

The Youth Charter

In exchange for the Scout's Commitment, the Scout Group and Scouting Ireland jointly make Scouting's Commitment to each Scout.

Scout's Commitment

Each Scout agrees that he or she will:

- Make the commitment of the Scout Promise and live by the Scout Law.
- Receive and engage with the Youth Programme.
- Wear the uniform of Scouting Ireland.
- Accept and uphold the rules of the activity, the Scout Group and Scouting Ireland.
- Search out and try new adventures and challenges within Scouting and participate in Scouting to the best of their ability.
- Represent other young people where possible.
- Use the skills learned and the experiences of Scouting to help improve Society and the World.

Scouting's Commitment

The Scout Group and Scouting Ireland jointly agree that they will:

- Deliver and support the delivery of the Youth Programme to Scouts.
- Develop programmes, opportunities and policies to support the delivery of the Youth Programme and continuously endeavour to improve it.
- Organise activities or opportunities outside of the Scout Group on a local, national, or international basis to allow Scouts meet other Scouts and to broaden their outlook and environment.
- Observe the terms of the Scout Group Charter.
- Involve youth members in decision making in the Scout Group and in Scouting Ireland by observing the Youth Involvement Policy.
- Establish a Group Youth Forum in every Scout Group.
- Facilitate the members of the Sixers Council, Patrol/Watch Leaders Council, Court of Honour, Venture Scout Executive, and Rover Scout Crew to elect a Scouter as their dedicated liaison to represent their views to the Group Council. This Scouter will be known as the Group Youth Champion and shall be a member of the Scout Group Council.
- The Group Youth Champion shall convene a meeting of the Group Youth Forum prior to each scheduled meeting of the Scout Group Council.
- Include the minutes of the Group Youth Forum in the business of each Group Council meeting.
- Any formal enquiries made on behalf of the Group Youth Forum should be responded to formally and minutes of Group Council meetings should be made available to the Secretary of the Group Youth Forum.

- Ensure that at least 2 of the 5 delegate places of each Scout Group for General Meetings of the company will be reserved for youth members.
- Promote and support the establishment of Youth Fora at County, and Provincial level.
- Promote and support the establishment of National Youth Fora for Scouts, Venture Scouts, and Rover Scouts.
- At least 2 Directors shall attend each National Youth Forum to address and engage the youth members in attendance in accordance with the standing orders.
- Ensure the participation and involvement of youth representatives of County and National Fora within Scouting Ireland and the Scouter's Conference.
- Establish and support the National Youth Assembly to represent youth members at National level between meetings of the National Youth Fora and to oversee the implementation of the decisions of the Fora.
- Invite members of the National Youth Assembly to attend General Meetings of Scouting Ireland to participate in all discussion and debate.
- Arrange for meetings between representatives of the National Youth Assembly and the Board of Directors of Scouting Ireland at least three times per year.
- The Chief Scout will act as the youth champion for the National Youth Assembly with the Board of Directors.
- Review and amend the terms of this Charter in conjunction with the National Youth Assembly on an annual basis.

Appendix: Definitions

- "Scouting Ireland" is Scouting Ireland Services CLG, a company limited by guarantee, registered under the Companies Act 2014. It is a Charitable Organisation and a member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.
- The "Scout Group" is organised in accordance and compliance with the Scout Group Charter.
- The "Scout Group Charter" defines the relationship between the Scout Group and Scouting Ireland.
- A "Scout" is a youth member who receives the Youth Programme of Scouting Ireland. All Scouts make the commitment of the Scout Promise.
- "Youth members" is a collective term for Scouts.
- "Youth Programme" is the system of non-formal education established and supported by Scouting Ireland. It is delivered by both Scout Groups and Scouting Ireland. It incorporates the Scout Method and 36 Learning Objectives and is the primary way that Scout Groups and Scouting Ireland achieve their aims.
- There are 36 "Learning Objectives" which are used by Scouting in Ireland to achieve its aim. They are simplified in the Youth Programme and made appropriate to the age of the Scout. They are within the 6 categories specified in the aim: social, physical, intellectual, character, emotional and spiritual.
- "The Scout Promise" and "The Scout Law" are defined in the Scout Group Constitution.
- The "Group Youth Forum" is established by the Group Leader to allow youth members discuss matters of interest and to represent those interests at Group level. The members of the Group Youth Forum shall be two or more youth members elected from within each Programme Section within the Group and the Group Youth Champion. The Group Youth Forum shall elect its own Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary.

- The “National Youth Assembly” meets at least three times per year, is chaired by the Chief Scout (or their representative) and consists of the National Youth Representatives as elected at the National Youth Fora. The Team Lead for Youth Empowerment (or their representative) also attends meetings of the National Youth Assembly. The Chief Scout can request a meeting of the National Youth Assembly at any time.
- “National Youth Fora” are organised for each of the Scout, Venture Scout and Rover Scout sections. Each Forum elects up to 9 National Youth Representatives in accordance with their Standing Orders to act on their behalf between each sitting of the Forum
- “County Youth Fora” are organised for each of the Scout, Venture Scout and Rover Scout sections to discuss matters of interest and represent those interests at County level.
- The “Youth Involvement Policy” is a policy document developed by Scouting Ireland (SIDYP01) for empowerment of Scouts in the decision-making process of Scouting in Ireland.