver Elk (SAI) and the Order of the Silver Wolfhound (CSI) are invited to become Honorary Members of the Order of Cú Chulainn. These Awards are an important way of recognising the work of adults at all levels of Scouting Ireland. To improve the application procedure I am ensuring that electronic versions of all award application forms will be available in 2005.

A dedicated team has produced a draft Code of Good Practice. Independent professionals and experts in this field are reviewing this draft. It is taking time – nevertheless it is a very important piece of work. This code is for all Scouters irrespective of length of service. Publication will be accompanied by a short training session for all current Scouters, whilst new Scouters will be introduced to the Code of Good Practice at the 'Welcome to Scouting' stage.

A review of the Membership/Appointment application form (SIF1 & 1A) is ongoing. I am particularly conscious of submissions made to the National Adult Resources Committee and me during the year on the reference form (SIF1A). It is important that this system be user friendly yet accurate and effective.

In the early part of 2005 we will launch a process to provide guidance on the involvement of adults who are not members and who might have occasion to be present at Scout activities. On a related area a working group has been set up to examine how we can provide guidance and support on Parents & Friends Support Groups. These exist in most Groups but not all operate in the same way. Some simply raise funds whilst others also provide other supports, including assisting programme delivery. I hope to see a report before the National Management Committee in mid 2005.



The National Young Leaders Forum was quietly launched in the autumn of 2004. Although limited to adults under the age of 26, this is a wide and varied group. Apart from three National Management Committee members this group also contains a number of County Commissioners and Group Leaders. However it would seem that most who fall into this age group feel that they are 'junior' members at Group and County level. Young leaders are a valuable resource; help them to spread their wings.

There are now about 8 Fellowship Patrols around the country. These are groups of like-minded adults who come together to undertake Scouting activities. Most will use these activities as a timeout from their normal Scouting activities. Others, who thought that they had retired, find that these activities bring them to the attention of Groups who need assistance! The National Fellowship Moot will take place in May 2005 at Larch Hill.

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The System for Quality Scouting consistently generates discussion amongst Scouters and managers at Group and County level. It is important that we do not look at SQS as 'checking up' on Group Leaders. Rather it should be seen as a valuable tool to assist in managing the Group. The National Team for Policy Implementation and Co-ordination has recognised the need for a greater understanding of this system at all levels of Scouting Ireland and we hope to address this by mid 2005.

During 2004 we saw the transition from Nationally run to Provincially run Training Courses. These appear to have been a great success with an increase in the overall number of Scouters attending Training Courses. More information on Leader Training developments is elsewhere in the Report.

The National Adult Resources Committee looks at many ways of supporting Scouters as they deliver programme. We must look at social issues which affect adult volunteers in such areas as special leave, continuity of service, taxation and welfare, dealing with a crisis and counselling. A Scouter 'time out' area was piloted in Larch Hill this summer. We hope to extend this to other Campsites in 2005.

A Commissioners briefing day was held in January and the first annual conference held in October. Both of these provided an opportunity for Commissioners to become familiar with the various new policies and procedures in Scouting Ireland. It was also a welcome opportunity for Commissioners to make theirs, and your, points of view to those who support scouting at National Level. The next Commissioners Conference will be held in October 2005.

**Brendan McNicholas**  
**Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources)**



The 6 Scout Provinces and their 43 Scout Counties took shape in late 2003 through consultation with Commissioners of both former Scout Associations and co-ordinated by the Provincial Commissioners. The start of Scouting Ireland on the 1st January 2004 brought with it several meetings of various County Boards, elections and confirmation of commissioners and officers, and the planning of various events in the Counties for the next twelve months. There was tremendous enthusiasm for the work to be done and whilst there was some adjustment in that the structures and procedures for Scouting Ireland were new and different to what people were used to, there was a desire to make them work. To complement that there were many reports of a tremendous public support throughout the country for the new association.

