

So Now you're a Watch Leader



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The Watch Leaders Handbook

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So Now you're a Watch Leader

Congratulations you are now a Watch Leader and you now have an opportunity to further develop your existing Scouting skills plus learn some new ones. As the name implies, a watch leader is expected to lead and this requires strength of character and skills of leadership.

You may have spent a period as an Assistant Watch Leader and have already learned many of the required skills from your Watch Leader. If so you will find that the new job is not too hard to tackle.

Watches

Watches are the equivalent of a Patrol in a Scout Troop and are the building blocks of a Sea Scout Troop. Your Watch is a team of six to eight Scouts who make things happen. With your help as the Watch Leader you plan together, learn together, and all of you work together to turn your exciting plans into action.



Together, members of your Watch can achieve much more than each of you could on your own. You can invite your non-Scout friends to join the troop and become watch members too.

Watches are such an important part of Sea Scouting and some time in every Troop meeting should be set aside for each watch to meet by itself. At other times your watch may meet together in the home of one of its members, in the Scout Den or at a special watch meeting place.



ACTIVITIES

A watch is just the right size for outdoor adventures. On camping trips a few tents will shelter everyone and a couple of backpacking stoves are enough for cooking hearty meals. Watch members can learn to roam the backcountry and high seas without leaving any sign that they have ever been there. Because all of you are different, each member of your watch will have much to share. You can teach each other skills you know. As friends, you can look out for one another. Friendship, fun, adventure that's what a Sea Scout Watch is all about.

But remember for adventure to remain fun it must be safe - Safety rules must be observed and proper training undertaken.

For this reason, your plans for adventurous activities must be discussed with your skipper and permission obtained.



BOATING

A lot of activity in a sea scout troop centres around boats. Because boats and their equipment require care and maintenance, a certain amount of this work must be done by the sea scouts themselves. In fact this is an essential part of the Sea Scout training scheme. Work parties on boats, cleaning, repairing, painting etc., is usually arranged on a watch basis and the Watch Leader and the Assistant Watch Leader must make sure that each Scout in the watch does a fair share of the work.

As a Watch Leader you should expect everyone in the Watch to help make things happen, and your goal is to bring out the best in the Watch. You might invite a Scout who writes well to keep a journal of patrol meetings. You might ask some Scouts to repair and store camping gear. Others, to come up with

Responsibilities of a Watch Leader

menus for a camp, with songs and skits for a campfire, or information about conservation projects that the Watch can do. From a Scouts perspective being a Watch Leader may seem the place to be, but most of the time Scouts don't see the hard work of being a watch leader.

If you take the position seriously, the responsibility will weigh heavy on your shoulders and if you shirk this responsibility then you won't be the watch leader you thought you would be.

Younger Scouts will look up to you and will one day want to be like you. They will copy you and do the things that you do, bad things as well as good and it is here that you must lead by example.

As you are closer to the scouts the leaders will depend on you to keep them informed as to how the scouts feel about the troop. You must be in touch with all the scouts in your watch and ensure that everybody is happy.

One thing you must be very aware of is bullying, As a Watch Leader you should never do or say anything to a scout you wouldn't like done to your self at the same age. Some scouts may do things to other Scouts that they think is fun but may not be fun to the scout themselves. This is Bullying. As watch leader you must step in and stop such behaviour. If your intervention does not help then you **MUST** consult the Leaders. The type of activities that can constitute bullying are: -

- Excessive 'staging'
- Name calling to give offence
- Exclusion or isolation of a Scout
- Being over physical
- Picking on a Scout
- Threatening behaviour
- Initiation activities

A true mark of your leadership will be your ability to spot these behaviours and stop them quickly. If you set the Promise and Law as your bench mark, both for yourself and other members of your watch then you will be a good Watch Leader.

Promise and Law

On investiture every Scout promised to do their best. As Watch Leader you too must ask yourself if you are doing your best or just enough to get by?

Is your watch doing their best?

Are they doing their Duty to God and their country?

Are they helping other people?

Are they trustworthy?

Are they Loyal?

Are they friendly and Considerate?

Have they courage In all difficulties?

Are they a friend to all scouts?

Are they careful of possessions and property?

Have they respect for themselves and others?

Other areas you may be required to remind Scouts of their Promise and Law would be:-

- A scout dropping litter causing vandalism or graffiti is hardly doing their duty to their country.
- Failing to rinse out and put away Buoyancy Aids does not emulate care for possessions and property.
- The commonest courage a scout is usually required to display, is to admit a failing and take responsibility for their actions.
- If you spot bullying or inappropriate behaviour this is hardly respect for themselves and others.

Remember these are not just your views but what the Scouts promised to live u to when they became a Scout.



This may seem to make the watch Leaders task much more difficult, however, if you exercise your Leadership well you will make a difference to your scouts, an they will remember you long after they have left Scouting.

The Watch Leaders duties

Depending on Troop Tradition, the Watch Leader is elected by their own Watch or by the Watch Leaders Council and should never be arbitrarily appointed by the Leaders as their respect must come from the scouts themselves.

Watch Leader duties:

Plan and lead watch meetings and activities.

Keep watch members informed.

Get to know the strengths and weaknesses of each member of the watch.

Assign jobs to each watch member and help them in planning and completing it.

Represents the Watch at all Watch Leaders' Council (WLC) meetings.

Prepares the Watch to take part in all troop activities.

Develops Watch spirit.

Work with other troop leaders to make the troop run well.

Leads by example.

Wears the Scout uniform correctly.

Lives by the Scout Promise and Law.

Shows Scout spirit.

Attends Watch leader Training.

Assistant Watch Leader (AWL)

Job Description:

The Assistant Watch Leader is appointed by the Watch Leader and is approved by the WLC and they lead the Watch when the WL is absent.

Assistant Patrol Leader duties:

Assist the Watch Leader in:

Planning and leading Watch meetings and activities.

Keeping Watch members informed.

Preparing the Watch to take part in all troop activities. and steer Watch meetings and activities

Take charge of the watch in the absence of the Watch Leader.

Represent the watch at Watch Leaders' Council (WLC) meetings in the absence of the Watch Leader.

Work with the other troop leaders to make the troop run well.

Help develop Watch spirit.

Set a good example.

Live by the Scout Promise and Law.

