

	Gasóga na hÉireann/Scouting Ireland			
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Scouting Ireland – Camping and Adventures in the Out of Doors Guidelines				
Revision	Date	Description		
C	11/05/2013	Point 18 & 1.2 amended, Point 1.3 & 1.4 deleted		
B	25/11/2012	Point 13 Revised, Point 6.0 added		
A	06/10/2012	Point 15 added		
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Please note that if the Camp / Adventure entails a leaving the island of Ireland, the **Camping & Adventures in the Out of Doors Policy** must be read in conjunction with the **Youth Programme Abroad Policy [SID 71/10]** and all supporting documentation & forms adhered to.

1. Youth Members and Adult Scouters organising camps and overnight activities must inform their Group Leader of their plans in all cases. This can be in writing, by telephone, by email or by word of mouth. Thus the Group Leader may be able to assist with advice and guidance on plans for the activity.
2. The above procedure applies to all Programme Sections once an overnight is part of the activity
3. In cases where the activity is of a minimum of one (1) night for **Beaver Scouts** the approval of the Group Leader is required in writing using the Scouting Ireland Overnight Approval Form.
4. In cases where the activity is three (3) nights or more for **Cub Scouts** the approval of the Group Leader is required in writing using the Scouting Ireland Overnight Approval Form.
5. In cases where the activity four (4) nights or more for **Scouts, Venture Scouts & Rover Scouts** the approval of the Group Leader is required in writing using the Scouting Ireland Overnight Approval Form.
6. The Scouting Ireland Overnight Approval Form where required must be with the Group Leader twenty one days (21) prior to the activity taking place to allow sufficient time for plans to be altered / revised should the Group Leader consider this necessary. For camps and activities **abroad:** outside the island of Ireland and it's off-shore islands (inclusive), please refer to the **Youth Programme Abroad Policy & NYPC Guidelines**.

7. The Group Leader should forward a copy of the Overnight Approval Form to the County Programme Coordinator for information purposes.
8. The good image of Scouting Ireland must never be impaired through irresponsible behaviour or ill-prepared arrangements. The onus for good public relations lies first and foremost with the Scouter-in-charge and then with each and every member of the party.
9. There are certain sites that are not considered suitable for Scouting activities. Amongst these are caravan sites, holiday or entertainment centres, hostels where room sharing with non-Scouting hostellers may occur etc.
10. Youth Members & Adult Scouters must always insist that a true Scouting spirit permeates the site and that adequate privacy and control for all participants exists.
11. It is essential that the Scouter-in-charge obtains appropriate approval for each Youth Member under 18 years to participate in an overnight event utilising the Scouting Ireland Activity Consent & Medical Advice Forms. These are essential to ensure that medical details are recorded right up to the day of departure in respect to individual Youth Members; as well as providing invaluable information in the event of an emergency.
12. Adequate privacy for all individuals should be available on camp. It is imperative that separate sleeping, toilet and washing accommodation be available for males and females. If using indoor accommodation, only indoor accommodation that can supply, or be adapted to supply, adequate privacy for all individuals should be used.
13. Due to the accommodation arrangements (or the specific nature of the activity) and provision of facilities at some camp sites; or gender ratios of participants; it may be necessary (permissible) for males and females to share tents/dormitories for reasons of practicality and/or safety. Where this option is required, young people must always have access to private washing and changing areas. This is an acceptable arrangement within Scouting Ireland's Camping & Adventures in the Out of Doors Policy & Guidelines; so long as Parents/Guardians are consulted about the arrangements at the planning stage of the activity and give consent. In relation to **Section 6.0** below it is important that the Programme Section Team Leader(s) and Group Leader(s) are consulted prior to the activity at the time that participation is being sought.
14. The important roles of the Group Leader, the County Programme Coordinator (CPC) and the County Training Coordinator (CTC) in ensuring adequate training, planning and preparation before all Programme Section overnight activities cannot be over emphasised.
15. All Adult Scouters partaking on an overnight activity must hold an Adult Scouter Appointment

16. All Adult Scouters partaking on an overnight activity must have obtained Stage 2 (including Scouting Ireland's Child Protection Awareness) of the Woodbadge Scheme in advance of attending an overnight.
17. In relation to the participation of Non-Member Adults the **Scouting Ireland Policy for the involvement of Non-Member Adults on Scouting Activities** [SID 36/05] must be adhered to.
18. The Scouter-in-charge of an overnight activity must have completed the appropriate Scout Skills Training Course covering overnights / Stage 5 of the Woodbadge Scheme.
19. The Youth Member leading of an overnight activity (Scouts, Venture Scouts & Rover Scouts) must hold have Level 5 Camping Adventure Skills Badge.
20. At least one Adult Scouter attending partaking on an overnight activity or one Youth Member over 16 years of age must have successfully completed a First Aid training course or verification that a qualified First Aider be available at the location of the overnight.
21. The participation of Scouters from other National Scout Organisations may be considered but they must be in addition to the Adult Scouter: Youth Member ratios outlined in this document. The Scouter-in-Charge of the event must be satisfied that the Scouter concerned is a member in good standing of his/her National Scout Organisations. The International Department in National Office may be in a position to assist with such a matter.