### **Provincial Management/ Support Teams in 2004**

Without exception the six Provincial Management/ Support Teams are operating successfully in their respective Scout Provinces. The Scout Province is in many ways the cornerstone of the organisational structure of Scouting Ireland. It mobilises and co-ordinates the combined resources of the Scout Counties for the greater benefit of Scouting at local level. The Scout Province through its Provincial Commissioner (a member of the National Management Committee) and representatives on the two main standing committees (the National Youth Programme Committee and the National Adult Resources Committee) ensures that local Scouting is well represented at National levels and that the Scout Provinces and their Counties provide direct input to the development of policies and programmes at National levels.

### **System for Quality Scouting**

The SQS assessment took place in October/November 2004 in the Scout Counties throughout the Association. The primary purpose of the SQS assessment procedure is as a tool to assist the Scout Group Council examine the Group's performance over a year and use this assessment to set targets and formulate a plan to achieve those targets for the following year. The results generated by the SQS procedure has two consequences, first the SQS Co-ordinating Team propose awards to be made to Scout Groups and Scout Counties on the results, but secondly and more importantly the results are referred to the SQS Annual Review Body for analysis. The Annual Review Body comprises of the Chief Scout, the Chief Commissioners, the Provincial Commissioners and the Chief Executive Officer. In 2004, 334 Scout Group out of a possible 451 undertook the SQS assessment. Of those assessed 35 received the Gold Award, 85 a Silver Award and 131 a Bronze Award. While the National Council rejected a motion to abandon the current system of SQS in October 2004, there was general recognition that the assessment procedure itself required a serious review. This is ongoing.

### **Leader training**

During 2004 the responsibility for the organisation and delivery of leader training courses was vested in Provincial Management/ Support Teams and Scout Counties through the Provincial Training Co-ordinator. These courses, developed by the Training Team for delivery under the management of the Provincial Management/ Support Team, by trainers approved by the Training Team commenced in earnest in the last few months of 2004. The targets and calendar set for leader training courses in 2005 by PMSTs is impressive. It is estimated that hundreds of Scouters will have participated in leader training courses by the middle of 2005. The management and promotion of local training courses is a very visible success in the new provincial centred organisation structure in Scouting Ireland.

## **Scouting in the Provinces**



## 2004 in Pictures





## Promising Practices and Events in the Provinces



South Eastern



Southern



Western

1. No less than three Provincial Management Support Teams (PMSTs) - Southern, South Eastern and Northern - finalised development plans for their Scout Provinces in 2004. The other Teams are advanced in their planning for publication of plans in 2005. All plans will centre on providing and co-ordinating support for Scout Groups in the Province, including supporting delivery of the Youth Programme, co-ordination and management of leader training courses, maximising the potential of the SQS assessment procedure, seeking and realising membership growth opportunities and improving communication of information to its members.
2. At least three Scout Provinces have developed their own newsletter/briefing which appears on a regular basis (Northern, Dublin Metropolitan and North Eastern). This publication provides news and management information at provincial level directly to Scout Groups and Scouters. There was immediate appreciation of the importance of communication of information to our members and this has been identified clearly by all PMSTs. It also featured prominently in the meetings and briefings of County Commissioners in both January and October 2004. There is general recognition that communication is the responsibility of all our members and there are signs of improvement in the associations target in this regard. Some of this improvement may be attributed to advances in technology but much of the improvement is attributed to awareness amongst our members of the importance of communicating information.
3. All provinces have considered the prospect of membership growth and PMSTs through the full time Provincial Support Officers have been identifying areas in their provinces, which provide an opportunity for establishment of a Scout Group. This initiative has led to discussions with local communities and queries as to whether they would like the Associations' assistance in establishing a local Scout Group. The Southern Province has focused much support and assistance on a number of Scout Groups experiencing difficulties, of which some are in disadvantaged areas. Feasibility studies are ongoing across that Province including Gaelteacht areas as potential communities, which may consider the establishment of Scout Groups.
4. The Southern and the North Eastern Provinces in particular have turned their focus to campsites. Plans for the further development of campsites such as Kilcully, Fota, Murroe and Curragh Chase were drawn in the Southern Province while Portlick Campsite in the North Eastern Province continues to increase the numbers of Scouts it hosts. A new County Campsite is on the cards for Ballybay in Co. Monaghan. A massive 10, 568 Summer Camp nights were amassed by the various Programme Sections in the North East with destinations including Portlick, Fota, Kandersteg, Denmark, Germany, Kilcully, Finland, Crawfordsburn, Westport, Holland, Lilliput, Austria, Kerry, Isle of Man and the UK to name just a few!
5. One of the major events in Scout Provinces in 2004 was the W5 event in Belfast when just under 2,000 Beavers, Cubs Scouts/Macaoimh and their leaders from all over the country, descended on the Odyssey arena in Belfast for a great day of fun and adventure. The event was extremely successful and generated extraordinary colour and tremendous atmosphere.
6. Mayo Scout County had a unique celebration of the new association conducting a successful competition for a county flag. The Scout County launched the flag by bringing it to all Scout Groups in the County, with each Group providing a different form of transport to parade the flag through their location; everything from a rowing boat to vintage car, to motor bike to fire brigade, to tractor was used. A mini carnival was held in Castlebar, where the Chief Scout received the flag.

