

The Year 2006—2007

Possibly the most successful year in 13th Galway scouting ... EVER!

Ok, this is now my fourth time trying to write this article, just so much to say and so little space! So here goes once again!!!

I realize that I say this every year, but once again it has been a very busy & successful year in 13th Galway scouts. With the many County Events throughout the year Renmore has been a part of each & every event and this is along with having our own activities to fit into the mix!

Now for a change I'm not going to go through everything that was done throughout last year, I would be writing all night! What I will tell you is what was achieved by 13th Galway scouts in the past year.



Annual Camp—Switzerland 2007

Also Aaron Connolly achieved his National Scout Award this year. This is the second highest award in Scouting

(P.L), Cian Hickey (A.P.L), Fiona Kinsella, Niamh Gilligan, Orla Kyne, Adrian Lyons, Roisin Costello & Keith Kelly. Although Renmore had not attended the camp in more than 5 years, the patrol did superbly well and won the county camp competition and also the camp craft competition.

Ireland at present and he really did put in a lot work to achieve this award. I have read through the award a few times and it is a credit to the work he has done through 4 years in scouts.



County Camp & Camp Craft Winners 2007

Well done to all on being the winning patrol. I have to say that these guys & girls really worked

In May 13th Galway Scouts won the annual charity soccer match against St. Pat's, it was a great match and a long night as we also walked 1000kms around the pitches in Renmore to raise money for annual camp.

Just a week before annual camp in Switzerland some of the scouts & leaders went hiking out near Cliften for the weekend on the county expedition. I think a good weekend was had by all and that everyone recovered well!

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

We had 10 new scouts start with us last year. So welcome to Keith Jordan, Keith Collins, Rachel Curran, Martin, David & Chris Laffey, Conor Flynn, Neil Gunning, Shauna Daly & Gary Farrell on receiving their Investiture on top of Croagh Patrick in February.

Later that month we took part in the County quiz & congrats to Adrian Lyons, Hugh O'Donnell, Conor Hennessy & Keith Kelly on winning the county u-13 quiz in Kinvara

However, possibly the proudest moment of the year was the awards ceremony on the county camp. The camp took place in Ruan in Co. Clare in May and representing 13th Galway were Damien Kelly

together, not just that weekend but also in the weeks leading up to the event. I received so many compliments over the weekend about these 8 and how excellent they really were. A true scouting spirit was on show and regardless of any points system, everyone knew the true winners. Once more, congratulations to all, you did yourselves, your parents, your leaders and your entire group very proud.



Phoenix Challenge Patrol 2007

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Our annual camp in Switzerland was once again a roaring success! With activities such as ice-skating, hiking, white water rafting, scootering, and much much more it will leave lasting memories with everyone I am sure.

Lastly, after annual camp, 7 die-hard scouts got down to work for The Phoenix Challenge. The Phoenix is a national scout challenge that groups have to qualify for through their county camps or hikes. The

challenge was based in the Curragh Camp in Co. Kildare and as a surprise scouts hiked through the Glen of Imaal in Co. Wicklow. The competition was tough with the best from the country, but still 13th Galway came in 17th after a great weekend. It has to be said, that after no scouts from Galway having even attended the Phoenix Challenge in it's 4 year history it is a great result and all has to be put down to the following



Darren Lyons has recently set up a web-page for Renmore Scouts. I asked him to write an article for the newsletter about it. Check it out.

"As part of my Gaisce award's skill section I'm learning how to design websites. The final goal is to have a website up and running for Renmore Scouts. The challenge from the Gaisce side of things is to spend a minimum of one hour per week for a full 52 weeks on this skill. But as I found out when I started the website it is going to take a lot more time than

this.

Up on the website at the moment there is a page on each of the four sections i.e. Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Ventures, a Leaders page and a page on the den. The website will be updated frequently with the latest news and pictures of the all the latest events. Also it is hoped that we can add resources here for scouts, forms they need etc. For any of the youth members there will be a competition to win a great prize. For more

www.renmorescouts.ie

information on this and to keep up to date with all the latest events click on to www.renmorescouts.ie.

The website should be useful for the whole group so if anybody has any thoughts about anything that should be up on the website let me know and I'll see what I can do."

So that's what Darren has to say. Anyone else curious. Click onto the address and see what he's up to! Also look at the competition section for a chance to win an iPod.

So Can YOUTH plan new adVENTURES?

Ventures at Renmore set up with new members over the summer, and are well on their way to being the best, most active group ever in Renmore!! We kicked off with a dawn hike at Croagh Patrick, well done Cian for representing the under 18 ventures for the first activity! Things really got started though with a meeting in Salthill when many plans were made for future adventures. The evening rounded off with some fun at the fair. Many ventures attended the Phoenix challenge and Ventact, check out the photo's on the website to see what we got up to!

Phoenix Staff 07—Darren Lyons, Aaron Connolly and Cian Hickey took part in phoenix staff this summer. There they helped out in the running of different bases throughout the challenge i.e. assault course, Made loads of friends from all around Ireland and most importantly had fun. The venture enjoyed it so much that they are thinking about returning again next year.

