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|  | Gasóga na hÉireann/Scouting Ireland |                            |                            |             |
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|   | Category: Youth Programme           |                            |                            |             |
| <b>Scouting Ireland – Camping and Adventures in the Out of Doors Guidelines</b>   |                                     |                            |                            |             |

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| <b>Related Documents</b>                                     |
| SID-YP05 - Camping and Adventures in the Out of Doors Policy |

| Revision Schedule |            |   |
|-------------------|------------|---|
| Revision          | Date       | Description   |
| E                 | 10/03/2018 | Minor Revisions   |
| D                 | 13/02/2016 | Alcohol & Smoking Policy Added<br>Training Requirements Clarified<br>Boating Guideline Policy Added |
| 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  |
| #                 | 19/02/2011 | Document Issued   |

Please note that if the Camp/Adventure entails leaving the island of Ireland, the **Camping and Adventures in the Out of Doors Policy [SID-YP05 refers]** must be read in conjunction with the **Youth Programme Abroad Policy [SID-YP03 refers]** and all supporting documentation and forms adhered to.

1. Youth Members and 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 two (2) nights for **Beaver Scouts** the approval of the Group Leader is required in writing using Part A of the Scouting Ireland Overnight and International Approval Form (SIF-26/11 refers).
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 Part A of the Scouting Ireland Overnight and International Approval Form (SIF-26/11).
5. In cases where the activity is four (4) nights or more for **Scouts, Venture Scouts and Rover Scouts** the approval of the Group Leader is required in writing using Part A of the Scouting Ireland Overnight and International Approval Form (SIF-26/11).
6. The Scouting Ireland Overnight and International Approval Form (SIF-26/11), 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 its off-shore islands (inclusive), please refer to the **Youth Programme Abroad Policy [SID-YP03 refers]** and **Youth Programme Abroad Guidelines [SID-YP04 refers]**.
7. The Group Leader should forward a copy of Part A of form SIF-26/11 to the County Programme Co-ordinator 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. Activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from and not in view of any youth participants. Scouters may not use or allow the use of tobacco products at any activity involving Youth Members, that includes the use of electronic cigarettes, personal vaporizers or electronic nicotine delivery systems that simulate tobacco smoking.
11. The use of alcohol and/or being under the influence of alcohol is not permitted at any activity involving the participation of Youth Members under the age of 18 (or higher depending on local licensing legislation when abroad).
12. Youth Members and Scouters must always insist that a true Scouting spirit permeates the site and that adequate privacy and control for all participants exists.
13. 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 Activities Consent Form (SIF-11/05 refers) and the Scouting Ireland Managing Medication Form (SIF-11A-10 refers). 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.
14. 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.
15. 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 the terms of this policy document and Scouting Ireland's Camping and Adventures in the Out of Doors Policy (SID-YP05 refers); 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** in this document 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.
16. The important roles of the Group Leader, the County Programme Co-ordinator (CPC) and the County Training Co-ordinator (CTC) in ensuring adequate training, planning and preparation before all Programme Section overnight activities cannot be over emphasised.
17. All Scouters partaking on an overnight activity must hold a Scouter Appointment

18. All Scouters partaking on an overnight activity must have completed Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Woodbadge Scheme (up to 2016) OR the 'Being a Scouter' strand of the 'This is Scouting' component (from 2016), in advance of attending an overnight activity.
19. In relation to the participation of adults other than Scouters (this includes Associate Members), the **Scouting Ireland Policy for Adults Working With Young People** [SID-AR02 refers] must be adhered to.
20. At least one Scouter partaking on an overnight activity must have completed the appropriate Stage 5 of the Woodbadge Scheme (up to 2016) OR the 'Youth Led Programme' strand of 'The Scouter in Action' component AND the 'Adventure Planning' module of the 'Learning for your Team' strand (from 2016), in advance of attending an overnight activity.
21. Any Youth Member leading an overnight activity (Scouts, Venture Scouts and Rover Scouts) must hold the Level 5 Camping Adventure Skills Badge.
22. Any Youth Member (Scouts, Venture Scouts and Rover Scouts) leading an activity that involves a Hill Walking Expedition must hold the Level 5 Hill Walking Adventure Skills Badge.
23. Any Scouter OR Youth Member (Scouts, Venture Scouts and Rover Scouts) leading an activity that involves water, must be suitably qualified in accordance with the Scouting Ireland Boating Guidelines, OR the Governing Body for that area of skill.
24. At least one Scouter partaking on an activity must hold an appropriate First Aid Certificate (i.e. REC/Wilderness First Aid) OR at least one Youth Member (Scouts, Venture Scouts and Rover Scouts) must hold the Level 6 Emergencies Adventure Skills Badge. In the absence of either, verification that a suitably qualified First Aider is available at the location of the activity must be provided in advance.
25. The participation of Scouters from other National Scout Organisations may be considered but they must be in addition to the 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 Organisation. 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 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 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 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 or 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 Part A of form SIF-26/11 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 Scouters and Sixers Council to put into practice the skills obtained through the 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 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 Part A of form SIF-26/11 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 Scouters and Patrol Leaders Council to put into practice the skills obtained through the 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 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. A 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 Part A of form SIF-26/11 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 the 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 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 Scouters. A 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 Part A of form SIF-26/11 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 the 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 Part A of form SIF-26/11 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 and Adventures in the Out of Doors “outside” of the Scout Group**

All Camps and 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 the terms of this policy document and Scouting Ireland’s Camping and Adventures in the Out of Doors Policy (SID-YP05 refers) (which must be read in conjunction with the **Youth Programme Abroad Policy** [SID-YP03 refers] 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 the 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 Scouter:Youth Member Ratio

Subject to 3.4, 4.2 and 5.2 above these 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 Skills Badges, Chief Scout Award, Special Interest Badges, etc.)

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

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