Donnybrook Scout Group has 2 Beaver Colonies, 2 Cub Packs, 2 Scout Troops and a Venturer Group. By all accounts 2004 was a busy year, the following are some extracts from the Group report – read for yourself!

## Beaver Scouts

The Oisin and Orion Colonies held a number of outings during the year. Among these was a “Cookout” at Larch Hill, where the Oisin Beavers perfected the art of incinerating food (they say that they saved on their art supplies – and are still using some of the sausages as charcoal!), the National History Museum (a.k.a. “the dead zoo”), the Lambert Puppet Theatre (the Beavers saw Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and also got to meet Judge), a visit to historic Dublinia, a walk along the Dodder, a fabulous journey on Seamus O’Malley’s Imaginary Polar Expedition, a stroll down Bray Beach to the Sea Life centre, a trail around Dublin Zoo & culminating in the now annual Magical Mystery Tour! They travelled to Belfast on the Dublin/Belfast Enterprise (the Beavers did not get any of the Leader’s Star Trek jokes) to see Carrickfergus Castle & the W5 Centre. At the Castle the Beavers saw how people lived in the 12th Century, got to dress up as soldiers and play the games they used to play back then. They also saw where Red Hugh was imprisoned & learned how to trap enemies and scald them through ‘murder holes’ (which strangely was the main lesson the Beavers seemed to grasp!). W5 is a hands-on science exhibition centre and the Beavers had a great time, playing with a Laser Harp and a Floor Piano, seeing a Fire Tornado, making smoke signals, did experiments in light, touch and sound – almost a Science degree!

## Cub Scouts

The Celts and Viking Cub Packs had a very busy year. The Celts checked up on developments in Dublin Zoo and had a hostel weekend in Balbriggan Scout Hall. The Gaiety Theatre provided entertainment for Cubs and parents; “Oh no it didn’t” and all that sort of thing. They had planned a weekend in Aurora in March but the weather had other ideas, presented snow and alternative arrangements were made for the weekend in Donnybrook Scout Hall. In June, 29 Cubs were entertained in Oakwood where they decided that crossing the river by stones was boring and that they might as well jump in! The main outing in July was based in Stranolar, Co. Donegal. A week was planned around Ulster Folk Park, Red Land leisure park and the Marble Arch Caves. Lifford gaol saw the Cubs either being sent to Coventry or being hung drawn and quartered! The Vikings held a sixers and seconders weekend in Timahoe. They also visited the National Aquatic Centre in Blanchardstown where all the cubs fell in love with the puppies (Hopefully there were still 10 left when they went home). An outing to Dublinia was followed by a weekend in Brittas Bay. Pack Holiday practice was in Arklow Scout Hall where they went swimming and hiking among other things. There was also a weekend in their own hall, a visit to the Zoo and a treasure hunt where they ended up at the National Museum. Pack Holiday this year was in Roscommon in July. Weather was great and the Cubs took in some of the sights of the West including Galway LeisureLand, a cruise on the Shannon, Athlone Castle, a Folkpark, Arigna Mines and Kings House. They also visited a pet farm, played Quazar and had fun in a play area. They did a lot of swimming in Roscommon and the Cubs did their swimming merit badge.

