



6th Meath (Ashbourne)
Scout Group
Scouting Ireland
2018/19

Group Information Booklet



Dear Parent/Guardian/Friend,

This booklet is intended to give some insights into **Ashbourne Scout Group** and the programmes it offers to the young people in our community.

The programmes offered are run to the highest standards laid down by Scouting Ireland. They help to develop young people's independence, leadership skills and their appreciation of the outdoors as well as the progressive schemes applied to each age range.

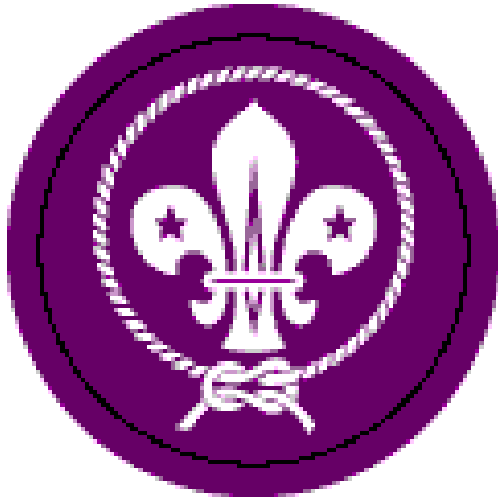
The teams of volunteer leaders, with the backing of the Parents & Friends Group, ensure that Ashbourne Scout Group continues to give service to young people and to our Community in a long term and sustainable way.

The group also acknowledges all the support of the many people in Ashbourne who help and support the group.

Welcome to Scouting, and I hope you enjoy all your time with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Declan Brady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Declan Brady
Group Leader



SCOUTING

Scouting was founded by Lord Baden Powell in England in 1907, when he published his weekly magazines '*Scouting for Boys*'

Within six months Scouting had started in Ireland with troops starting in Dundalk and Greystones.

The first camp happened in 1907 in Brownsea Island, Poole, Dorset, with Baden Powell bringing a small number of young boys to camp in the outdoors and learning scouting skills. This has continued right into the present day and still continues to be one of the biggest attractions to Scouting,

Scouting is now the world's largest youth organisation with over 25 million scouts in one hundred and eighty countries.

Scouting is more than just a youth organisation it has a very well defined programme and a clearly defined aim.

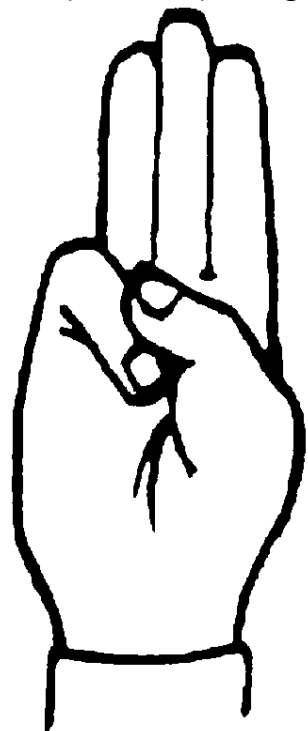
Scouting achieves its aim by using the '**Scout Method**', using the 'out of doors', small groups, progressive training schemes and empowers young people to make their own decisions.

The nature of the programme through pioneering, canoeing, camping and hiking gives invaluable opportunity to learn new skills and disciplines.

Scouting is the only youth movement which asks its members, both youth and adult, to take a promise to live up to a set of values.

The Scout Promise is:

**On my honour, I promise to do my best,
to do my duty,
to serve my community,
to help other people and to keep the scout
law.**



MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the scout group is voluntary and each member must take the scout promise.

Scouting is a commitment for both child and parents, parents will be expected to help out with functions and events when possible and also show their support to all the leaders in the group who give of their time voluntarily.

Often in the sections a waiting list will apply and priority, if possible, will be given to brothers and sisters of existing members, as places become available. However places are based on both the number of volunteer leaders in each section, and on the premises, facilities and resources available to us.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Each scout group in the country is affiliated to Scouting Ireland, the national association. Each year a "capitation fee" is applied to every member in the association, this levy covers membership fees, the administrative costs of running the association, and insurance.