Show Scout Spirit.

Senior Watch Leader

Attend Watch Leader Training

The Watch Leaders Council elects one of the Watch Leaders as Senior Watch Leader. They are usually the most experienced watch leader and are confident enough to represent the views of all the watch leaders.

The senior watch leader usually chairs the watch leaders council and follows up with each watch leader the decisions taken at the WLC.

As they are the most experienced Watch Leader, they are able to advise other watch leaders if they are having problems being a Watch Leader.

A good Senior watch leader will keep in close contact with all of the watch leaders and will also have the ear of the leaders for their own advice.

If you are elected Senior Watch Leader you must take on the task seriously as a lot of people are relying on you

Just like being a Watch Leader the younger Scouts will admire and respect you and will in turn want to be like you.

The other watch leaders will depend on you for your advice and support and make sure the Watch leaders council works well and represents the views of the Scouts.

The Leaders will depend on you to let them know if they are doing a good job and as you are senior Watch Leader they will take your views and comment seriously.

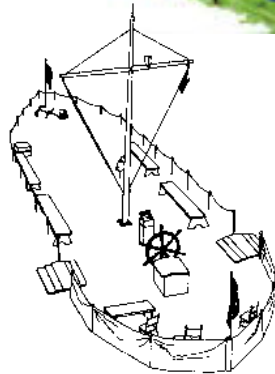
It is an honour to be elected Senior Watch leader and you should repay the honour by carrying out your duties in the true spirit of Scouting.

Watch Spirit

A Watch is a sub division of the Troop and is made up of a group of boys and/or girls who work together as a team with the guidance of the WL and AWL. Most Activities in a troop should take place in Watches so as the younger scouts learn from the older scouts and the older scouts get a chance to plan and lead the watch. Working regularly together builds up a team spirit and loyalty essential to a happy watch.

A valuable reinforcement of watch consciousness is a definite Watch Comer. Just as a gang always has a special meeting place which it defends against all comers, the Scout Watch should have at least a corner of the Troop meeting place to call its own.

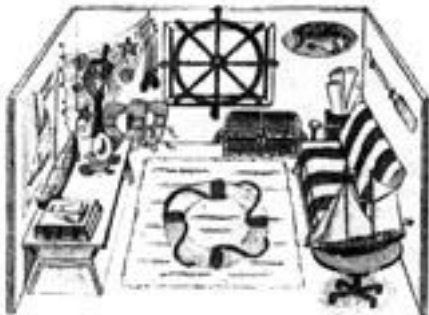
Occasionally, a Sea Scout Group is lucky enough to have a Scout Den of their own that has a number of small rooms and in that case each watch may be able to have its own den or



cabin. The Watch Comers should be individualised as much as possible by decorations with flags, pictures, knot-boards, trophies and the like, and by appropriate names, such as Port, Starboard, Quarter Deck, Anchor, Foc'sle etc.

The skipper can aid his scouts through his guidance and enthusiasm towards making these corners real homes to their respective watches. The cumulative effect of such items will eventually build that all desirable thing in every Watch - watch Spirit.

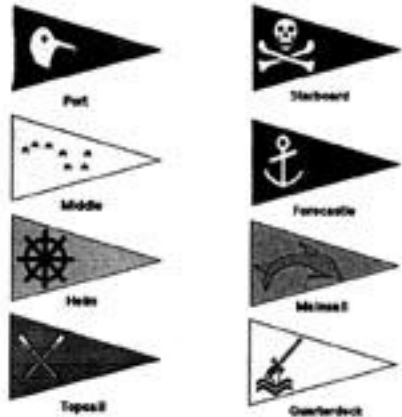
However, the WL and the AWL should make sure that the decoration of a Watch Corner pictures and notices are kept up to date and refurbished regularly.



Watch Name Pennants and Emblems

Every watch has a name. In a Sea Scout Troop they are usually named after the parts or places on a ship. The usual ones in a Sea Scout troop are Port, Starboard, Foc'sle, Quarterdeck, Middle and Anchor. Others include Haft Deck, Mizzen, Main yard, Mainsail, Foretop, but any nautical term will do. Irish speaking Groups use Irish versions of these names.

Each watch should have a watch pennant it can hoist at troop meetings and on watch camps and is flown on the yard of the flagpole to indicate that they are duty watch. Some Watches mark their Watch Equipment with their pennant emblem. Some of the emblems for sea Scout watches have a long and honourable history going back to the earliest days of sea scouting.



The Watch System

The watch system has been used on board Ship since time immemorial and had two functions. One, to keep Watch for other ships dangers and enemies and two, there was always a crew to manoeuvre the ship and trim the sails. Each watch was a team and could perform every function required by the Ship only in extreme circumstances would the watch below be called on deck.

In the Great Days of the sailing ships the watch system increased to three watches and the time on watch reduced to 4 hours.

As follows:

Middle Watch	Midnight to 04.00hrs
Morning Watch	04.00 to 08.00hrs
Fore Noon Watch	08.00 to Midday
Afternoon Watch	Midday to 16.00hrs
1st Dog Watch	16.00hrs 18.00 hrs
2nd Dog Watch	18.00hrs to 20.00 hrs
1st Watch	20.00 to Midnight

The four hours 16.00hrs to 20.00hrs is split into the let and Second Dog Watches so as watch keepers were not on the same watch constantly. This rarely practiced nowadays.

Watch Leaders Council

The Watch Leaders of the troop form the Watch Leaders Council but AWL's should attend to represent an absent WL. Between five and eight is an ideal number for a meeting. If there are only two or three Watch Leaders the it is a good idea to make the AWLS members of the Watch Leaders Council.

The Watch Leaders Council is a very important part of a Sea Scout Troop. If it works effectively and takes its responsibility seriously it can run the Sea Scout Troop. When scouting first started, groups of boys formed patrols on their own to do the fun activities they wanted to do. It was only when they realised that they couldn't do everything themselves that the Scouts asked adults to help them and that's the way it still should be.

The Members of the Watch Leaders Council and the Senior Scouts in the Troop in consultation with the Scouts and the Leaders should develop and plan the Programme for the Troop and seek the Leaders help and advice in implementing it. Watch Leaders should not shirk this responsibility.