## Scouts

Both Scout Troops were very active during the year and the reports to the Group AGM were encapsulated in a series of quotes and lessons!

## Focus on a Scout Group .... Donnybrook

**There are 451 Scout Groups in Scouting Ireland. This report reflects the multitude of activity, fun and adventure that takes place in all our Scout Groups.**



### **Some quotes from the Scout of the 40th Scout Troop....**

"My favourite thing about this year was the weekend in Oakwood because we did all these cool bases like building a rope bridge across the river which I really enjoyed." **(Rebekah)**

"Last year was good. Except for all the walking!" **(Eleanor)**

"I really liked all the scouting activities which further enhanced my already formidable scouting prowess". **(Niall)** *(Obviously scouts improves your vocabulary!)*

"On Easter Camp I got my trousers filthy and accidentally burned a hole in them. Still, it was funny." **(Marc)**

"On Easter Camp we went on a hike around Lough Dan. At one bit we were crossing a river and Liam's shoe fell in. Liam quickly followed." **(Emma)**

"The best bit about Sussex was our trip to London. I danced in the fountain in Trafalgar Square in my full uniform. It was the cleanest I'd been for the whole two weeks!" **(Tara)**

"Thorpe Park was brilliant. Near the end it lashed and thundered, and I mean LASHED! So we started to dance in it." **(Claire)**

"Can you see the Empire State Building from here?" **(Naiose, on the London Eye)**

"The highlight of my Annual Camp was Peter dragging Rory out of Buckingham Palace after he asked the policeman with the machine gun, 'Can I see your gun?'" **(Tom)**

"I liked Brighton Pier. I bought a pancake with Nutella in it. At last, REAL food!" **(Conor)**

### **And some lessons learned from the 3rd Troop....**

#### **Scouts**

New P/Ls got used to their added responsibilities and learned to become effective leaders.

Cubs from both Packs joined our troop, met new people and learned new ways of doing things, such as telling their families important information and not relying on letters from the Leaders.

Scouts went to Brittas Bay for a weekend and learned that you are never too old to go on a ghost walk and be scared.

Our new recruits learned their prayer, principles, promise and law of scouts and are invested.

Scouts learned how to make Christmas decorations for their hall.

P/Ls and scouts sat down together to plan their coming year through lively debate.

Scouts learned to work as patrol team and find their way to Balbriggan for the weekend.

Scouts learned on Easter Camp that a bit of rain won't do you any harm!

Scouts learned that it does matter how you pack the groceries!!

Scouts go on the County Shield and meet new friends and learn loads of new songs.

Scouts learned so much working up to annual camp, not least their camp skills and just how to take care of each other.

On annual, scouts learn so much, that I think they all came home a bit wiser!

On the National Patrol Challenge the scouts did their best.

#### **Leaders**

Leaders learned that scouts are waterproof!

Leaders learned that scouts could work when a trip to the theme park depends on it!!

Leaders go on the County Shield and learn volleyball is not as easy as it looks.

Leaders suffer from panic attacks trying to pack gear, get scouts ready and book and organise all the activities and travel!!

On annual, leaders learned so much that I think they came home a bit wiser and feeling a lot older!!!!!!

The leaders were very proud of the scouts.



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## Venturers

The year started with a weekend in Aurora where the first mention of Summer Expedition was uttered. The Lug na Coille night hike challenged night navigation and map reading skills. Scones weekend followed - ask anyone about their spiritual weekend of relaxation and general karma! Halloween party, the Venturer Black Tie Ball, the County meet and greet (and eat) all followed. Then commenced the colossal task of fund raising for Peru. Bag packs galore were had, culminating in the Christmas bag pack, netted enough money to buy a fair few ice creams in Cuzco Central! 2004 saw novel programme ideas such as star gazing (inside the scout hall!), Oran's Spiritual night of meditation, chain ganging (just see the web site) and on an international note we hosted Italian, German and Dutch scouts and even sent emissaries over to Holland! Easter means camp in venturer circles and this year was no exception, where they organised the "Pirate Pete Swashbucklin' weekend of pillage and plunder" (this title shall be abbreviated from here on in). Events included raft building, sword fighting, slippery slope, paintballing, the pit of doom and that legendary film Pirates of the Caribbean, with that chap Orlando Bloom!

