



CHANGES TO SCOUTING IRELAND'S GARDA VETTING AND ACCESSNI PROCESSES

Dear SCOUTER

All vetting forms may now be posted to National Office or emailed to a new address at nvbf@scouts.ie.

There are two other important changes required for the vetting process for volunteers that should be implemented from this date forward. One change, a requirement to vet Venture Scouts (aged 16 years and over) who act as staff during Group, County, Provincial or National events, relates to both Garda Vetting and AccessNI checks. The other change, a new list of roles for which volunteers are to be vetted with the Garda National Vetting Bureau refers to the Republic of Ireland only.

Venture Scouts (16 years and over)

Venture Scouts who have reached the age of 16 years and are performing the role of staff at Group, County, Provincial or National events are required be vetted either through the Garda National Vetting Bureau or AccessNI, as appropriate. This includes performance of a leadership role at Group level with Beavers, Cubs or Scouts.

Although they may be supervised by Scouters, Venture Scouts (16 years and over) should be vetted when performing a leadership/staff role where they are providing educational, training, cultural, recreational, leisure, social or physical activities for children. As with Scouters, being supervised in the provision of those activities does not rule out the need for Garda vetting or an AccessNI "Enhanced Check". Neither AccessNI nor the Garda National Vetting Bureau will conduct checks for any persons under the age of 16.

Garda vetting/AccessNI checks are valid for three years.

AccessNI "Enhanced Checks" for Venture Scouts (Northern Ireland only)

AccessNI conducts what is known as "an enhanced check through a registered body" for volunteers in youth organisations such as Scouting Ireland. Enhanced checks are conducted for persons aged 16 years and over. The process for Venture Scouts in Northern Ireland Groups applying to AccessNI for "an enhanced check" is no different to the process for adults making the same application.

Instructions for Applicants can be found on the AccessNI [PIN NOTIFICATION AND ID VALIDATION FORM](#). The role applied for is – “Volunteer working in regular activity with children”. AccessNI do not require parental consent for applicants between the age of 16 and 18 years.

Garda Vetting for Venture Scouts (Republic of Ireland only)

The Garda National Vetting Bureau conducts vetting with applicants following a notification from Scouting Ireland registered body” for volunteers in youth organisations such as Scouting Ireland. Enhanced checks are conducted for persons aged 16 years and over. The process for Venture Scouts in Northern Ireland Groups applying to AccessNI for “an enhanced check” is no different to the process for adults making the same application.

Applicants should carefully read the guidelines on the [Garda Vetting form for persons under 18 years of age with parent/guardian consent form](#).

In addition, it is important that vetting applicants, parents and Group Leaders observe the following:

- All four pages of the [vetting form](#) must be completed fully and clearly:
 - Form NVB1 – Vetting Invitation
 - **Both pages** of the ID Verification Form (ensure the correct boxes are ticked on page 3 to indicate the type of identification used to verify the applicant’s identity)
 - Parent/Guardian Consent Form (NVB 3)
- The role Being Vetted for is: **Venture Scout**
- Applicants should either post completed forms to National Office or email them directly to nvbf@scouts.ie.
- The Garda National Vetting Bureau (GNVB) will email a link to the email address on the Vetting Application. This is when the application process commences with the Garda National Vetting Bureau. Applicants should click on the link as soon as they receive it and complete the online form fully. After 30 days, this link is no longer active and the whole vetting process must start again. This includes sending in newly completed forms as the application date on the form is important.

Roles to be Garda Vetted in Scouting Ireland (Republic of Ireland only)

The Safeguarding Department has been liaising with the Garda National Vetting Bureau with a view to establishing the roles in Scouting Ireland that are vetted. Unlike with AccessNI, the law in the Republic of Ireland does not allow for a broad role of “Volunteer working in regular activity with children”. Organisations are now required to specify the various roles performed by volunteers working with children. There are certain conditions that must be satisfied in relation to specific forms of work with children for a role to be vetted, in accordance with the National Vetting Bureau

(Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.

As you will be aware the Membership Policy issued in November 2020 introduced the new role of Adult Supporter, replacing the Associate Member role. The following volunteer roles (including certain Adult Supporter roles) have been agreed with the Garda National Vetting Bureau for vetting of Group members:

1. Scouter
2. Scouter/Rover Scout
3. Rover Scout
4. Venture Scout
5. Adult Supporter – Group Chairperson
6. Adult Supporter – Group Secretary
7. Adult Supporter – Group Treasurer
8. Adult Supporter – Group Quartermaster/Bo'sun (Sea Scouts)
9. Adult Supporter – Spiritual Advisor
10. Adult Supporter – Band Member/Entertainments Facilitator
11. Adult Supporter – Special Needs Assistant

When making a Garda vetting application, please use one of the above roles as the "Role Being Vetted For" on the application form.

Please ensure that Form NVB1 (Vetting Invitation), and both pages of the ID Verification Form, are fully and clearly completed. Ensure the correct boxes are ticked on page 3 to indicate the type of identification used to verify the applicant's identity.

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