The Watch leaders council will elect the Watch Leaders. He/she will be in charge of the Watches at troop meetings and during outdoor adventures and they represent the Watch at the Watch Leaders' Council.

They suggest good turns and service projects, then encourages the patrol to pitch in. When spirits are low, they get the members going again.

Working with the Senior Watch Leader, they find ways so that all of the watch can have fun and make progress in Scouting.



Meeting of the Watch Leaders Council

The Watch Leaders Council should meet regularly to plan and review the activities and affairs of the Troop. Every four to six weeks would seem about right to keep in touch with what's happening and to plan ahead.

The Meetings can take place anywhere that is comfortable and convenient for all e.g. in one of the WL's houses, in the den if its suitable, local coffee shop or youth centre.

In order to ensure that the watch Leaders council is efficient and above all effective there should be an agenda on to which the other watch leaders, the scouts or the Leaders can add topics for discussion. Having an agenda will give Structure to the council meeting ensure that nothing is overlooked or forgotten about

SAMPLE AGENDA

Agenda Watch Leaders Council 29th January In the Scout Den

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Minutes of the last Meeting
3. Matters arising not on the agenda
4. Review of recent activities
5. Future Watch Activities
6. Future Troop Activities
7. Future District and National Activities
8. Troop attendance
9. Report from group Council
10. Skippers Notices

Tip:

Never have 'Any Other Business' AOB on an agenda as this will lead to people raising all sorts of both important and unimportant items at the end of the meeting when everybody wants to go home.

If people want to add things to the agenda then they should do so at the adoption of the agenda when the importance of the item can be decided and a relevant amount of time can be given to it.



Minutes

Normally the Watch Leaders Council Meeting should be structured and have an agenda. The meeting should be minuted so the decisions of previous meetings can be recalled. This prevents the meetings going over old ground.

The structure and numbering of the minutes of a meeting should correspond to the agenda. Remember it is only necessary to record the decision and who is to act upon it.

Minutes of the Watch Leaders Council held 28th January In the Scout Den
Present: SWL Claire Connors, WL's Brian Murphy, Siobhan Fitzsimons, Peter McMahon, Daire Kane, AWL Johnny O'Brian.

In Attendance: Skipper Murray.

Apologies: WL Karen McGuinness (AWL in Attendance)

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of Spring Camp under Troop Activities

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Skipper confirmed the booking of the site for Summer Camp from 1 -10 August as at the last meeting.

4. Review of recent activities

20 Scouts attended the recent Hike to Wicklow

2 work parties have taken place on the BP 18 one more will be needed before painting can begin.

5 Future Watch activities

No Watch activities took place during January. Each Watch is to have one in February. Port and Starboard are having an off road cycle

Quarterdeck are going orienteering in the park

Middle are having a pioneering day in to Den

Anchor have arranged to visit the hangers in Dublin Airport

6 Future Troop Activities

It was decided the Spring Camp would take place in Lough Dan on St Patricks Weekend.

The themes will be Pioneering and cooking for the younger scouts.

The camp will be organised on a watch basis

SWL Claire Connors to book Lough Dan for twenty five Scouts and three Leaders

7. District and National Activities

Sionnach

Two teams to be entered on the event. 1st Mate and bosun to lead the team 'Mate' to take care of entries.

District scout quiz. It was decided to enter two teams. WL Brian Murphy to enter teams and coordinate on the day.

9. Report from Group Council

SWL Claire Connors and WL Siobhan Fitzsimons attended the Group Council on behalf of WLC.

Main Items are The Easter Egg Draw and the P&F big push on tickets. Two new Hike tents are to be bought before the next camp.

The Group has been offered a second hand mirror dinghy. Bosun to inspect and make a decision.

SWL Claire Connors and WL Peter McMahon to attend next Group Council

10. Skippers Notices

Founders Day Group hike is being organized by the cubs

Parents and friends welcome to come along. There will be soup and sandwiches provided by the parents and friends.

Deposits for summer camp to be in by 1st March.

The meeting closed at 21.30

Watch Activities

Watches are fuelled by real adventures. Some happen indoors, such as planning trips, making camp equipment, practising first aid, knots and lashings, and other Scouting skills. But most happen outdoors. Your Watch will go boating, hiking and camping with other Watches in the troop. With the permission of your Skipper and your parent or guardian, your watch may go on its own camp, hike and conduct special projects.

Hikes and camps give your Watch the opportunity to put its knowledge to good use. Away from home and school, you will also have time to focus on your friendships with other Scouts and on your enjoyment of the outdoors

Watch activities will give you the chance to try out your leadership and organisational skills plus delegating the tasks of organising watch activities will give you a chance to observe, the strengths and weaknesses of the members of the watch.

As watch leader it is your responsibility to ensure that the watch organises its own activities as well as participating in troop organised ones.

Watch Activities can probably be divided into three categories and it is important that there is a good mix of activities.

1 Scout Skills

Boating, Rafting and Canoeing.

Camping, Hiking, Orienteering, Pioneering.

2 Interest

Visits to Places.

3 Social Activities.

Where you go just for fun.



SCOUT ACTIVITIES

Watch Camp
Watch Hike
Raft Building
Pioneering Project

Wide Game

O(ienteeing
Badge Work
Training

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Bowling
Quazer
Swimming

Concerts

VISITS

Air Corps
Bakery
Boat Builders Yard
Castle
Cathedral
Co Council Meeting
District Court
Docks
Factory
Fire Station
Harbour

Met Office

Museum

Newspaper Offices
Photographers Studio
Police Station
Post Office / Sorting
Office
Power Station
Printing Works
Television Studios
Waterworks
Radio Station
Stables

Arranging a visit

If you want to visit somewhere unusual where the public aren't normally it may be best to find someone who works there and see if they can arrange a visit for you. Parents and friends are usually very useful for this.

Failing to find a contact it is best to write formally on Troop headed paper explaining who you are and why you would like to visit. There are some letters below which can be adapted for most situations.

IMPORTANT

If you do visit somewhere always write again afterwards and thank the for helping to organise the trip. A simple thank you card will suffice signed by everybody who was there.

