



# The Western Scout

Western Province Newsletter

May 2009

## Record attendance at National Council 2009

A record number of 693 delegates attended Scouting Ireland's AGM on 28/29 March in Newcastle, Co. Down, representing the largest youth organisation in Ireland with over 37,000 members nationwide. A good number of Scouts and Scouters travelled north from the Western Province to have their say in the decisions taken.



The NMC with the first minister of Northern Ireland, Peter Robinson, who gave the opening speech at NC.



"Galway Gangsters" at NC - from left: Ultan Hynes-GL 10th Galway, Dick Ridge-CTC Galway, John O Toole-1st Galway St. Joseph's, Noel Leahy-CPC Galway, Brendan Murray-10th Galway

The following were elected as members of the National Management Committee (NMC):

- Chief Scout: Michael John Shinnick
- National Secretary: Michael Devins
- Chief Commissioner Adult Resources: John Brennan
- Ordinary Members: Sean Farrell and Kevin Murphy

The age ranges and section names that were agreed on are:

- Beavers Scouts: 6, 7, 8 years
- Cub Scouts: 9, 10, 11 years
- Scouts: 12, 13, 14, 15 years
- Venture Scouts: 15, 16, 17 years
- Rover Scouts: 18, 19, 20 years

For more details refer to the NC Bulletin and New Programme News Issue2:

[www.scouts.ie/marketing/si-magazines](http://www.scouts.ie/marketing/si-magazines)

"In safe hands" Scouts taking a well deserved rest before providing a Guard of Honour



National Council 2010 will be held on 20/21 March in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Co. Offaly.

Check out Scouting Ireland's brand new Strategy Implementation web page on its Strategy 2012:

[www.scouts.ie/resources/strategy-2012](http://www.scouts.ie/resources/strategy-2012)  
It is open to comments from all members.

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### OAS launches new Fundraising concept: Rewards Card



At National Council the Outdoor Adventure Store (OAS) launched the "Rewards Card", which is a simple way to help every Scout Group to raise funds: Every time the Rewards Card is used to buy something from the OAS- either online, in Dublin, Cork or at a Roadshow- 10% of the spend will be given back in Reward Vouchers with a

twice yearly mailing directly to the Group Leader. The only exceptions are badges and publications.

The card can not only be used by Scouters but also by family and friends; by anyone who wants to support the local Group. Each Group will get a unique number which is quoted upon purchase to allow the 10% to be added to this Groups' Reward Vouchers.

The application form can be downloaded from [scouts.ie](http://scouts.ie).

Feel free to contact the OAS or your GSF should you have any questions.



150 Scouts and Venture Scouts attended the National Youth Forum in Larch Hill on 24-26 April.

Letter from our newly elected Provincial Scout Rep:

*Hi my name is Simon Caulfield-Sriklad and I go to 1st Galway St.Nicholas Scouts. I am 15 years old and I row for my school, The Jes. I like meeting new people and having good crack! I've been involed with Scouts for years and I have always found that it is a great way to have fun, learn new skills and best of all meet new people!*

*I can't wait for my year as Provincial Rep to get going and I hope I can make good changes during it! If you need anything else you can get in touch with me at [simon.caulfieldsriklad@gmail.com](mailto:simon.caulfieldsriklad@gmail.com)*

*Yours in Scouting, Simon Caulfield  
Western Province Scout Rep*

Letter from our newly elected Provincial Venture Scout Rep:

*Sup guys, my name is Róisín Collier and I am a venture with 12th Ballyboro scout troop in Roscommon. I am 16 years young and love anything you can do in the outdoors, especially water sports (woohoo). Our troop is relatively new but we rock the same and I love helping out with the beavers and cubs. I love nothing more than meeting new people and having a good 'aul chat over a cup of coffee and a big sing-song. I'm so excited that I got provincial venture rep and I can't wait to get working on making ventures even more fun!! I hope I represent ye all well and if you want to get in touch feel free to do so at [rosincollier@hotmail.com](mailto:rosincollier@hotmail.com).*

*Yours In Scouting, Róisín Collier  
Western Venture Rep*

**A very warm welcome to our two new Youth Reps and the best of luck in your new roles!**

The Provincial Team would also like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to Róisín Costello and Ronan Scott for all their great work as Youths Reps in the last year!

## 2nd Provincial Youth Forum

On 1 March Scouts and Venture Scouts from Clare, Galway, Lough Keel and Yeats gathered in Oranmore for the 2nd Provincial Youth Forum. Many quality discussions took place and new friendships were formed. Topics included the New Youth Programme and the Court of Honour. Julie, Frank and Joe would like to thank everyone who attended for their input to the day and also would like to acknowledge the work done by Karl Quinn and Stephen Cull, in making the day such a success.