1.0 Beaver Scouts

It should be the policy of all Beaver Scout Programme Sections to undertake a number of overnights over the course of the year. A Beaver Scout Slumber Night gives young people their first experience of a night away from home without their parents / guardians. This activity offers a number of benefits – the excitement of spending time with friends, more time for extended activities, a sense of independence and most importantly – fun!

- 1.1 Where males and females are participating, there should be at least one male and one female Adult Scouter present throughout the event.
- 1.2 The maximum number of nights away must not exceed two on any one activity.
- 1.3 The welfare of each Beaver Scout must be paramount on the list of priorities for the Scouters-in-charge. Accordingly, special attention must be given to such items as sleep, food, hygiene, injuries, sickness, happiness and safety.
- 1.4 Attention to safety while on and off the site must always be borne in mind.
- 1.5 Where the Slumber Night is camping outdoors the Adult Scouter's tent shall be no more than 5 meters from the Beaver Scouts' tent.
- 1.6 Where the Slumber Night is camping outdoors, two Adult Scouters should accompany a Beaver Scout to the toilet after lights out. At least two other Scouters should remain on site. Therefore the minimum number of Scouters on a camping Slumber Night is four (4).
- 1.7 A Beaver Scout must be invested before taking part in a Beaver Scout Slumber Night.
- 1.8 A Beaver Scout Slumber Night can take place in a Scout Den, a Scout campsite, a hostel specifically booked. Beaver Scouts should not share hostels with non-Scouts.
- 1.9 Tentage / Accommodation to ensure adequate privacy for male and female participants must be provided
- 1.10 For all Beaver Scout overnights Scouting Ireland Overnight Approval Form is required. A full menu, programme and budget must be developed in conjunction with the Youth Members and submitted with the form.

2.0 CUB SCOUTS

It should be the policy of all Cub Scout Programme Sections to undertake a number of overnights over the course of the year. Such activities are a great opportunity for the Adult Scouters and Sixers Council to put into practice the skills obtained through Scout Method in a natural outdoor setting. By using the Patrol System to the fullest extent practicable, each and every Cub Scout is afforded an invaluable opportunity for leadership, training and personal development.

- 2.1 The welfare of each Cub Scout must be paramount on the list of priorities for the Scouters. Accordingly, special attention must be given to such items as sleep, food, hygiene, injuries, sickness, happiness and safety.
- 2.2 Attention to safety while on and off the site must always be borne in mind.
- 2.3 Where males and females are participating, there should be at least one male and one female Adult Scouter present throughout the event.
- 2.4 Tentage / Accommodation to ensure adequate privacy for male and female participants must be provided
- 2.5 A Cub Scout must be invested before taking part in a Cub Scout overnight
- 2.6 Where a Scouting Ireland Overnight Approval Form is required (activity three (3) nights or more for Cub Scouts) full menu, programme and budget must be developed in conjunction with the Youth Members and submitted with the form.

3.0 SCOUTS

It should be the policy of all Scout Programme Sections to undertake a number of overnights over the course of the year. Such activities are a great opportunity for the Adult Scouters and Patrol Leaders Council to put into practice the skills obtained through Scout Method in a natural outdoor setting. By using the Patrol System to the fullest extent practicable, each and every Scout is afforded an invaluable opportunity for leadership, training and personal development.

- 3.1 The welfare of each Scout must be paramount on the list of priorities for the Scouters. Accordingly, special attention must be given to such items as sleep, food, hygiene, injuries, sickness, happiness and safety.
- 3.2 Attention to safety while on and off the site must always be borne in mind. Personal attention will ensure a pleasant and happy experience that will long endure.
- 3.3 Where males and females are participating, there should be at least one male and one female Adult Scouter present throughout the event.
- 3.4 Patrol camps in Ireland (without the full-time presence of Scouters) can be permitted where the Patrol Leader is an experienced camper (Level 5 Camping Adventure Skills Badge), and the overnight location is one where, in an emergency, adult help can be obtained. An Adult Scouter should visit the Patrol at some stage during the event to offer support and encouragement. All efforts should be made to encourage Patrols to camp at approved Scout campsites with permanent Camp Wardens. A Patrol, camping on its own and under the supervision of a Patrol Leader, is to be seen as the ideal norm for Scout activities.
- 3.5 Tentage / Accommodation to ensure adequate privacy for male and female participants must be provided.
- 3.6 Where a Scouting Ireland Overnight Approval Form is required (activity four (4) nights or more for Scouts) full menu, programme and budget must be developed in conjunction with the Youth Members and submitted with the form.