Sample letter to Secretary of Dublin Bay Lifeboat

The Secretary
Dublin Bay Lifeboat
The Lifeboat Station
Ringsend
Dublin 4

Siobhan Fitzsimons
87 Beigriffin Crescent
Balgriffin
Dublin 17

29 January 2001

Dear Secretary,

My name is Siobhan Fitzsimons and I am a Watch Leader of Starboard Watch which has eight members with Port of Balgriffin Sea Scouts.

We have recently completed a programme of water safety for the forthcoming boating season, which included distress signals and the role of the emergency services.

In order to complete this programme I was hoping that I could bring my watch to visit the lifeboat station in Ringsend so that they would be able to find out how the lifeboat and the lifeboat station works.

Also they might learn about the commonest difficulties that the lifeboat is called out to assist and hence avoid the same follies.

I hope that you will be able to facilitate my request and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours Sincerely

Siobhan Fitzsimons
Watch Leader

Sample Letter to Harbour Master Dublin Port

The Harbour Master
Dublin Port
Port Office
East Wall
Dublin 3

Johnny Murphy
18 Balgriffin Crescent
Balgriffin
Dublin 17

29 January 2001

Dear Secretary,

My name is Johnny Murphy and I am a Watch Leader of Quarterdeck Watch which has nine members with Port of Balgriffin Sea Scouts.

My watch has been assigned a project to present to the troop on the workings of a Port in order to help us complete the project I was hoping that it might be possible for the watch to visit and see at first hand the workings of the port.

I was hoping that it might be possible for the members of my watch to visit a ship and again learn a little more about the role the port plays in our foreign trade.

I hope that you will be able to facilitate my request and I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Johnny Murphy
Watch Leader
Quarterdeck Watch

Points to remember when organising a Watch Activity

- Have a watch meeting to decide what you all would like to do
- Do you need permission
- What transport is required
- What equipment is required
- How much will it cost
- Do you have the necessary skills within the watch?
- What personal equipment will be required?
- Who can help you?
- Say thank you afterwards to anyone who helped

The Watch Afloat

One of the best watch activities you can do is to bring your watch afloat. Your watch should be able to row as a crew under your direction and they should be able to crew a sailing boat under your helm.

As with all water activities it is necessary to have a person with the relevant Charge Certificate present.

You may be lucky enough to have a charge certificate yourself, but in all cases Skipper must be informed of your Boating Activities.

A good Watch project to get everybody involved and afloat is to build a raft.



All you need are some spars and lashings and some old inner tubes or barrel's to provide the Buoyancy.

IMPORTANT: If you use barrels make sure they are free from chemical residue, which could injure you or cause pollution.

Your local tyre centre will usually be able to give you some old inner tubes lorry tubes are better because of their size but are harder to get.

There is no science to building a raft but two basic rules should see you right:-

Good Solid lashings on the basic frame
The buoyancy well secured to the frame.

Once launched the raft will provide endless hours of fun.

Remember waters used for boating may not be suitable for rafting as rafts are much slower and more difficult to manoeuvre than a boat.

When you have your watch afloat you should give all members turns at the Cox and Helm and develop their competence and confidence in carrying out basic manoeuvres.

Scouts should be competent to bring a boat alongside, pick up a buoy, anchor correctly and safely perform a man overboard drill.

If the WL does not have a charge certificate then they must arrange for a charge certificate holder to be present.

Training the Watch

As Watch Leader, part of your role is to ensure that each member of the watch progresses through the badge scheme.

You should have an idea where each member of your watch is regarding the badges he or she is working on.

Progress in the badge scheme can take place in watch comers, at a troop meeting, on watch activities or on troop activities.

Before each activity, members of the watch should set themselves a target of what they want to try and complete on the activity and then prepare to do that.

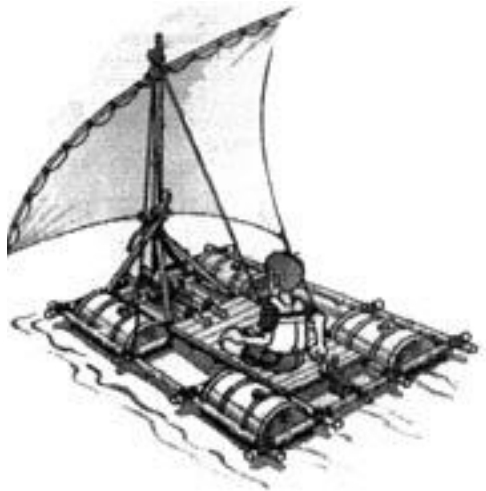
Sometimes it is an idea to arrange a watch activity to get a number of tasks completed. You can bring along a leader or specialist in the topic to instruct the scouts in your watch.

As WL you should always make sure to have a copy of the Sea Scout Handbook and the badge requirements handy.

If you choose to instruct members of your watch in a skill or topic here are a few pointers to remember:-

- 1 . Be proficient in the skill or topic.
2. If you don't know the answer to a question say so (but you should find out).
3. Tell a scout and they may forget.
4. Show a scout and they may remember.
5. Involve a scout and they will understand.

It is not necessary for the watch leader to know the answer to everything. A good watch leader will encourage scouts to find out the answers themselves and thereby become more self sufficient rather than be dependent on somebody else having the answer to everything.



How to instruct

When you are training your Watch you will invariably have to instruct them from time to time. As watch leader you will not know everything nor will there be a necessity for you to do so.

If you are Instructing a skill It Is important. -

That you are proficient in the skill

That you have the right equipment available

There is enough for everybody

And there is a purpose for learning it.

If you are instructing a skill, it is important that each Scout has an opportunity to try out their ability in that skill in a practical environment and a specific Watch activity is an opportunity to do this.

Another way to improve the effectiveness of your watch is not for everybody to be proficient in everything but, to be an expert in one or two things. This works well if you are training a team for the Seamanship trophies. Each member of the Watch takes one or two topics and learns everything they need to know about those topics.

As you approach each topic the Scout with the expert skill trains the other members of the watch in that Skill.....

so Scout #1 learns Water Safety

Scout #2 learns Knots

Scout # 3 Learns Ship recognition

.....and so on until the whole syllabus is covered.