The 31/2 weeks in Peru are best described as simply incredible. The Venturers undertook rewarding community projects such as turning a new refuge for young mums and their children into a home, a 500m long interactive city mural, visiting an Andean school and home hospitality with Amantani families. These took up the majority of their time and had the greatest impact on the 38 Venturers, Rovers and Leaders, who made the trip. These were all carried out with the help of their Corkman in Peru, Charlie Donovan, a former Venturer Leader. Between project work they trekked the Inca Trail and got snowed in but eventually made it to the magical ruins of Machu Pichu, did a white water rafting trip, spent 3 nights in the amazing Jungle and visited the beautiful floating reed bed islands on Lake Titticaca. They even managed a swim and a Peruvian ceilidh ! As well as doing a little bit of good and lapping up the sights & sounds they also did activities with local Venturers in Cusco, Puno and Lima.



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## Focus on a National Programme Event.... Challenge 2004 - Co. Clare

**This report reflects the many quality events organised by County and Provincial teams that support the programme on offer to our members.**

The "Challenge" Expedition is for youth members over the age of 15 years, in teams of two hiking 100km over 5 days. It is an expedition of exploration and discovery, providing its participants with a real and unique opportunity to understand and examine a part of rural Ireland; it's people, and their way of life. This is achieved through projects, which are carefully selected and prepared to give the "expeditioners" the best prospect of completing the Challenge. The daily log is not simply to give a record of what the team did from morning to night but it is a book of memories - what each participant thought about their experiences. It should be possible to read the logbook some 5 or 10 years later to realize the immensity of what was achieved and experienced.

While the event incorporates an assessment at completion, Challenge is not a competition or a test, but an experience requiring teamwork, initiative, resourcefulness and endurance. To this end assessment is made on the basis of personal progress, not absolute standards.

This year's event was held in County Clare from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. 11 teams participated, gathering at Ennis Scout hall on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> for final briefings. On Saturday morning teams were transported by minibus and cars along the west coast of the county and dropped one at a time along the route. For the next 5 days the teams explored the entire County from Loop Head to the Clare/ Galway border engaging in the various Projects set for them which gave them a unique insight into Clare and the people who live there – everything from hurling to the tourist industry in the County to the famine to folklore and traditional music.

After 5 days on the road all teams made their way to Killaloe and were met by staff and transported to Thomond Scout Centre in Murroe, Co. Limerick for 2 days of catching up and relaxation. The reading of logbooks, projects and assessments were completed on the afternoon and evening of arrival leaving Friday 13<sup>th</sup> free (but not for that reason!) for sailing, canoeing and rafting on Lough Derg at the Association's Water Activity Centre at Killaloe. The Chief Scout and other guests attended a celebratory BBQ to honour the participants on Friday evening. At the Presentations ceremony both the Chief Scout and Expedition Leader congratulated the participants on their achievements and hoped that memories of the event and their experiences would remain with them. For the very first time, this being the 10<sup>th</sup> such Expedition, all participants received the award of the "Challenge Woggle".



## A Strategy for Scouting - 2007

The Interim National Management Committee as part of its objectives set about the drafting of a 3-year strategy for Scouting Ireland. The core of that strategy was introduced by the Chief Scout to the first meeting of the National Council:

*“Whilst it must be recognised that Scouting is a Movement that should continuously evolve and change this strategic vision will help us to deliver on the fundamentals of Scouting Ireland as defined in the Constitution and Rules. These fundamentals describe our purpose as an organisation, they are the reason we are in existence and will serve as the backdrop to all that we do.*

*In order to provide us with a clear focus for our work over the next few years we have drawn up our “Commitment to Youth”. This is a straightforward statement of what we expect Scouting Ireland will offer and deliver to each youth member by the time we reach the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Scouting in 2007.”*

### Scouting Ireland’s Commitment to Youth

Scouting is a journey of discovery and during your journey with us you will:

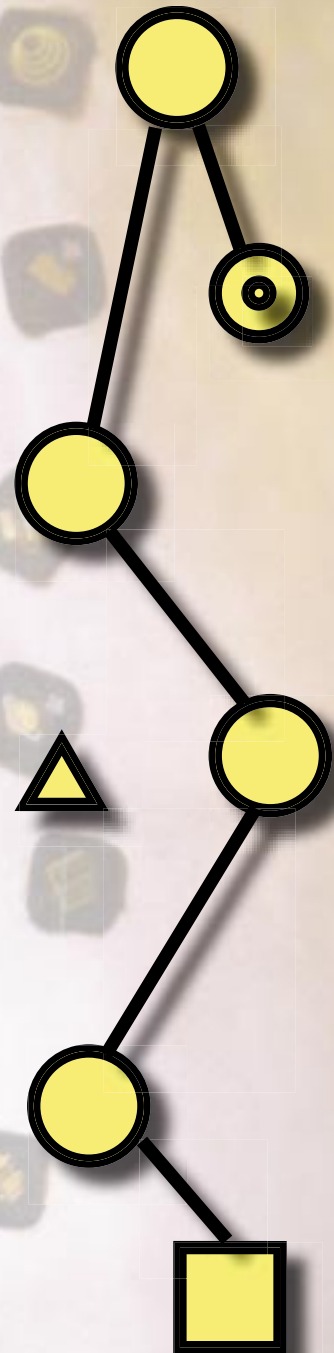
- Learn more about yourself, your abilities and what you believe in
- Make friends and visit new places
- Learn to love and enjoy the out of doors
- Take part in adventurous activities that challenge you mentally, physically, spiritually and emotionally and help you realise your potential
- Learn life skills, teamwork and leadership
- Learn about your Community, and the World, and what you can do to make it a better place
- Make good friends and have a lot of fun

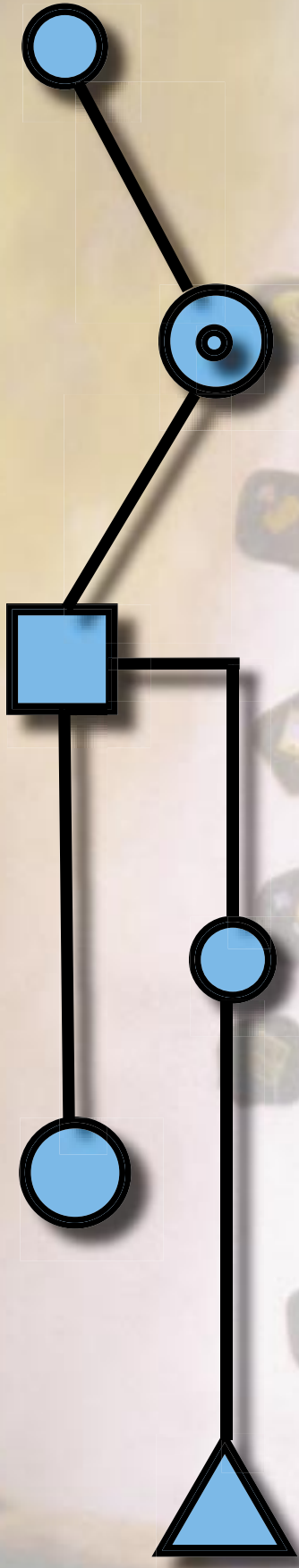
#### You are expected to:

- Accept responsibility for your decisions and your actions
- Speak your mind honestly, always considering the opinions and feelings of others
- Listen to others and try to understand their point of view
- Keep your promises and honour your commitments
- Take care of yourself and ensure the others in your team stay safe
- Take pride in yourself and do your best at all times
- Try to live by the Scout Promise & Law

#### We give you this commitment:

- Your safety and welfare will be our uppermost priority
- Your views and opinions will be listened to and respected
- We will help you to plan your own journey with us at your own pace





- In the course of this journey your efforts will be supported
- You will have a say in how Scouting Ireland is run
- Your endeavors and contribution will be recognised along the way

The National Management Committee continues to work on that strategic vision and will develop an initial set of objectives for the Association's efforts over the next few years. These objectives will help the Association to prepare a detailed plan for the development, implementation, monitoring and management of initiatives at all its levels so that together all its members can participate in achieving its Aim.

