



Organising Ceremonies

Scouter's Edition

In Scouting we have lots of ceremonies which mark important points in a scout's personal journey. This is a quick resource to help you in organising different ceremonies for your patrol and troop.

Investiture

The first ceremony we all have in scouts is our investiture. It is the way we formally join the scout movement. It involves each person making a scout promise in front of others. In doing so, they not only are going a scout troop, but they are also joining the over 600 million people who have made the Scout Promise since 1908. Here are some general points to remember when organising an investiture:

- All those about to be invested should be prepared for it. They should have done most of their Discovery Crean Award.
- It's nice to have it on a camp or activity, or in an unusual location. This makes it memorable, especially for those being invested.
- Each person should make their promise individually in the company of their patrol. The promises are available on the last page of this resource. **This point is important given our increased awareness for the variety of beliefs and backgrounds of our members. It is no longer appropriate to assume everyone has the same beliefs or that scouts should make a collective promise at an investiture. Allow each individual to make their promise.**
- There are three variations of the Scout Promise, beforehand each person should talk through which promise they would like to make, with their PL or APL. It is important each person is given the opportunity to make the promise that is best for them. **Allow In the weeks, before the investiture help the PLs and APLS explore the different promise options with each scout so they can make an informed choice.**
- Just before the investiture, the PL should collect the neckerchiefs from those being invested. Once, they've made the promise, the PL puts the neckerchief on them.





- Also, it's nice to have a small token, like a woggle, that the APL can present.
- Sometimes flags are used in investitures or they occur in places of worship. Consider these parts carefully as some people may have an issue with them. The WOSM or Group flag is a good neutral symbol. **Holding investitures in locations which implies a prominence of one religion or denomination may be problematical for some individuals and families.**
- Have a celebration afterwards.

Crean Award presentations

The Crean Awards are the main part of the Scout programme. You move through Scouts by completed them – in your first year, you do the Discovery and Terra Nova Award; in the second year, the Endurance Award; and, in the third year, the Polar Award. A ceremony marking you achieving getting an award also marks you progressing on your journey through scouts. It's a good idea to have small patrol or troop ceremony when a scout is presented with their award. Also, the patrol or troop could decide on a token that is given to each scout, such as a compass for Terra Nova or a torch for Endurance.

Campfires

The campfire is an important and special part of scouting. It is one of the things we do best, and in a unique way. A campfire can be a ceremony of sorts. It is best to have a campfire at night, once it has gotten dark. When you have a campfire give it proper time on your programme. It is best to have a patrol responsible for preparing and lighting the fire so it is already going when everyone else arrives. This sets the right scene. As much as possible, every Scout and Scouter can contribute. This can be through songs, sketches, or keeping the fire going.





Suggest campfire programme:

Arrive: other patrols and scouters arrive to a lighting fire

Opening: short opening thought from a scout

Songs: a series of songs to get everything going

Sketches: you can include short sketches or stories, if you like

Songs: lively songs and rounds

Refreshments: another patrol can serve snacks

Songs: folk songs and quiet songs, and let the fire begin to die down

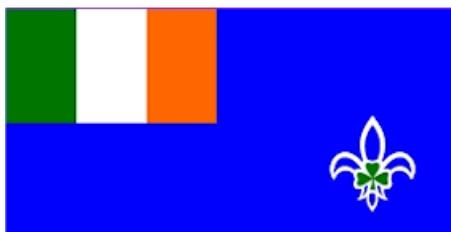
Closing: short thought

Departure: Taps

Sea Scouting

Ceremonies in Sea Scouting are a key part of the nautical spirit used throughout the programme. The traditions owe a lot to the traditions and ceremonies which took place on ships, and no doubt owe something remains from the training of the RN Coastguard who trained the first Sea Scout groups prior to Ireland's independence.

Ceremonies differ from group to group, but the most common is a colours ceremony at the start of meetings and events. These are conducted using a Scouting Ireland ensign (a version of the national flag flown afloat) rather than the national flag. The ensign is not normally flown from the mast, but from a gaff of a nautical flagpole. When the ensign is hoisted, the 'still' may sounded on a bosun's call. The bosun's call is a type of whistle used to give orders on or between ships. When the ensign is secured, the 'carry on' may be piped. Ceremonies often also make use of a landship, either on camp or at meetings. This entails setting up the space in the shape of a ship and using all the associated terminology.



The Scouting Ireland Sea Scout Ensign is a blue flag with the Irish tricolour in the canton, defaced with the Scouting Ireland emblem on the fly side.





Scout Promise variations

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

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

OR the following variation,

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

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

OR the following variation,

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

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