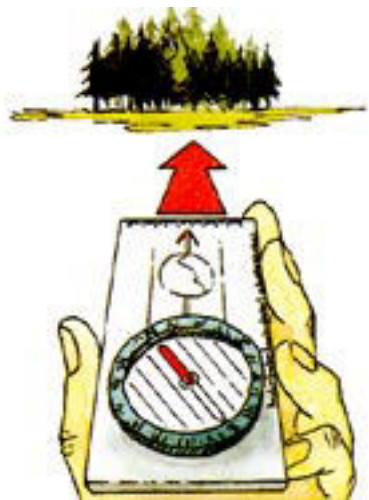
It is also important that the skills you cover are actually the skills that the Scout will use in the near future.

Spring time is a time to brush up on boating skills with the onset of the boating season and Autumn is a good time to brush up on map and compass, and hill walking skills

“Tell me I may forget

Show me I might remember

Involve me and I will understand”



Watch Boxes

When training your watch, it is essential that you have all of the necessary resources to enable you to do this. All of these resources can be kept together in a watch box which should be kept where you can easily get to it. As watch leader you should ensure that your watch boxes are properly equipped and properly maintained.

It will have basic necessities such as pens paper and materials used in the training of your watch.

- Handbook
- Hill walking Book
- Scout Camping
- Pens
- Paper
- Marker
- Chalk
- Map
- Silva type Compass
- Ropes
- Whipping Twine
- A clasp knife
- Spare woggles
- A whistle
- A ball
- Watch Pennant
- First Aid Kit



A list of the contents should be pinned under the lid and checked regularly by the Watch Quartermaster.

Quartermaster

The simplest way to ensure that the watch boxes are properly maintained is to appoint a Watch Quartermaster. The task should be shared around a couple of times a year so that everybody gets a chance of doing it.



Watch Camp

Planning a Watch Camp

Before long you will find yourself responsible for a Watch camp and it can seem a daunting task. Even though as a Scout and assistant watch leader you have probably performed every task required to run a successful camp, these tasks seem greater when you are responsible.

If you really think about it, your old Watch Leader didn't do everything single handed and that's how you gained so much experience. At each camp you were delegated certain responsibilities that your Watch Leader thought you could do.

The best thing to do is to bring the watch together to discuss the main points of the camp and then delegate the tasks out.

Firstly decide what you want to achieve on the camp. This should be agreed by everybody as it will dictate when and where the camp will be. You might have a camp to brush up on your pioneering skills, your hill walking skills, your camp gadget skills, your backwoods skills or just a camp for fun. Whatever you decide the site you choose will have to have those facilities.

Make sure that the members of your watch understand that if they have any problems with their assigned task, they should contact you and your experience will be able to help them out.



Remember

Have a watch meeting and decide where to go.
Decide on a theme and what the Watch want to do

Delegate the following
Booking of the site and find out the cost
Draw up a menu and cost it
Organise the transport there and back.
Hire, public and parents.
Book the required camping gear with the Group or Watch Quartermaster
Draw up a camp programme and a duty roster.

Each of the tasks on the previous page have certain responsibilities that cannot be ignored.

The person planning the menu must find out if anyone has any special dietary needs and plan the menu accordingly. As Watch Leader you should know from each scout where their parents will be during the camp in case they have to be contacted. You should also know if anybody would be taking medication while on camp.

You should make sure if there are forms such as Permission to Camp Forms, that they are completed and returned in good time. You should also read the Booklet Safety Guidelines on Outdoor Activities which your Skipper will lend you. Parents should have a note of where the camp is and how to make contact if they need to.

No Irish scout has ever starved to death on a weekend camp but that is no excuse for not providing hearty wholesome food that everybody will like to cook and eat.

Sample Menu

Friday Evening

Tea Coffee and Biscuits

Sat Breakfast

Orange Juice
Comflakes and Milk
Sausages on Bread
Tea / Coffee

Sat Lunch

Cheese and Ham
Sandwiches
Soup
Apple and Pk Crisps

Sat Dinner

Hungarian Goulash and Potatoes
Yoghurt and Banana

Sat Supper

Tea Coffee and Biscuits

Sunday Breakfast

Orange Juice
Comflakes and Milk
Boiled / Scrambled egg and Toast
Tea/Coffee

Sunday Lunch

Hotdogs in rolls
Tea/ Coffee
Crisps and an Orange

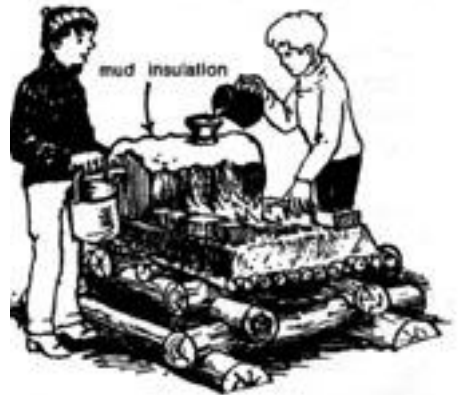
CLOSING THE CAMP

Almost as important as planning the camp is closing the camp properly. On a Watch Camp the Watch Leader is responsible for making sure that the site is thoroughly cleaned after the camp (see Camping handbook). Remember that the camp is not over until the all the equipment has been put away clean and dry and the Camp Watch Box has been repacked ready for the next camp.

Camp Ovens and Boilers

As Watch Leader you should have the confidence to do things differently from what has always been done. Watch Camp is the perfect environment to try out new ideas and to give your watch inspiration

Things you might try for fun would be to build a camp oven or camp boiler.



Camp Watch Box

Your Camp watch box will contain all the equipment needed to run a successful Watch Camp. The camp Watch box should be designed not only to carry the watch equipment but should also act a table and food box.