## Youth Programme Review

Scouting Ireland is currently engaging in the single most significant review of the Youth Programme for Scouting in Ireland since the commencement of Scouting. The Youth Programme Review commenced at the beginning of 2004 and is being carried out by the National Youth Programme Committee which is facilitated in this process by the Programme Review Team .

### The Challenge

The challenge in reviewing the Youth Programme is to create the best possible programme for Scouting Ireland which will be current and relevant to young people today and include all the best methods and educational objectives that Scouting has to offer. The Review Team is using RAP (Renewed Approach to Programme – a tool developed by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement) to meet this challenge.

The entire Youth Programme from start age to finish age will be reviewed as a single progressive programme. The Youth Programme Review relates to all aspects of the Programme including Objectives, Methods, Activities, Progressive Scheme, Adult Training, Awareness and Resources.

A target date of summer 2007 has been set for the completion of the Review.

### RAP

The RAP methodology being used to carry out the Review is a systematic approach with clearly defined steps and which is measurable at all stages. It looks at every aspect of the programme including the age ranges for Programme Sections and how they all fit together. It adapts Youth Programme to the needs and aspirations of young people, in our society, at the present time and has an in-built review process to ensure that the Programme continues to be relevant.

#### RAP consists of eight stages as follows -

1. Educational Proposal
2. Areas of Personal Growth
3. General Educational Objectives
4. Stages of Development and Age Sections
5. Section Educational Objectives
6. Activities
7. Section Methods
8. Personal Progressive Scheme

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## Consultation

In carrying out the Review, the Programme Review Team have surveyed young members of Scouting Ireland and young people who are not involved in Scouting. Care was taken to ensure a good geographic mix. In particular there has been input from 20 Scout Groups from various parts of the country, whose input will increase as the process goes forward. Adult members of Scouting and other stakeholders including parents, teachers and community representatives were also surveyed to obtain their opinions. The results from such consultations was reported to the National Youth Programme Committee.

The National Youth Programme Committee have also had the benefit of input from educationalists, from academics working in the areas of children's research and social policy, and from the European Scout Region.

## Progress

The Educational Proposal was completed in August 2004, approved by the Interim National Management Committee and presented at the National Council meeting in October 2004. The General Educational Objectives are set for completion in February 2005.

Work is currently in progress on Stages of Development, Age Sections and Section Educational Objectives. It is planned that this work will be completed by summer 2005. At that stage work with the National Adult Resources Committee and the Training Team can commence in earnest, with a view to having adult training resources developed to reflect the new programme material.

In the latter half of 2005 work will continue with the National Youth Programme Committee and the other Programme Teams to develop activities, methods and progressive schemes. This work will then be piloted, while resource materials are developed.

The work programme to carry out the Youth Programme Review is immense and detailed. It will take time to complete but the outcome will provide Scouting Ireland with its first Youth Programme – one which will meet the aims and objectives of this new Association in encouraging the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, to improve society.



## Leader Training in Scouting Ireland - The Woodbadge Scheme



The Training Team through the National Adult Resources Committee (and initially as a partnership group from the Training Teams of both former associations) immediately commenced work on a new Leader Training Scheme for Scouting Ireland. The guiding principles are grounded upon the report of the Steering Committee adopted by the National Councils of both former associations. As a result the Training courses of the Woodbadge Scheme are developed by the Training Team but delivered through the Scout Provinces with the goal of making Leader Training more accessible and flexible for Scouters. The focus is firmly on skills which Scouters need to deliver the Youth Programme.

1. **Welcome to Scouting** is first stage of the Woodbadge Scheme and delivered to the Volunteer by either the Group Leader or Group Trainer prior to their involvement with our youth members or as an Associate Member. This initial training will take up to 6 weeks to complete.
2. **Scouting Fundamentals** covers the basics requirements for a Scouter to run an active and fun programme within their Programme Section. This training takes a full day to complete.
3. **Scouting Essentials** shows the Scouter how to implement the Association's Youth Programme and in particular having regard to the Programme Section age range that they deliver the Youth Programme to. This module is completed over a weekend or can be done in stages during weeknights.
4. **Skills workshops** allow the Leaders to gain the hard skills they need.
5. **Section Overnights** covers the organisation and planning needed to take Scouts away on over night activities.
6. **The Scouting Leadership Course** is carried out over a weekend and covers the personal development of the Scouter thus enabling them to carry out their role with other Scouters.

