

# The Scout Group Charter

## Preamble

This document outlines the relationship and commitments between the Scout Group and Scouting Ireland.

## Article 1 – Scouting Ireland clg

1. Scouting Ireland clg (hereinafter “Scouting Ireland”) is 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. For the purposes of this document, “Scouting Ireland” shall include its subsidiary and related entities.
2. The main object for which Scouting Ireland is established is for the purpose of benefit to the community to encourage, and to support Scout Groups in encouraging, the social, physical, intellectual, character, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that those young people may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, improve society.
3. The members of Scouting Ireland are Scout Groups organised in accordance and compliance with the Scout Group Charter and eligible to be members pursuant to the constitution of Scouting Ireland.

## Article 2 – The Scout Group

1. The Scout Group, organised in accordance and compliance with the Scout Group Charter and Group Constitution, is eligible for admission as a member of Scouting Ireland. The Scout Group achieves its aim and objectives in a local community and is supported in its efforts by Scouting Ireland.
2. The aim of the Scout Group is to encourage the 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.

## Article 3 – The Charter and Collaboration to achieve mutual aims.

1. The Charter defines the relationship between the Scout Group and Scouting Ireland. It describes the supports offered by Scouting Ireland to the Scout Group. It provides for the organisation of the Scout Group and the policies and principles which the Scout Group adheres to. In doing so the Scout Group supports Scouting Ireland in the achievement of its main object, protecting its reputation and that of all Scout Groups.
2. The Charter is granted to the Scout Group by Scouting Ireland and is renewed on an annual basis.

## Article 4 – Fundamentals

1. Scouting Ireland and the Scout Group recognises the safety and welfare of its youth and adult members as a foremost priority.



2. Scouting Ireland and the Scout Group shall make the principles and provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child widely known, by appropriate and active means, to adult and youth members.
3. The members of the Scout Group wear a uniform. The volunteers of Scouting Ireland wear a uniform.
4. The motto of Scouting Ireland and the motto of the Scout Group is “Bí Ullamh” or “Be Prepared”. Additional mottoes may be authorised in the Youth Programme produced by Scouting Ireland.
5. Scouting Ireland has an emblem and a flag which may be used by Scout Groups in accordance with the protocols. National flags of all countries shall be respected and when used by Scouting Ireland or the Scout Group should be accorded due honour and used in accordance with the correct protocol. The Scout Group may also have its own flag once it is approved for use by Scouting Ireland.
6. Scouts and Scouters of the Scout Group and all volunteers of Scouting Ireland in uniform primarily use the Scout Sign during the making of the Scout Promise and is also used as a greeting to members of other scouting and guiding organisations. The thumb on the nail of the little finger of the right hand, the other three fingers joined and extended palm to the front is the Scout Sign.
7. Scouts and Scouters of the Scout Group and all volunteers of Scouting Ireland in uniform use the Scout Salute as a mark of respect to other Scouts and Scouters, when a Scout or National Flag is raised, lowered, or paraded past, when a National Anthem is played and when called to alert by a Scouter who salutes. The Scout Salute is made by holding the fingers of the right hand as and for the Scout Sign, bringing your hand smartly to your right brow (or brim of your headwear) with the palm of your hand facing the ground. It can be followed immediately by bringing it straight down to your side or on command.
8. Scouts and Scouters of the Scout Group and all volunteers of Scouting Ireland in uniform use the left handshake as a greeting to other Scouts and Scouters.

## Article 5 – The Supports Provided by Scouting Ireland to the Scout Group

1. Scouting Ireland shall support the Scout Group in the achievement of its aim and objectives through:
  - a. The development of programmes and policies for the provision of Scouting by the Scout Group;
  - b. Continual improvements to the Scouting Ireland Youth Programme for use by the Programme Sections of the Scout Group;
  - c. The delivery of relevant Training to the adult members of the Scout Group for the delivery of the Youth Programme and the administration of the Scout Group;
  - d. Support for the development and growth of local Scouting and the Scout Group;
  - e. Provision of support and facilitation for events and activities on a County, National or International level to support the Scout Group in the achievement of its aim and objectives for the young people in its care;
  - f. Provision of direct and indirect support by Scouting Ireland through its various departments and teams;

- g. Provision of communications in relation to developments and changes which would benefit and affect the Scout Group;
  - h. Provision of a system which provides supports to the Scout Group in times of difficulty, crisis, or extraordinary events;
  - i. Assistance to the Scout Group and those charged with responsibility for its administration and property with advice and support through its structures at County, Provincial, and National level;
  - j. Facilitation of the provision of insurance cover for the specified programmes and activities of the Scout Group;
2. Scouting Ireland will:
  - a. Comply with all relevant legislation and regulations;
  - b. Represent Scouting in Ireland and internationally;
  - c. Provide for administrative, safeguarding and other support services;
  - d. Maintain and manage campsites and activity centres for use by Scout Groups and other members of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts;
  - e. Build relationships with Government, the regulators and other bodies and help develop the profile of Scouting;
  - f. Protect the Youth Programme and brand of Scouting Ireland for use by Scout Groups;
  - g. Protect the positive reputation of Scouting and the Scout Group by regular monitoring of the quality of Scouting and the delivery of the Youth Programme and Scouter Training throughout the country.