Cooking Utensils

- 3 Dixie's (pots)
- 2 Frying Pans
- Ladle
- Fish slice
- Large spoon
- Kitchen Knife
- Potato Peeler
- Tin Opener
- Mixing Bowl
- Food Containers
- Two basin
- Various delph and cutlery

Camp tools

- Hand axe
- Bush saw
- Mallet
- Felling axe
- Hammer
- Ball sisal
- Rope
- Whipping Twine
- Tilly Lamp, fuel
- Trangia Stove
- Water Container

Other items

- First Aid Kit
- Wire Wool
- Washing up liquid
- Pot Scrub
- Dish Cloths
- Matches

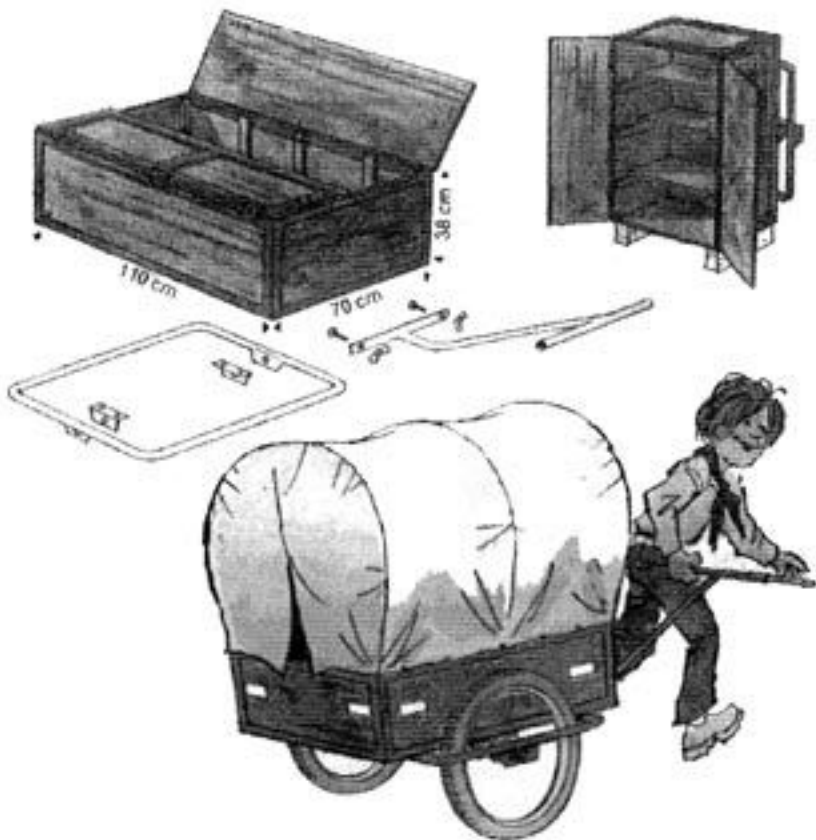
Building a camp Watch box

If you need a new Camp Watch box you should really think it through. It has to be big enough to hold all of your camping gear be able to act as a food box on camp and possibly act as a table from which to eat your meals. Here are a couple of examples.

If any of your scouts do woodwork in School they might be able to make one up and maybe even get help from their woodwork teacher or a parent.

This example is a modern version of the trek cart and can be handy on camp for moving things around or fetching water.

In order to help you do your job better it is important that you get training to help you to do this.



Watch Leader Training

Watch Leader Training is the responsibility of the Watch Leaders Council and the Leaders.

Watch Leader Training can take many forms which will depend on the current needs of the members of the watch leaders council.

In its simplest form it can be hard skills training to impart the basic Skills to the Watch Leaders to pass on to members of the watch

Advanced Skills

These would be skills over and above what a watch leader would be expected to know but would give them the extra confidence to train their Watch e.g., Winter boating and canoeing, cruising and navigation and radio telephony.

Leadership Training

As Watch Leader you are expected to lead. However some watch leaders



think that leading the watch means doing everything yourself. Nothing could be further from the truth. As a good Leader you will co-ordinate the skills and resources of the Watch to get the task completed ensuring that everybody has contributed to the task and feels a sense of achievement from their contribution. Being in charge of organising the watch doesn't mean that you shouldn't do your fair share of the work either. Part of good leadership is to lead by example.

Teambuilding

Every team has a captain but nobody should expect a football team captain to win the game alone or even to score. They do expect the captain to lead the players to do their best to play their part in the victory

A watch Leader's role is similar to that of a team captain. The WL shouldn't do everything but they motivate every other member of their watch to play their part to get the job done.



Away Days and Watch Leaders Weekends

Watch Leaders should allocate one or two weekends a year for their own training. Draw up a programme with the Leaders and then seek the Leaders help in implementing the same.

The Watch Leaders Council should also organise some activities just for themselves where they can have fun together on an equal footing and not always be in a leadership role.



Planning the Future

Watch Leaders Training usually involves the Leaders as well as the Scouts and provides a good opportunity to find out if the Watch Leaders (representing the Scouts) and the Leaders are agreed on the future of the troop.

If the Watch Leaders Council and the Leadership Team are not agreed on the future then very little will happen in the troop and the Scouts will be unhappy.

Because of the nature of this gathering people can be honest with each other and where there is honesty progress can be made. The vision does not have to be agreed in detail but once agreed in principle it will impact on all other decisions in the Troop at Watch Leaders Council, an Leaders Meeting.

What would we like the troop to have achieved by this time next year?

What would we like parents to say about the troop this time next year?

What one thing could the troop do in the next year that EVERY Scout would remember for a lifetime?

What would be the best thing the troop could do in the next year?

These type of questions could be asked in a brainstorm and then narrowed down to what is realistic.

If you agree a vision for your troop it is important that everybody in the troop knows about it, otherwise they won't know what they are working towards.

'ff you don't know where you are going, how will you k now when you get there.'

Sample Programme for Watch Leaders Training Course

Friday Night

20.00hrs Arrive hostel settle in
20.00hrs Briefing Programme
20.15hrs Brain Storming
21.15hrs Night Navigation Exercise
22.15hrs Supper
22.44hrs Training Video
24.00hrs Turn in

Saturday

08.30hrs Rise and Shine
09.00hrs Breakfast
10.00hrs Teambuilding Exercise (Pioneering)
11.30hrs Instructing Session
13.00hrs Lunch
14.30hrs Young People and the Law (presentation by Garda JLO)
15.30hrs SOS
16.00hrs Leadership Exercise and De-Brief
17.00hrs Free Time
18.00hrs Dinner
19.30hrs Planning Exercise
20.30hrs Planning the Troop Programme
22.00hrs Supper
22.30hrs Training Video
23.30hrs Turn in

Sunday

08.00 Rise and Shine
09.00 Breakfast
10.00 Visit to Lifeboat Station
13.00 Return for Lunch
14.00 Tidy up and Pack
15.00 Course debrief and Summary
16.00 Depart

Yells and chants

Yell and additional part of scouting but are in danger of being lost.

