



Become the Scouting Ireland nominee to the Academy 2026 of the Washington Ireland Program for Service and Leadership

The Washington Ireland Program is seeking nominations from community organisations for our 8-month leadership and development program for young leaders who are already involved in community work on a voluntary or professional basis. It is a programme specially designed to develop young community leaders (18-29), focusing on their leadership and career skills for the future. The programme will primarily take place in March and April 2026, taking up around 2 - 4 hours per week.

The WIP Academy aims to develop a diverse new generation of community leaders dedicated to peace, reconciliation, and cooperation. Nominees do not need to be attending school or enrolled in a Further or Higher Education course to apply. The programme's unique flexibility means participants can complete it alongside their home, volunteering, caring, or other responsibilities.

What's Involved?

There will be a one-night residential in Armagh on February 27th - 28th and a further three in person events. They will take place from 9:45am to approximately 5:00pm on March 28th in Dublin and April 18th in Belfast. Following this, during June and July participants will have opportunities to participate in our mentorship program and attend online virtual session with community leaders from across the U.S, Ireland and Northern Ireland. Upon completion of the programme, participants will attend a final debrief day followed by a Graduation in September in Belfast. They will then join the Washington Ireland Program alum community.

Participants' Profile

WIP are looking for promising young leaders (18 to 29 years old) from a diverse range of backgrounds and traditions on the island of Ireland to take part. All applicants must be nominated by an existing Community Leader or Organisation before they can apply via an online form. Scouting Ireland is seeking expressions of interest to become the SI nominee to the programme. Applicants are required to

- Be a registered member of Scouting Ireland
- Be aged between 18 – 30 years at the time of the event
- Be willing to share personal experiences and best practices and engage in discussions with participants from different countries.
- Commit to sharing your knowledge, learning and experience through involvement in a project or initiative with Scouting Ireland upon completion of the programme.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted through the current open call. Depending on the applications received, an interview panel may be convened.

Expressions of interest can be submitted [via this online form](#). The deadline for expressions of interest from Scouting Ireland members is 23:59 on Tuesday 6th January.



WASHINGTON
IRELAND
PROGRAM
FOR SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

ACADEMY 2026

Proudly supported by

BANK OF AMERICA 



**An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála**
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

WIP ACADEMY 2026

The WIP Academy is a program specially designed to develop young community leaders (18-29), focusing on their leadership and career skills for the future. The program will primarily take place in March and April 2026, taking up around 2 - 4 hours per week. Each participant will take part in an 8-week remote work project, detailed below.

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Some of the main opportunities are:

- An exclusive 8-week remote work project with a high-profile US organisation. These projects have been designed with the needs of our participants in mind and have plenty of flexibility built into them, allowing participants to maintain a part-time job and/or other responsibilities during the program.
- Exclusive leadership masterclasses where participants can hear from and speak to community leaders from the US, Northern Ireland and Ireland, sharing their experiences and personal advice.
- Engage in our leadership curriculum, focusing on leadership and hard skills that are essential to their personal and professional development.
- Have access to a dedicated mentorship program led by WIP alumni/ae and Bank of America.
- Design thinking workshops, where participants will create innovative policy solutions with their peers to address issues facing our shared island.



WE BELIEVE
THAT
LEADERS
NEED TO BE

ENGAGED

Leaders with big ideas
come from diverse
backgrounds



INFORMED

An open mindset is
required to meet the
challenges of our time



CONNECTED

There is a power in
creating networks of
non-likeminded individuals



GUIDANCE FOR REFEREES: WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for promising young leaders from a diverse range of backgrounds and traditions on the island of Ireland to take part. All applicants must be nominated by an existing Community Leader or Organisation before they can apply via our online form.

Please remember the following when considering nominating a candidate:

- We encourage participants from all backgrounds and experiences to apply.
- No formal qualifications are required to participate.
- The only requirement is that candidates have demonstrated leadership potential and can speak to their experiences in their application.
- It is helpful if an applicant can demonstrate a commitment to service and helping others in their application.
- We are looking for passionate individuals (their passion could take any form).
- An applicant should be interested in dealing with difference and working with people from different backgrounds from their own.
- The program is designed to be as flexible as possible to support the candidate's prior commitments, including (but not limited to) employment, volunteering, caring responsibilities or study.
- We particularly welcome nominations for young people who have caring responsibilities.
- We particularly welcome nominations for young people who have disabilities.
- We particularly welcome nominations for young people who are part-time students, especially from further education colleges.

Further information can be found at www.wiprogram.org. Specific enquiries or questions should be addressed via email to Caoimhe Ni Mhaolagain at cnimhaolagain@wiprogram.org