## New Initiative: Retention 101

The Chief Scout invites you all to lead this new initiative together in the 101st year of scouting. The aim is to support Groups in the recruitment and retention of Youth Members. All Groups were recently posted packs with posters, interactive CD + booklet, competition, Giant Camp Out information; in order to support Leaders and Scouts of all section with their Programme. It will give you suggestions as how you can motivate and enthuse your youth members to get them to take control and grow their section, so they can enjoy and share their scouting experience with more friends.

Your PSO and GSF will be there to support every Group with this new initiative. Please feel free to contact them.

## Enhancements to



1. When creating a new member record you must enter the start date in order to be able to save.
2. The new "Home" button allows to return the Groups Details after entering a new member.
3. In long adult / youth member listing screens you can now directly enter and access a particular page number by clicking on the three dots between the page numbers below the listing.
4. Groups with multiple sections can now also filter their Youth Members by section name, e.g. Friday Cubs.
5. A report on pending members has been added.

Further changes will be made in the next phase of the database enhancement. **Please email any suggestions** you might have in relation to further improving the SI database to: [dhabermann@scouts.ie](mailto:dhabermann@scouts.ie).

Please remember to input new Youth Members ASAP.

## Shape the New Programme

Following National Council, there is much work to be undertaken in order to prepare the new Scout Programme for use by Scout Groups.

The National Youth Programme Committee invites all members of Scouting Ireland who wish to contribute to this exiting process to email: [progdev@scouts.ie](mailto:progdev@scouts.ie). Volunteers are very much needed! **The next working weekends are in Larch Hill, starting on Saturday:**

**13 June and 11 July.**

Please consider attending and help make our new Scout programme the best it can be!

## Reminder Adult Awards

**Next closing date for nominations: 30 June**

Are there Leaders in your Group that deserve an Award?!? If you wish to nominate a Scouter or a community organisation make sure that the right form is at National Office by 30 June. All forms can be downloaded from [www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie) (->Official Forms).



# LEADERSHIP TRAINING



## Letter from Your PTC

Some great things have been happening over the last few months in training. All updates from the GL convention are on the next page.

I want to personally congratulate all the participants who attended the Leadership training in Roscommon in April. The group of participants really enjoyed the weekend and worked incredible well as a team.

One of the great things about The Scouting Leadership Weekend Training is that it not only gives you the knowledge and skills to develop as a good leader in Scouting situations, it also gives you great skills that you can use in all areas of your life.

The Western Province just ran a course in Co Roscommon where they had attendance from all over.

Henk Wijers, Trevor Lee, Miriam Pybus & Joe Doherty took the leaders through a great set of tools that they can use in communication, negotiation, time management, working with young people and meetings. The Photo was taken before heading to the restraint for a 4-season themed dinner organised by Miriam Pybus.

It is very safe to say that the participants were blown away and we have been getting feedback from all over the Province of practical steps leaders have taken to bring about a better Scouting Group.

This is great news for us!! :-)

Best of luck with your Woodbadge projects.

Anne



Catriona Peelo from Dublin:

"Hi Anne, Last weekend was so packed with so many things. It will take a while for everything to sink in and even longer before I know put them all to use."

Ultan Hynes from Portumna:

"This was the best training course I have attended in Scouting. This course is as relevant to your work or personal life as it is to Scouting. Scouters should be demanding to be sent on this course."

## What's that Course?

### ~ Overnights

The Sectional Overnights course is specific to the Programme Section that you are involved with e.g. Beavers, Cubs, Scouts etc The one day course, co-ordinated and booked through the **Provincial Office**. The course is designed to give a leader the skills necessary to take young people away overnight. Follow this link to get information on all courses:

<http://www.scouts.ie/training/woodbadge-scheme/>

## Overnight Training Announcement (1 DAY)

13 <sup>th</sup> June for All Sections €30		
BEAVER & CUB LEADERS	GALWAY	Ballybane CRC
	MAYO	
SCOUT & VENTURE LEADERS	GALWAY	Ballybane CRC
	MAYO	
Booking Through Provincial Office		

**FULL LIST OF NATIONAL COURSES check: [www.scouts.ie/training/training-calendar/](http://www.scouts.ie/training/training-calendar/)**

## Accreditation from Old Association:

CSI	SAI	SI
INTRODUCTION	LEVEL 1	Welcome to Scouting
SCOUTING IN ACTION	LEVEL 2	Scouting Fundamentals
		Scouting Essentials
FIRST AID	LEVEL 3	First Aid
PROGRAMME SKILLS	LEVEL 4	Section Overnights
		Section Skills
YOU THE LEADER	LEVEL 5	Scouting Leadership
W/BADGE		