When a scout or even a leader receives a presentation it is more scouting to give them a rousing YELL rather than a round of applause. As a watch leader it will probably fall to you to lead the Yell. This can be daunting the first time you try it but once you have done it once it becomes easier and the troop will look to you to lead the yells.

Below are a few simple yells which can be used for troop presentations. They are called Yells and are shouted at top voice

Irish Scout Yell

Lead Hickamaliah
Troop **Ha**
Lead Hickamaliah
Troop **He**
All **I-R-E-L-A-N-D**
Boomalackya, Boomalackya
Have you any doubts
We Are We Are Irish Scouts
Cead Mile failte Eireann go Brea
Fogawalia, Fogawalia.
Shea Shea Shea

Who's that man with th big red nose

Lead Who's that man with the big red nose
Troop **Oh Ah Oh Ah Ah**
Lead The more he rubs the redder it glows
Troop **Oh Ah Oh Ah Ah**
Lead There are no flies on us
Troop **On us**
Lead There are no flies on us
Troop **On us**
Lead There may be flies on some of you guys, but there are no flies on us
Troop **On us**

Ogov oggy Oaam

Lead oggy oggy oggy

Troop oi oi oi

Lead oggy

Troop 01

Lead oggy

Troop oi

Lead oggy oggy oggy

Troop oi oi oi

Bravo Bravovisimo

Bravo, Bravo, Bravo-brav-isimo.

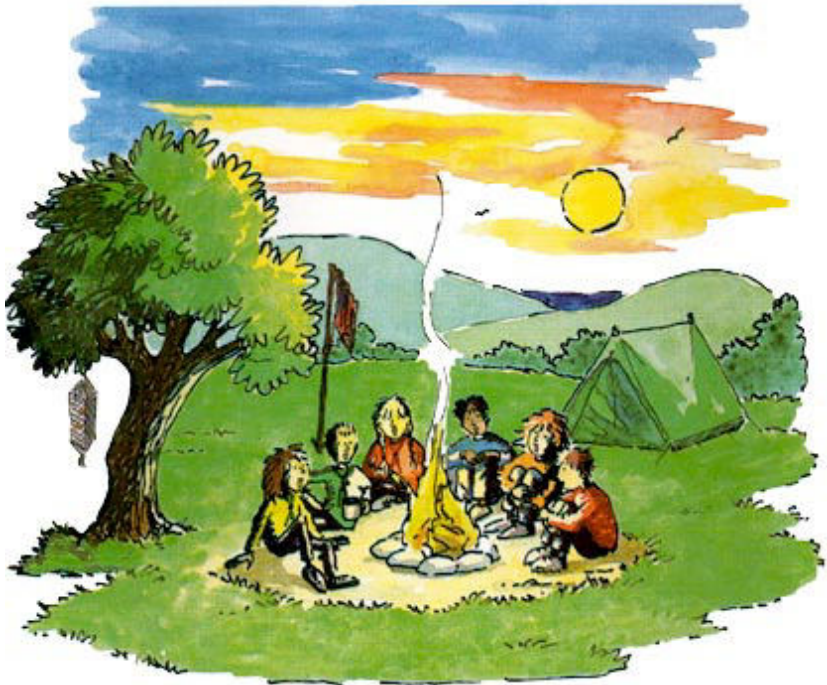
Bravo Bravo very well done.

Bravo-brav-isimo, Bravo-brav-isimo, Bravo-brav-isimo.

Very well done

B-R-A-V-O

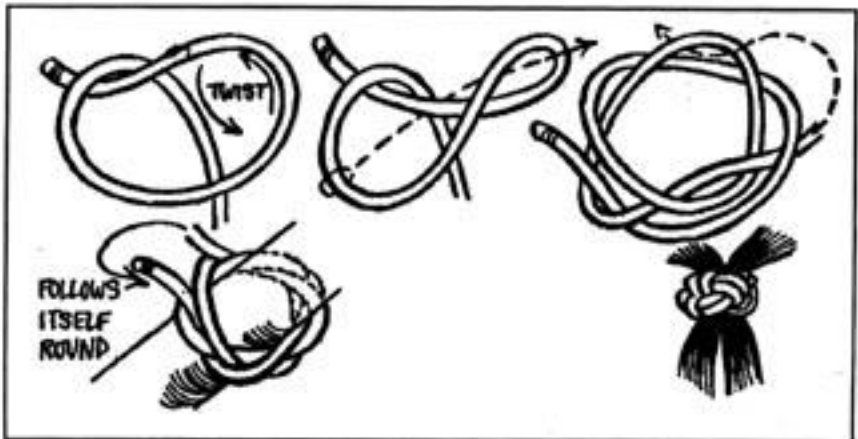
Bravo



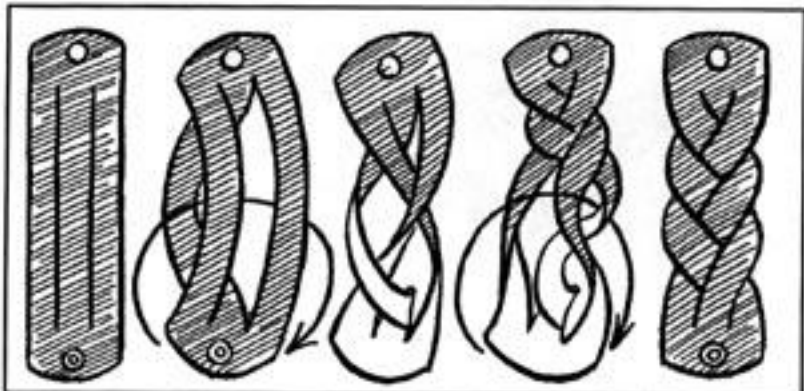
Turks head woggle

Some ways you can individualise your watch are by enhancing its identity with their own coloured woggles. One of the most traditional nautical fancy knots is the Turk's head woggle. It gets its name from its similarity to a Turkish turban and was used as a decoration in many places on board ship. The amidships position on a ships helm usually had a Turks head on it so as the helmsman would know the helm was amidships at night.

Each member of your watch could make and have the same colour Turks head woggle. These can be made out of anything but the two best materials for this purpose are plastic coloured washing line or coloured multi stranded electrical cable.