## Article 6 – The Scout Group Constitution

1. The Scout Group shall adopt the Scout Group Constitution as its governing document without amendment other than to include the name of the Scout Group.
2. No amendments may be made to the Scout Group Constitution without the approval of the Board of Scouting Ireland.

## Article 7 – The Members of the Scout Group, Registration and Membership Policies.

1. All youth and adult members of the Scout Group must be properly registered with Scouting Ireland at its National Office.
2. The Scout Group and its individual members shall follow the policies and procedures provided by Scouting Ireland in relation to the admission of all youth and adult members of the Scout Group. There shall be common terms and conditions of membership of all Scout Groups.
3. The Scout Group and its individual members shall observe the policies and procedures provided by Scouting Ireland in relation to disputes which may arise between adult and youth members of the Scout Group from time to time.
4. The Scout Group and its individual members shall observe the policies and procedures provided by Scouting Ireland in relation to the investigation of any breaches of discipline by any adult or youth member and accept any findings and sanctions which may be imposed from such investigations. The policies and procedures provide for the right to appeal against any decision.



5. Any youth or adult member who has been removed from the register held by Scouting Ireland following the appropriate procedures for same shall be automatically removed as a member of the Scout Group.

## Article 8 – The Youth Charter

1. Scouting Ireland and the Scout Group shall guarantee Scouting's Commitment in the Youth Charter. The Scout Group commits to create an environment which enables its youth members to make and honour their Scout's Commitment.
2. Scouting Ireland and the Scout Group jointly commit to implementing the Youth Involvement Policy. Reports in relation to its implementation shall be considered at the Scout Group AGM and the Company Conference and jointly at the Scouter's Conference.
3. The Scout Group shall reserve at least 2 of its 5 delegates for General Meetings of Scouting Ireland for youth members of the Scout Group.
4. Scouting Ireland shall arrange for the organisation of County or other local Youth Fora, the National Youth Forum for each of the Scout, Venture Scout and Rover Scout Sections and the National Youth Assembly. The Scout Group shall promote participation at these amongst its youth members.

## Article 9 - Appointments, Scouters and Safeguarding.

1. The Scout Group shall observe all procedures for the approval of Appointments and the granting of permissions to lead to Scouters as provided by Scouting Ireland,
2. All Appointments requiring the approval of Scouting Ireland may be suspended or withdrawn by Scouting Ireland in accordance with the procedures provided for same.
3. All permissions which may be attaching to any Appointment or otherwise may be suspended or terminated in accordance with the policies and procedures provided for these by Scouting Ireland.
4. Any appeals relating to a decision on the suspension or withdrawal of an Appointment or a permission to lead or the imposition of a condition on a licence to lead or the suspension or termination of a licence to lead shall be in accordance with the procedures provided by Scouting Ireland.

## Article 10 – The Scout Group Council and its obligations

1. The Scout Group Council shall be responsible for the observance of the conditions of this Charter.
2. The members of the Scout Group Council are the Charity Trustees for the Scout Group who shall observe and comply with all duties and responsibilities of Charity Trustees, as required by law.
3. All real property (land and buildings) of the Scout Group shall either be vested in:
  - a. Suitable trustees; or
  - b. In Scouting Trust Property Company Limited by Guarantee; or
  - c. Another trust company maintained and supported by Scouting Ireland.



4. All other property of the Scout Group shall be held by the Scout Group Council in trust for the Scout Group and its aims and objectives.
5. The Scout Group Council shall ensure that every reasonable effort is made at all times to protect the positive image of Scouting.

## Article 11 – Annual Registration and Reporting obligations

1. The Scout Group shall be registered with the Charities Regulator and shall register with Scouting Ireland annually to renew this Charter. Renewal of the Charter shall be at the sole discretion of Scouting Ireland.
2. The Scout Group Council shall file its annual report and accounts (where necessary) with the Charities Regulator in the form required and shall also file an annual report, in an agreed format, with Scouting Ireland which will incorporate the accounts of the Scout Group for the financial period that the annual report relates to.

## Article 12 – Compliance

1. The Scout Group Council shall observe all policies and procedures of Scouting Ireland, insofar as they affect the management and the operation of the Scout Group.
2. In the event that the Scout Group Council is unable to comply with its obligations in the management and administration of the Scout Group, Scouting Ireland may issue such directions, as it considers necessary including the appointment of new members of the Scout Group Council, until the next General Meeting of the Scout Group.
3. The Scout Group shall not continue to operate otherwise than pursuant to the terms of the Charter issued annually by Scouting Ireland.
4. The Scout Group acknowledges that the Charter may be withdrawn, without prior notice, by Scouting Ireland.
5. The Scout Group may apply to have this Charter withdrawn by making an application, in writing and signed by all members of the Scout Group Council, to the Board of Directors. The Charter shall be withdrawn only upon a resolution of the Board of Scouting Ireland who may attach any conditions they see fit to impose.

## Article 13 - Review

1. The terms of this Charter shall be reviewed annually by Scouting Ireland and the Scout Groups through the Annual Scouter's Conference, whether held on a national or provincial basis. Matters pertaining to this Charter or any aspect which the Charter covers may be submitted in advance to the Conference Secretary. The recommendations of the Conference(s) will be made to the Board of Directors of Scouting Ireland which will publish the Charter for the following Scout Year to the Annual General Meeting of the Company.