Our group membership fees in 2018/19 are a flat rate of €160 for all sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures). The group subsidises families who have more than one member in the scout group through a discount scheme (7.5% off total fees if there are two siblings from the same family, 15% off total fees if there are three or more). This fee includes the national capitation fee, and helps defray the costs of premises, equipment, materials, and so on.



LEADERSHIP OF THE GROUP

The group is managed by a team of leaders who form the '**Group Council**' and is chaired by the group leader.

Each programme section has a team of leaders who are responsible for the implementation of the sectional programme activities in a safe and structured way. Each section also has a leader in charge.

LEADER TRAINING

Each leader in the group undertakes formal leadership training relevant to their appointment as laid down by Scouting Ireland. Many of the scout leaders also take part in specialist training to allow them to lead more adventurous activities.



SAFETY

Safety is paramount in all of the activities that the group undertakes and is the foremost consideration in planning any activities especially outdoor ones.

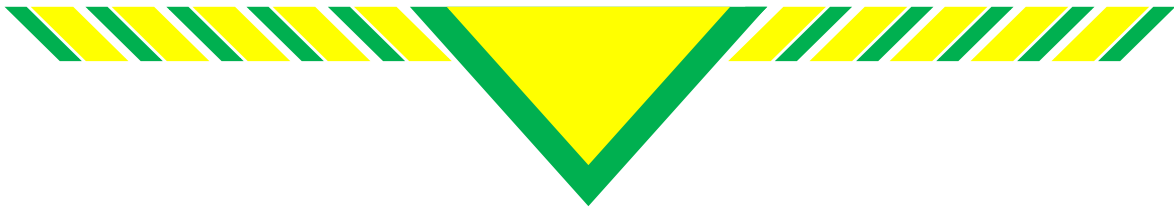
OPEN DOOR POLICY

All sections in the group operate an open door policy and parents should always feel free to call in and see any of the programme sections in operation.

UNIFORM

Scouting is a uniformed movement and all sections of Ashbourne Scout Group wear the prescribed uniform as laid down by Scouting Ireland.

All members of the group wear the group neckerchief, which is yellow with a green border.



Each section wears a slightly different uniform to distinguish them. The uniform comprises a uniform jumper, navy blue trousers and black shoes for beavers and cubs. and a uniform shirt, navy blue trousers, scout belt (webbing), lanyard (with whistle) and black shoes for scouts – uniform cost varies from approximately €50 for Beavers to €80 for Scouts and can be purchased from The Scout Shop on Liffey St, in Dublin or via the web on www.thescoutshop.ie



WELFARE AND SAFETY

The welfare and safety of the members of Ashbourne Scout Group is our principal priority at all times. The group operates under the guidelines of Scouting Ireland '**Code of Good Practice**' child welfare and protection policy. This policy states that all adult leaders in the association should strive to protect all members from physical, emotional and sexual harm whilst in their care.

We have a dedicated Child Protection Officer within Scouting Ireland, Ruth Hughes, who can be contacted on 01-4956300 if you or anyone has any child protection concerns.

COMMUNICATIONS

Parents/Guardians are advised to keep in regular contact with the leaders of the section your child is in.

Parents/Guardians should advise leaders of any difficulties/health conditions your child might have. They should keep leaders aware of best practice in dealing with them. Such information will be treated as confidential and will be used to enhance the young person's participation in scouting activities.

Leaders should also be kept informed of any special family arrangements affecting their child's participation in weekly meetings or activities.

At the start of the year, and before each major activity, parents/guardians will be expected to complete an information/medical form; this should be completed in an open and frank manner and again this information is treated confidentially.

The scout group has regular activities in both winter and summer, Parents/Guardians should satisfy themselves of the nature of the activity and that their child is actually where they believe them to be.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The group has set out a Code of Conduct to achieve three things:

1. The safe and efficient running of all activities the group undertakes.
2. To maintain good order throughout all the sections for the enjoyment of all concerned
3. To encourage good behaviour through self-discipline, respect for self, others and property in accordance with the scout law.

Parents/Guardians are asked to be supportive of the leaders to ensure the effective implementation of our Code of Conduct in the best interest of each individual member of the group.