Platting a standard Scout Woggle



Log books



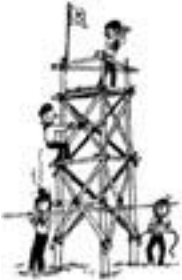
Every Sea Scout should start a personal logbook when they join the troop. This will be their personal Scouting diary recording all their activities in scouting and will eventually be submitted to the Chief Scout for their Chief Scouts award.



There is usually a troop logbook, which is filled out for each meeting and activity the troop goes on and is kept up to date by each duty watch in turn.



The troop log book will record the basic facts of the event such as what it was where it was, who was the leader in charge, who was duty watch what time it started and finished. It should also have the comments and observations of the writer of the event and anything funny or unusual that happened.



In time troop logbooks become increasingly important as they record the minute history of the troop its leaders, members and personalities. In many troops scouts can look back and see the logs their parents wrote many years ago, what they looked like in scouts and the activities they did.



To brighten up the log, photographs drawings and doodles can be added in the margins to make it more interesting.



There should also be a watch logbook, which records watch activities and meetings, and this is best done if a different person does it for each activity. This logbook will be handed from Watch Leader to Watch Leader.



Chief Scout Award

Before you finish your duty as watch leader you should try to achieve the Chief Scouts Award.

Once you have reached **14** years of age you can apply to do the Chief Scouts award. Get the application form from Regional or National Office.

The Chief Scout's award entails setting yourself five personal challenges to be achieved within the calendar year. These include:-



- Planning and leading an Expedition,**
- Planning and organizing a Troop activity**
- A demonstration of your Scout skills**
- An environmental challenge or a personal Challenge**
- Acquiring a relevant qualification, eg., First Aid or Life Saving**

When you get your challenges for the Chief Scout's Award you should involve the whole watch to help you achieve it.

As you do your Chief Scout's Award you should record each activity in a log book with plenty of photos and drawings. It will be on the presentation of this log book that the Chief Scout will decide **as** to whether or not to award you the **Chief Scout's Award**.

Once the Chief Scout approves your log book it will be returned to you and your badge will be sent to your District Commissioner for Presentation.

You will have to wait until the next Founders Day to receive your Certificate. On this day, all of the Chief Scout's Award recipients are invited to have lunch with the Chief Scout and your certificate will be presented in person.

At this presentation you will sign the Chief Scout Award Logbook where your name will be recorded with all other Chief Scouts Award recipients.

Mariner badge

Just because you are now the watch leader doesn't mean that you should neglect your own training.

Before you have finished your term as watch leader you should try to achieve the Mariner Badge. Not only will this achievement indicate you have gained the highest Sea Scout award but you will be able to wear the badge as a leader and continue to be an inspiration to the Scouts in your Troop.



The main element of the mariner will test your organisational skills central to which will be the requirement to plan and lead an expedition. Because of the level of skills required it could be an idea for the watch Leaders council to work together to achieve the Mariner Badge. The expedition, if planned correctly, will also count towards the expedition section of the Chief Scout's Award.

SIONNACH ADVENTURE

The Sionnach Adventure is another training opportunity for you and the older members of your Watch. It is a weekend of adventure in the hills to see if you, just like a Sionnach (Fox) can survive in hostile country, carrying in your pack all that you need to safely walk for two days in the hills. A Sionnach Team consists of four Scouts and a leader and they take place all year round



PEAK

PEAK is another great training opportunity which takes place over a week every Easter in Capanalea Outdoor Education Centre, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.

It is a week long mountain leadership course designed for Patrol leaders and Watch leaders. 36 Scouts, boys and girls are brought together in the wilds of Kerry to test their mountain craft in walking, navigation, rock climbing and expeditions. The culmination is a two day expedition planned and lead by the Scouts themselves. Having completed Peak you will be in a position to plan and lead hikes over open country with your watch.

Competitions

Junior Seamanship trophy

Some Sea Scout Areas run annual seamanship competitions towards the end of the boating season. The Junior Seamanship Competitions are for scouts up to fourteen years of age and cover a range of basic seamanship skills such as ropework, rowing a boat and water safety. A team consists of 5 Scouts and a leader who acts as Cox for the Rowing. As watch leader, with your experience you should be able to train and lead a team for the junior seamanship trophy. Find out from you skipper or area Cathaoirleach if there is a competition and where and when it will be held. You can then start training a team to compete.

Fry Cup

The Fry Cup is the East Coast Area Senior Seamanship Competition but it is open to Sea Scout Troops from any Region. The Fry Cup is for teams of six scouts under seventeen years of age.. They are expected to be of Cox's badge standard and covers the advanced seamanship topics from the Sea Scout programme.

Master Mariner

The Master Mariner Trophy is the National Individual Senior Sea Scout Trophy and is run in conjunction with the Irish Institute of Master Mariners. The winner receives a Perpetual Trophy and candidates in the Master mariner can be examined on any part of the Sea Scout Programme and like any good Scout they should be prepared for anything.

Your Skipper or Area Cathaoideach should be able to give you the booklets with the syllabuses for these competitions in them.

Remember competitions are not an end in themselves but an opportunity to see how well you are doing and also a great place to meet other sea scouts and find out what activities they do in their troop.

Other Competitions that you might be interested In entering a team in are: -

Sailing Regatta

Sea Scout Swimming Gala

Artificial Respiration

First Aid

Scout Liffey Descent

Canoe Sprints

Sea Scout regatta

Charge Certificates

As you are aware, to go boating or canoeing there must be some one with a charge cert present. As a watch leader you should be working towards getting a charge certificate for rowing or sailing so that you can take your watch afloat and not always be waiting for a leader to be present.

Charge certificates come in four categories rowing, sailing, power and canoeing and except in canoeing they come in 3 levels:-
 Restricted
 Intermediate
 Advanced

As watch Leader you should be aiming to get an intermediate charge certificate.

If you've been in Sea Scouting for a couple of seasons you should have all the hard skills necessary for an intermediate charge certificate but you must also show the assessor that you are responsible enough to take charge of others afloat. This is where your leadership skills come into play and you must take responsibility for your actions.

As charge cert holder you will make the decision if it is safe enough to go afloat to day. Some times you will have to say no and the scouts will go home disappointed, such are the joys of leadership.

A charge certificate will enable you to push yourself further, lead more adventurous activities and above all have more fun.

