

Overview

The aim of Scouting Ireland is to encourage the Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional, Social and Spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, to improve society. We refer to this as the SPICES, from the first letter of each of the areas of development, in the youth programme (ONE Programme).

One of the roles of every adult in Scouting is to aid the spiritual development of young people and to offer them the chance to begin the search of themselves through the building of a personal values system, beliefs and deep convictions. The aim is to bring them closer and closer to their own truth. However, spiritual development is a personal process. Scouters can only guide and support young people in their own development. Our role is not to pass on a philosophy, religion or belief, but to allow each person to live, express and share the truth that they have chosen.

A Scouts' Own is an important aspect of our Scouting life. It allows and supports spiritual expression by adults and young people of diverse or no particular religious backgrounds.

Relevance to you

Useful things you can do to promote an awareness of the Spiritual dimension of Scouting might include:

- Creating a culture in the Scout Group where peoples' views are respected and valued.
- Using thought provoking readings, poems, quotes, and passages in an appropriate way at Scout Group meetings and events.
- Encouraging reflection on special occasions and at special times.
- Enabling young people and adults to meet the requirements of their religion while on Scout activities.

You don't need to take on the role of a parent, psychologist, religious or secular counsellor. Your objective is to promote an appropriate environment and to enable and encourage reflection and sharing so that adults and young people feel supported and valued.

Useful documents and publications

www.scouts.ie -> ONE Programme -> Embracing Spirituality

SID 52.07 - Scouting Ireland - Spiritual and Religious Policy

SID 22.04 - Supporting the Spiritual / Religious Development of Members

Where to get help

There is an established structure in Scouting Ireland to support the spiritual development of our members; it is set out in the documents listed above.

The County Commissioner should be your first point of contact for any support which you might need, the Group Support Facilitator and the Provincial Support Officer may also be called upon for assistance.

Other Group Leaders in your Scout County and other Scouters in your Scout Group may have knowledge and/or experience you could draw on if required.

You can contact Scouting Ireland's National Office on 01 495 6300 if you require any advice during normal office hours. You can also use the same number on Monday night's between 7pm and 9pm to contact a member of the National Adult Resources Committee.