4.0 Venture Scouts

It should be the policy of all Venture Scout Programme Sections to undertake a number of overnights over the course of the year. Such activities are a great opportunity for members of the Venture Scout Group to put into practice the skills obtained through Scout Method in a natural outdoor setting. By using the Patrol System to the fullest extent practicable, each and every Venture Scout is afforded an invaluable opportunity for leadership, training and personal development.

- 4.1 At least one Adult Scouter, in addition to the Scouter-in-charge must attend the activity. Where males and females are participating, there should be at least one male and one female Scouter present throughout the event.
- 4.2 Venture Scouts with a proven track record of successful activities behind them as verified by the Programme Scouter(s) responsible for the Venture Scout Section, may occasionally participate in activities (including overnight activities) without the presence of Adult Scouters. An Adult Scouter should visit at some stage during the event to offer support and encouragement.
- 4.3 All such activities must have the prior approval of the Programme Scouter(s) responsible for the Venture Scout Section. The Programme Scouter(s) must be satisfied that all requirements regarding programme, equipment and conduct are in order prior to the Group's departure. The Programme Scouter must appoint a Venture-in-Charge on these occasions.
- 4.4 Tentage / Accommodation to ensure adequate privacy for male and female participants must be provided.
- 4.5 Where a Scouting Ireland Overnight Approval Form is required (activity four (4) nights or more for Venture Scouts) full menu, programme and budget must be developed in conjunction with the Youth Members and submitted with the form.

5.0 Rover Scouts

It should be the policy of all Rover Scout Programme Sections to undertake a number of overnights over the course of the year. Such activities are a great opportunity for members of the Rover Scout Crew to put into practice the skills obtained through Scout Method in a natural outdoor setting. By using the Patrol System to the fullest extent practicable, each and every Rover Scout is afforded an invaluable opportunity for leadership, training and personal development.

- 5.1 Where Rover Scout overnights take place it is recommended when the Rover Scout Crew is of mixed sex that a minimum of two (2) of each sex partakes in the activity.
- 5.2 All activities must have the prior approval of the Rover Scout Advisor responsible for the Rover Scout Section. The Rover Scout Advisor must be satisfied that all requirements regarding skills, programme, equipment and conduct are in order prior to the Group's departure. The Rover Scout Advisor must agree with the Rover Scout Crew a Rover-in-Charge.
- 5.3 Tentage / Accommodation to ensure adequate privacy for male and female participants must be provided.
- 5.4 Where a Scouting Ireland Overnight Approval Form is required (activity four (4) nights or more for Rover Scouts) full menu, programme and budget must be developed in conjunction with the Youth Members and submitted with the form.

6.0 Camps & Adventures in the Out of Doors “outside” of the Scout Group

All Camps & Adventures in the Out of Doors that are organised outside of the Scout Group, i.e. by a Scout County, a Scout Province or by Scouting Ireland at National Level must adhere to the **Camping & Adventures in the Out of Doors Policy and Guidelines** (which must be read in conjunction with the **Youth Programme Abroad Policy** [SID 71/10] where applicable)

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of the Scouter-in-Charge of the activity to ensure that the Programme Section Team Leaders and Group Leaders concerned are familiar with the detail surrounding the activity at the time that participation is being sought.
- 6.2 It should be the policy that this information is either communicated through meetings or detailed documentation as a minimum allowing Programme Section Team Leaders and Group Leaders concerned to raise any concerns / questions that they may have within a time frame set out by the Scouter-in-Charge at the outset.
- 6.3 Any fundamental change to the original plan as detailed in 6.2 should be communicated by the Scouter-in-Charge at the earliest opportunity to the Programme Section Team Leaders and Group Leaders in writing for information purposes.

7.0 Adult Scouter : Youth Member Ratio

Subject to 3.4, 4.2 and 5.2 above these Adult Scouter: Youth Member ratios shall apply. However they may be waived in particular circumstances where the nature of the event specifically calls for the active leadership of a young person (e.g. Adventure, Chief Scout Award, Special Interest Badges etc.)

Section	Youth Members	Adult Scouters
Beaver Scouts	4 – 16	3
	Each additional 4	1
Cub Scouts (island of Ireland)	4 – 16	3
	Each additional 8	1
Cub Scouts ABROAD (British Isles & Main Land Europe)	4 – 16	3
	Each additional 6	1
Scouts (island of Ireland except 3.4 above)	4 – 16	2
	Each additional 8	1
Scouts ABROAD	4 – 16	3
	Each additional 8	1
Venture Scouts (except 4.2 above)	4 – 16	2
	Each additional 16	1
Rover Scouts (except 5.2 above)	4 +	0
Rover Scouts partaking in Service / Partnerships ABROAD	4+	1

The County Programme Coordinator or the County Commissioner (or their representative) shall be entitled to visit any camping / overnight activity taking place in their County.