All Programme Scouters are required to undertake a course and receive a First Aid Certificate. A list of recognised bodies, delivering such courses, is provided at the Welcome to Scouting course and they may be carried out within the Group, County or Province.

In order to complete the Woodbadge Scheme each Scouter is required to complete a project relevant to their needs and to the development of their Programme Section or Scout Group. A mentor will work closely with the Scouter to provide necessary encouragement to fulfil this task. Following an assessment on completion of the Project the Woodbadge will be presented at a suitable venue.

Following a review of Group Leader Training a revised Training Programme is now complete and is being delivered at Provincial Level. It is also being delivered to other members and officers of the Group Council.

In addition the Training Team is currently working on increasing the number of Trainers who will deliver courses throughout the Scout Provinces.

By mid 2005 over 1,000 Scouters will have received training throughout the 6 Provinces.

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The Inaugural Meeting of the National Council of Scouting Ireland was held over two days, in the Helix Centre, in DCU, Glasnevin, Dublin on 16/17<sup>th</sup> October '04. Over 600 delegates attended and robust discussion and debate took place.

The meeting was opened by the Chief Scout in the presence of Mr. P.J. Breen, Principal Officer of the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education and Science (deputising for Minister Síle de Valera, T.D.). Mr Breen addressed the meeting, delivering the Minister's speech congratulating the members of Scouting Ireland on their new association and paying tribute to the work of the Association and its volunteers and their contribution to Irish Society.

The Chief Scout launched the "Introducing Scouting Ireland" Exposition before lunch on Saturday. The colourful and professional Exposition portrayed a celebration of the Association's first few months with participation from all Programme Teams (from Beaver Scouts to Water activities), the Communications Team, International Teams, An Gaisce, Outdoor Adventure Store/ Scout Shop and many others. The Exposition ran until Sunday afternoon and was well attended. The Chief Scout also went "live" on Jamboree on the Air, which was taking place around the World on the same weekend, at the special station set up in the midst of the Exposition.

Delegates and members of the National Council joined other members of the Association on Saturday afternoon at Provincial Meetings where the various Provincial Commissioners and the Provincial Management/ Support Teams reviewed progress to date and set targets for the future with members from their Provinces. The remainder of Saturday afternoon was taken up with "Special Single Item Agenda Meetings" with 5 topics available:

- Youth Participation in Decision Making - How will we achieve this?
- Leader Training - its development and delivery in Scouting Ireland.
- SQS - How can we analyse what we do?
- A new Youth Programme for Scouting Ireland - First Steps and Principles
- International Scouting - How can we promote awareness throughout Scouting Ireland?

The consultation meetings raised several points, which were all recorded for detailed examination by the National Management Committee. The meeting of the National Council reconvened on Sunday morning to deal with numerous motions including the proposal on a new Uniform for the Association. That proposal was adopted and it is envisaged that the Uniform should be available before September 2005.

## The First Meeting of the National Council of Scouting Ireland



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**Following elections, the under mentioned people were elected to the National Management committee:**

**Chief Scout** – *Martin Burbridge*

**Chief Commissioner (Youth Resources)** – *Kiernan Gildea*

**Chief Commissioner (Adult Resources)** – *Brendan McNicholas*

**National Secretary** – *Mark O'Callaghan*

**National Treasurer** – *Niall Walsh*

**Provincial Commissioners**

**Dublin Metropolitan Province** – *Joe Marken*

**South Eastern Province** – *Derrick Watson*

**Southern Province** – *Michael John Shinnick*

**Western Province** – *Julie Malone*

**Northern Province** – *Noel McCartney*

**North Eastern Province** – *Christy McCann*

**Other members**

*John Maher*

*Mandy Merriman*

*Orla McCarthy*

*Paul Falvey*

*Ann Foley*

*Pat Murphy*

**The next meeting of National Council will take place on 19th June 2005.**

