



First off, welcome back to all, especially if you have just joined our scout group. It is an exciting time for everyone involved in 13th Galway, Renmore as we have just introduced our One Programme. By now you all should have received your black leather bound folder & you should have a copy of 'The Adventure Skills Handbook'.

Our aim for this year is for everyone to achieve:

- The Discovery badge
- Stage 1 Backwoods badge
- Stage 1 Emergencies badge
- Stage 3 Hill-walking badge
- Stage 3 Camping badge

These are our aims at the moment, it is up to the scouts what badge work we do, so our aims could change again after Christmas. We are all new to the system, it is based on the principle of *plan, do, review* therefore if the scouts decide after stage 1 hill walking that that is far enough for this year, we will concentrate on another area of their choice.

Special Interest Badges

This is another area of achievement for you to try out. These are based on your own personal passions and hobbies. You set the goal and with the help of an adult scouter we set out a plan to achieve it.

We're going to have a great year!! It's up to you all how great it will be! :)

Barbie

Stars & Stripes

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Paul Whelan—Group Leader

I joined 13th Galway Renmore Scouts in September 2006 as a Cub Leader. It was not by my own volition, as some Leaders knew my wife Eileen, & they worked on her to volunteer me, "for an hour a week". Having put our three children, Evan, Colin & Sinéad through the group, I felt it my duty to give something back, although I still haven't found what that is yet.

I spent 3 years in Cubs, the last 2 as the section leader. I moved up to Scouts in September '09, as I felt my interests & skills could be put to best use in the Scout program.

I have an innate knowledge of nature having spent my childhood exploring the shores of lake & rivers in the midlands around Mullingar, along with discovering the flora & fauna in

adjacent forests. I am a very keen angler & enjoy all types of outdoor activities.

I enjoy all aspects of Scouting but especially meeting & working with all types of people to teach & guide the youth members to realise their potential & make a positive contribution to the community. My best scouting experience is how Scouting has made me a better person & parent.

Taking on the role of Group Leader seemed like a natural progression similar to how I joined in the first place. Just as Scouting has given me so much, I feel as Group Leader I am well positioned to give something back to the Group.

I would like to continue to grow our numbers while setting up active Venture & Rover sections & developing a

13TH GALWAY RENMORE SCOUTS



Paul working hard on camp!

more integrated Group between the sections.

The future for 13th Galway holds many difficult challenges but I am confident that with the great team of leaders & group council members, we can meet & go beyond those challenges to deliver a superlative program in all sections.

My World Scout Jamboree Experience...

There is a scout law that says: "A Scout is a friend to all & a brother to every other Scout" - nowhere was this more apparent than at the jamboree in Sweden. Arriving at the site we were greeted by very cheerful scouts from Sweden all willing to help, everyone helped each other in good spirits as we found our way through the massive campsite & set up camp. It wasn't just the scouts that were friendly, all the IST (staff) were always willing to help too.

Many of the activities promoted meeting new people & through that I made many new friends. Not only did the activities help friendships, some also raised awareness about many different world issues. One in particular stands out in my mind. To raise

awareness about refugees & what they go through, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) had set up a course in a wood that represented life fleeing from your country & passing through other countries. I was grouped with other scouts of different nationalities & some who spoke different languages. With these people we created a new family. We were all blindfolded & separated & then we heard many loud noises simulating a riot. The aim was to gather the family together. We were then told to go through war-zones & minefields to escape, but with rebels chasing after us. At the border, we were roared at in a language that we couldn't understand & eventually we realised that to cross we had to pay. At the end, people from the UNHCR showed us food & aid that would be given to real refugees when they reach a UNHCR station. It was quite an experience.

The jamboree became a home to all of the 38,000 scouts involved & it resembled something like a city. There was a City Square, shops & restaurants from many different cultures, internet cafes, information centres, a bank & even a pharmacy. There were sub-camps that resembled suburbs that had villages in them & they in turn had many local amenities. Shopping centres, cafés & lots of things to do. In my sub-camp there was rock-climbing & Zorbing. We could also play tug-of-war against another group



with a car in the middle! There was even an ice rink in one sub-camp!

The jamboree was even more than that & for 10 wonderful days this summer, I had the opportunity to visit almost any country in the world, sharing stories & songs, trying traditional foods & experiencing many different cultures. There were many food houses that you could experience the food, music & culture of other countries. The Irish house was very popular, even the King & Queen of Sweden visited it. The jamboree was a place where any person, of any nationality, would welcome anyone, respect everyone & treat everyone as an equal.

The 22nd World Scout Jamboree was an amazing experience & it's something that every scout should go to when they get the chance. I am looking forward & counting down the days to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan in 2015!

Silin Scout

www.renmorescouts.ie

So after some time of neglect, the 13th Galway Scouts website is back up and running. We have a new webmaster online now and all is going really well.

Where do I go to find the website? Simple - just click onto www.renmorescouts.ie. Alternatively if you click onto Google and search for "13th Galway Scouts" or "Renmore Scouts". Once you are here you can then click on SCOUTS on the left hand side - this brings you into the scout section area.

What can I use it for? First up you can click into the scout section and find out all the latest news and events that are going on for scouts in Renmore. Also from here you can check out the latest pictures in the pictures section. The RESOURCES section is for all the group (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures, Rovers & Leaders). There is a huge amount of information contained on this page with everything from a backwoods cookbook to this very newsletter!!! Keep an eye on it, because things are constantly being added here.

What's coming down the line? With the One Programme in full swing it is hoped that we can add a lot of material from the One Programme up onto the website also. Indeed there is some One Programme material up here already! If you have any further suggestions just let us know at renmorescouts@hotmail.com.

Scone



CONGRATS

All the leaders and scouts in 13th Galway would like to congratulate Eoin Shimizu on recently being awarded his National Scout Award. Presentation of the award will take place in the coming weeks.

Should you have any questions or concerns in relation to the scout section at any time please feel free to contact Eamon on 087-4163314