Salthill rides 07—Everyone who attended enjoyed this event. The highlight was when everyone was on the bumper cars and the mega dance at once. Everyone enjoyed themselves and were laughing the hole way through.

Ventact Killkully Co.Cork 07—Damien Kelly, Niamh Gilligan, Janet O'Brien and Aaron Connolly took part in ventact this summer along with leader des Pratt. The idea of this weekend was to have as much fun as possible in the time you had! On the Saturday of the weekend the ventures took part in different activities. Damien, Des and Aaron did waterskiing and raft building. The water skiing was handled well by first timers Aaron and Damien. Neither of them fell while doing it but that wasn't the case with des. We lost count of the amount of times he fell. The raft building was a good time to put our pioneering skills to work. Everyone questioned our design but in the water it was the strongest and fastest raft by far. Later

on that night there was a disco with a fome cannon. That was great fun for everyone. The fun continued on until the early hours of the morning and on Sunday everyone said their goodbyes and headed home until next year.



Ventures are an independent group of scouts, they plan organise and hold their own meetings and try to do things they've never tried before, but you'll still find them on scout camp and scout events, as their experience as scouts is always ready to be shared. Ventures have their own activities at National and County level too. So watch this space, for more news of what Ventures do, and when you're 15 and ½ you can join us too!!

Also Darren Lyons was recently elected as Renmore delegate to the scout county team for organizing events & to go to the national venture forum! Congrats Darren, as I said above keep up the hard work!!!

Win an iPod ...

Alright guys & girls. In this issue of Stars & Strips each one of you can enter a competition to win a white iPod Shuffle for free. The 512MB iPod is very popular for music lovers and is a hit for anyone who likes to keep active. It is versatile and can be used in the gym, while out walking, for traveling etc. Also the beauty of this is that you can charge it up from your computer so you don't need any useless cables getting in the way. All the software is also included making it so easy to upload music onto the iPod once you have it plugged into your computer.

to win! It really couldn't be easier. All you have to do is click onto the 13th Galway website, click on scouts and then on the pictures section. Take a note of the five different picture headings.

Once you have that done all that is left to do is to e-mail the five headings to renmorescouts@hotmail.com. Maybe ask your parents or brothers or sisters to send the e-mail for you.



Win an iPod Shuffle 512MB

winner will be picked at the scout meeting on Friday 2nd November.

So what do you have to do

All the lucky winners will be entered into a draw and the

So that's it. Log onto the website and e-mail your answers to renmorescouts@hotmail.com to be in with a chance of winning your own iPod.

Damien Kelly—Chief Scout

For the first time in over 4 years, this year saw Damien Kelly achieve a Chief Scout Award. Damien Kelly has worked tirelessly for the last two years on his Chief Scout Award. After completing the 6 very tough challenges Damien got word in May that his Chief Scout Award was approved.

But before Damien could even think about his Chief Scout Award, he had to complete his National Scout Award. Again this took a lot of work and in itself is a huge achievement. Having being awarded his NSA, Damien wanted more, and the only thing left for him to challenge himself with was the Chief Scout Award.

So what were the six challenges? Damien first had to organise a hike for his award. He did this on the 11th of June 2006. This took place on a sunny day in Petersburg. After this Damien organised a overnight hike in Cork on annual camp 2006. It involved covering 30km in 3 days and I think everyone on the camp enjoyed it.

Challenge 3 was the construction of a pioneering project! Damien created a magnificent gate & sensational tower on the group

campsite in Cork on annual camp. Challenge 4 involved an environmental project. For this Damien did trojan work researching Ballylaughan Beach in Renmore. This project was a truly amazing read! It included samples from Ballylaughan on the quality of the water, details on the construction work that was undertaken there, information on the details of the Galway sewage scheme. He even contact local people in Renmore that knew more about the beach and its history. It sure made me think twice about swimming there!

The two remaining challenges focused on personal achievement. For these Damien again gave it his all. Having competed in numerous orienteering competitions Damien chose this for challenge 5. He put together a log of all the orienteering events he had taken part in over the years, including orienteering cards, maps & clue sheets! Also he gave detail about orienteering events that he organised for Renmore Scouts. With 5 challenges down and one to go the finish line & victory were in sight.

For the final part of his Chief Scout Award Damien wrote an article about scouts for the



“Outsider” magazine. He gave details about both his National & Chief scout awards & was the inspiration to many others to take up the challenges.

All in all, Damien worked so hard on this award and without doubt it was of the highest standard that I have seen in my many many years in Renmore Scouts. There are a mere 6 of these awards present each year. To achieve both your national & chief scout award is truly something very unique.

Can all the scouts & leaders in Renmore take this chance to give Damien a large round of applause on achieving such a prestigious award. As I mentioned, only 6 Chief Awards were presented last year nationally and it is wonderful that this year Renmore, & Damien in particular, will be accepting one also.

To everyone else, it can be done! Take up the challenge, or the 6 challenges!