Email your news, articles, photos, updates, ideas, etc to: [dhabermann@scouts.ie](mailto:dhabermann@scouts.ie)



## Your say

Mike Skerritt from Ennis

"Hi Anne, thanks again for the very informative and empowering weekend, it was not as I had expected, it is a credit to you Joe, Miriam, Henk & Trevor that some of us actually learned quite a bit! All the best, Mike"

## TRAINING UPDATES:

Here are all the changes that the training team have put in place as a direct result of the GL Convention:

1. Sunday Training
2. Reduction in minimum numbers on course to try and prevent cancellation - Now down to 10 participants.
3. Additional Child Protection courses in all counties.
4. Extended closing dates for some courses to prevent cancellation.
5. This page in the Western Scout to ensure that all CC, GLs and Leaders are up-to-date with all things training.
6. To prevent confusion between courses, each GL was handed information on all courses. You will find information on all courses at <http://www.scouts.ie/training/woodbadge-scheme/>
7. To help you all with more localised training, I am thrilled to say that each we have trained in every county since October.
8. All courses are now listed on the training calendar on scouts.ie to give you a central point for training courses nationally. <http://www.scouts.ie/training/training-calendar/>

9. You wanted to see what accreditation is covered from previous association. This is included on the previous page.
10. While very few GLs booked on to the course, we did organise Group Leader and delegates training in response to your request.

Last October, at the GL Convention you gave the training team a great list of items to focus on for 08/09. As the ol' saying goes, some done, more to do.

### More to do!

You had requested visibility of all completed training. The database is currently being updated with this information. It will only ever date back 5 years. The County Trainers will be in touch with you, to ask each of your leaders so that we can have all data.

You had requested a information pack for Adults interested in becoming leaders. I have sent your request to the national programme team.

### Cannot be done for the foreseeable future!

You had requested that one child protection awareness training would cover adults for all volunteering work they are completing. Due to legal reasons this will not be the case across Ireland.

## News from the Counties

### Co. Mayo



Nicola Chambers receiving 1<sup>st</sup> prize of a laptop computer on behalf of the 20<sup>th</sup> Mayo Snugboro Scouts for their award winning design of a Road Safety Badge for the scouts. L to R: Kevin Higgins, Group Leader 20<sup>th</sup> Mayo Snugboro, Noël Gibbons, Road Safety Officer Mayo County Council, Nicola Chambers, Jerry Butler of Butler School of Motoring (Sponsor) and Sean Dowling, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mayo Ballinrobe and competition organiser.

*By John Mulligan, Co. Mayo PRO*

### 2nd Mayo played host to the County Hike

up Croagh Patrick on Founders Day 2009. 110 scouts, Leaders and parents from Achill, Castlebar, Snugboro and Westport took part in what was a challenging climb which was a first for a lot of the scouts. The weather could have been a little better but everyone made it safe and sound. Well done to all concerned who had a well deserved treat on return including a Troop from Renmore who also climbed and were delighted at the fact that we kept them a hotdog!

*By Una Canning,  
Group Leader, 2nd  
Mayo, Westport*



Cub/Explorer group from 22nd Mayo Achill Island

**Congratulations to all Scouters of 2<sup>nd</sup> Mayo, Westport and 20<sup>th</sup> Mayo, Snugboro who received Awards for Services to Scouting at the AGM of the Mayo Scout County!**

## Co. Galway



Pictured by a Totem Pole made by the Carrabane Beaver Scouts, enjoying a fun day out at the Beaver Scout County event recently at Coole Park in Gort are Sarah, Holly and Niamh from the 27<sup>th</sup> Galway Beaver Scouts. The three girls were part of a group of over 200 children and Leaders from Co. Galway who participated in a red Indian-themed Day at Coole Park. All the Beaver Scouts had great fun at Coole Park, where they took part in a number of activities including bows and arrows, fishing for ducks, slow boarding, buffalo hunting and a red Indian dance, and they're looking forward to many more days in the sun over the Summer months!

The groups that organised the event are Portumna, Craughwell, Carrabane, Gort and Abbey Duniry.  
By David Evans, 27th Galway Beaver Leader

### County Galway Scout Hike in the Burren on 29th



#### Galway Cub Scout City Hike

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> Galway (St Nicholas) organised a City Hike which was hugely successful. Almost 200 cubs attended from 12 groups and thankfully it stayed dry for the whole day which was a great achievement in itself!! From 9.30am Groups left at approx 15 min intervals on a tour of the city which was guided by booklets given to each Cub. They got little bits of information on various historic buildings on the route and had to answer questions about the places they visited. They also gathered ink stamps in their booklets from rubber markers which were placed in 10 locations around the city. 3h later, the Cubs arrived back for their lunch and a well earned rest. The most frequently used quote from the day had to be ' I never knew.....' and that was from Cubs and leaders alike! It was also incredible how many leaders did not know of the existence of the Museum which is well worth a visit, it is completely free.