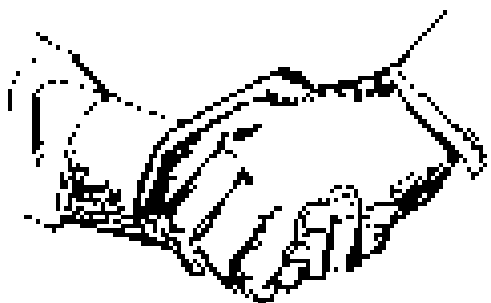


SAFETY ON OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Scouting by its nature provides adventurous activities, and some of these activities have inherent risks (boating, hiking, canoeing, hill walking, rock climbing, camping etc)





Members are instructed to participate in these activities in a safe way in line with current best practice for the specific activity

Members who are found to flout safety procedures are likely to be reprimanded immediately and may be asked to be removed for their own safety or the safety of others.

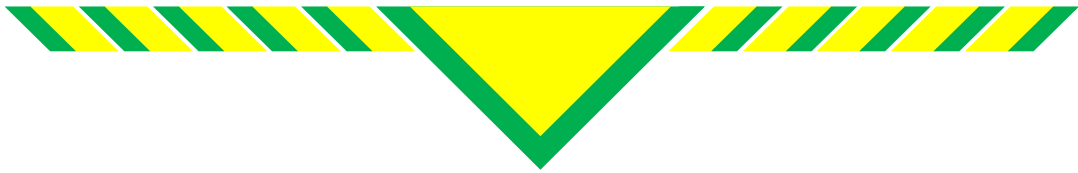


Discipline expected whilst engaged in adventurous activities is of the highest standard.

Responses to misbehaviour may involve some of the following:-

-  Reasoning with the member
-  Reprimand
-  Referral to parents
-  Suspension from meetings / activities

In an extreme case where all of the above have failed the group council with regret may ask the parents/guardians to withdraw their child from the group.



NOTE FOR PARENTS

Parents/Guardians should not leave their child at any meeting or activity until a leader of their child's section is present and has taken charge.

Where beavers/cubs/scouts are being collected, please do so at the appointed time.



PROGRAMME SECTIONS

Scouting provides a non-formal educational environment where young people may develop in 6 prescribed areas – Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual – each of these areas tackled in an age appropriate way.



Beaver Scouts (6 – 8 years)

Beaver scouts are the youngest programme section in Scouting Ireland and follow a 3 year programme which allows each young person to progress at their own pace through a number of badges – called Bree, Ruarc and Conn together with Special Interest Badges and Adventure Skills. The beavers work together in small groups called 'Lodges'

Sharing, Sharing, Sharing is the beaver motto and this underpins everything they do from playing games and taking part in beaver outings and slumbernights.



Cub Scouts (9 - 11 years)

The cub section programme is called 'Lands of Adventure' where cub scouts will travel through different lands to take up challenges and adventures to progress their knowledge. Cub Scouts are awarded badges to show their progress. These are called – Turas, Taisteal and Tagann. Cub Scouts can also gain Special Interest Badges and Adventure Skills Badges.

Cub Scouts work in small groups called 'Sixes'



Scouts (12 -15 years)

Scouts also use travel as their way to pursue challenges, following the great explorer Tom Crean. Using the Crean Adventures Scouts set challenges for themselves and their patrol. The Crean Awards display the progress that scouts have made – the awards are called Discovery, Terra Nova, Endurance and Polar named after the expeditions in which Tom Crean participated.

Scouts also work towards Special Interest and Adventure Skills badges. Scouts work in small groups called 'Patrols'



Venture Scouts (15 – 17)

When a young person progresses into Venture Scouts, their development in the six areas are self-directed using small groups called 'Crews' – these crews will create their own personal challenges and adventures within a framework. They work towards gaining badges called Suas & Transna and their adventure programme is called 'Fiontar'

MEETINGS

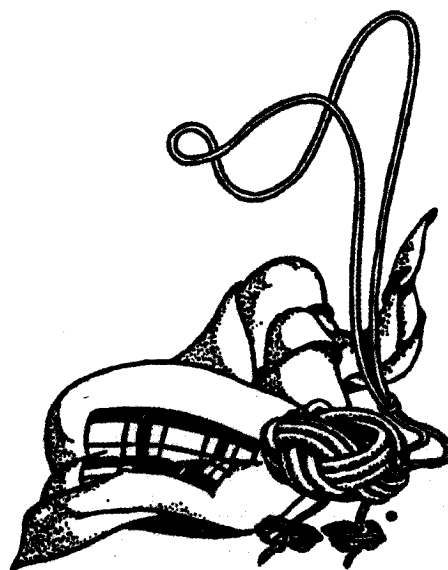
Meetings for each section (in 2017/18) take place at:

Beavers	Friday	6.45pm-8.00pm	Parish Hall
Cubs	Friday	7.30pm-9pm	Gaelscoil
Scouts	Friday	7.30pm-9pm	St Mary's School
Ventures/Rovers	Thursday	7pm-8.30pm	Library

WOODBADGE

The woodbadge is Scouting's international symbol of leader training introduced by Baden Powell himself, after the first course he ran for Scout Leaders in 1919. In order to give recognition to the leaders who undertook training, he broke up a necklace given to him by a Zulu Chief in Africa and gave each leader two beads which are worn around the neck.

He then had thousands more similar beads made, placed them in a box and then mixed the remainder of the Zulu Chief's beads into the box. Even to this day the wooden beads used for woodbadges are drawn from this box in Gilwell Park in London. This box is never allowed to empty, so there is always a possibility (slim though it may be) that a leader being awarded the woodbadge could get an original bead from the Zulu necklace.



Woodbadges will only be presented from around the neck of another Woodbadge holder, which means that a woodbadge is presented to a leader by someone whose woodbadge was presented to them by someone whose woodbadge was presented to them etc. and continues an unbroken link back to BP himself.

PARENTS & FRIENDS GROUP

The Parents & Friends Group supports the leaders in implementing the scouting programme for all the members. The aim of the Parents & Friends Group is to ensure the sustainability of the group, and to ensure that the leadership team have all the supports and resources which they need in order to run the programme.

The Parents and Friends Group are typically elected each year at the Annual General Meeting of the Group and members usually serve for a two year period.

The Parents and Friends Group is involved in a variety of work supporting the leaders in the sections of which fundraising is just one. Please let someone know if this is something you might like to help out with for a specified amount of time.

PERSONAL SCOUTING EQUIPMENT

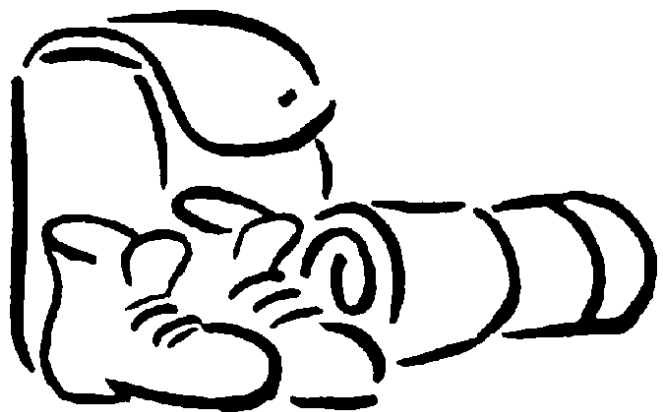
The scout group provides all mainline equipment for scouting activities such as tents, cookers, cooking equipment, ropes and general camping equipment to allow all members take part in activities.

However as scouts move through the sections from Beavers Scouts to Venture Scouts they will require more personal equipment relevant to the activities they are taking part in.

Parents should be careful when buying equipment particularly if they are not familiar with the items, their quality and purpose. The scout leaders are always happy to advise on what a scout actually needs more than what they might want.

Items such as sleeping bags and rucksacks should be bought with more than the individual in mind, possibly on a family basis.

Items such as waterproofs are needed for every activity and therefore should be bought to get the best possible value for money. Scouts should build up their personal equipment over their time in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, using birthdays and Christmas presents instead of looking for them on the eve of activities.



Contact Details

Group Phone: 086 043 2355
Group Email: ashbournecubs@gmail.com
Group Website: www.ashbournescouts.ie
Facebook: facebook.com/ashbournescouts

Leaders:

Declan Brady	Group Leader	087 248 4929
	Scout Section Leader	
Jennifer McGrath	Group Secretary	085 787 9581
Suzie Rafter	Venture Section Leader	087 828 8357
Joe O'Neill	Cub Section Leader	086 831 3638
Ian Davy	Beaver Section Leader	087 668 4821