A big thank you must go to everyone who attended the hike and made it so successful, also to the staff of the Galway City Museum who were so co-operative, staff in the OPW who gave information on the Hall of the Red Earl and to the Parish of St Nicholas who allowed Cubs access to the wonderful Collegiate Church. The parents of 1<sup>st</sup> Galway (St Nicholas) Cubs were so helpful on the day and provided lunch for all the leaders. Bistro Bianconi, Westside supplied delicious pizzas free of charge to say well done to all the leaders who gave up their time to make sure that the Cubs had a great time so well done to them too!

- By Anne Marie Miller, St. Nicholas Cub Scout Leader



100 Galway Scouts in 12 Patrols from 8 Groups had a great weekend at the Galway County Shield Camp, 1- 4 May 2009 at Ruan National Campsite, Co. Clare

Top: Winning Lions Patrol from 13th Galway with Scout County Coordinator, Sean Harte (left) and Camp Organiser, Eoin Browne (right).  
Right: Great camp cooking teamwork



## County Clare



Scouts and Leaders from 1/4 Clare Ennis at this years' Easter Pascal fire. Ennis scouts provide the fire each year for the local parish church at the Easter Ceremonies in Ennis.



## Programme Corner



### Fun at the Beach

Suggestions of what Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts could do at the beach during a meeting or (half-) day outing:

**REMEMBER: Respect every form of life! Leave nothing but footprints!**

- Do you know what dangers there are at the beach?
- Is the tide coming in or going out?
- What kind of rubbish can you see? (Wear clothes when collecting rubbish)
- Use a shovel to dig a hole in the sand. Can you find a black layer of sand? What could it mean?
- How many different kinds of shells can you find?
- Can you find any fossils? How old might they be?
- What animals can you find in the rockpools? (Bring net + bucket) Look them up in a book.
- Game *Escape the wave*: Stay as close to the water as you can without getting wet feet!
- Beach Olympics: Run, Jump, Obstacle course, stone & spoon race, ...

- Have a picnic.
- Build a sandcastle with a bridge over water.
- Write messages in the sand.
- Play Noughts and Crosses or Connect 4 in the sand.
- Make a sundial. How accurate can you make it?
- Fly a kite.
- Which direction is the wind coming from? Use a compass to find out exactly!
- Cloudspotting: What kinds of clouds can you see? What can they tell you?
- Make a picture or piece of art out of things you find (shells, driftwood, stones,...)
- Help prepare a fire and sing songs at the fire.
- Why not camp at the beach?!?
- What else can YOU think of?

### GIANT CAMP OUT June 2009

It would be really great if you could run a camp during the month of June, and as part of this run a small fundraiser where each participant might bring for example € 5 to lend a helping hand to the Children's Miracle Network. More details can be found in the Retention 101 packs that have been sent to all Groups or on: [www.scouts.ie/events/giantcampout](http://www.scouts.ie/events/giantcampout)



**WE ARE SHORT STAFF WE NEED MORE SCOUTERS & VENTURE SCOUTS TO APPLY**

We are looking for 200 + Adult Scouter Staff and Venture Support Staff for both the Beaver element of the Event and the Cub Scout / Macaoimh element of the event.

**Online registration** at <http://events.scouts.ie/>

1. You will need to fill in your personal details with your email address becoming your user name
2. You will be asked to verify your email address through your email account
3. You will need to log back in and select staff
4. That's it for now..... you will be contacted when we need further details from you in the coming days

### Why not do the National Sunrise Hike?!?

- It's open to all sections until end 2009.
- It's locally organised but supported by the National Events Team with Material.
- It can be linked to the Promise & Law.
- Booking forms are available at [www.scouts.ie/events/](http://www.scouts.ie/events/)



**Iarnród Éireann have just introduced some competitive rates for group travel**, which could save you up to 60%. To avail of the best discount available you can contact their dedicated call centre on: 1890929899.

### 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden 2011

The 22nd World Scout Jamboree will be held near Kristianstad in Sweden between 27th July and 7th August, 2011. Irish Scouts have taken part in every WSJ and will be in Sweden too!

Visit [www.scouts.ie/international/world-jamboree-2011](http://www.scouts.ie/international/world-jamboree-2011) to find out more about the next World Jam, including links to Information on the Irish Contingent and the official 22nd WSJ website. **Each Province is expected to send one troop to form part of the Irish contingent. Make sure YOU are part of it!**

To register your interest to become a member of the contingent you should e-mail your name, Group and date of birth to [worldjam@scouts.ie](mailto:worldjam@scouts.ie)

