

17th Dalkey St. Begnet's Scout Group



The Adventure Begins Here!

**SCOUTING
IRELAND**



Welcome!



Congratulations on joining the 17th Dalkey St. Begnet's Scout Group! We are part of Scouting Ireland, and have been in Dalkey for almost 100 years. We've hiked up some of the highest mountains, kayaked on our seas and rivers, and camped in the wild and in some of the best campsites in the world! We're delighted you will be joining us to continue the adventures!

You are now part of the largest uniformed youth organisation in Ireland and part of a Worldwide organisation of over 50 million members.

In this guide you'll learn more about how scouting works, the different sections of our group, what makes scouting different from other youth organisations, and how we use the Scout Method to deliver an interesting and fun programme for all ages!

Welcome to the 17th! We wish you and your family lots of fun, friendship and adventure!

The Aim of Scouting Ireland

"To encourage the social, physical, intellectual, character, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, to improve society."

Albert White
Group Leader
July 2024



Our History

The 17th Dalkey was founded in 1927 as part of the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland. For the first 50 years the Troop met in a variety of locations around Dalkey including Our Lady's Hall, the Town Hall and Epworth Hall.

This changed in the 1970's when Terry Connolly, the group leader at the time, led the challenge with a highly motivated group of the scouts' parents and leaders to provide the group with a permanent home.

The den that was built from their efforts. It opened in 1976 to great ceremony which was the culmination of a parade by all sections of the scout troop, from the Epworth Hall, down Castle Street and up the football field for the official opening.

In the intervening years the den has been the base for numerous adventures in to the Wicklow and Dublin hills, which are basically the scout's home playground and many other exploits across Ireland, England and Western Europe. The den has seen thousands of kids pass through its doors and seen them grow from young kids into adulthood many to return as leaders without whom the adventure would not continue.

Nearly 100 years on we're delighted to still be keeping the spirit of scouting alive!



What is Scouting?

Young people learn new skills and responsible independence through the Scout Method. Although our programs are continually updated to remain contemporary, the Scout Method has stood the test of time.

Learn by doing

Young People learn best through practical experience.

Nature and the outdoors

Being outdoors gives us real life challenges and adventures. It lends inspiration, and provides us with the backdrop for putting our Scouting into practice.

Personal Progression

Scouting takes a young person on a journey which encourages them to try new things and enables them to grow; challenging their attitudes and behaviours as they progress through the sections.

Promise & Law

These are a set of common values that underpin all Scouting activities and interactions

Service and Commitment

By serving and being committed to our community, we have a positive impact on the communities in which we Scout.

Small group system

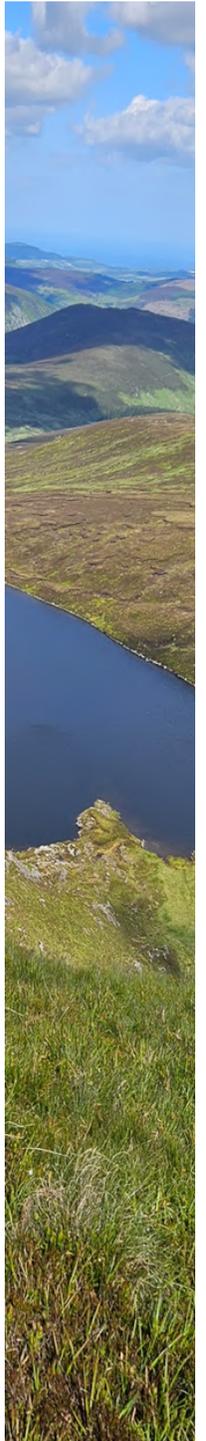
In Scouting we form small groups where Scouts work together. This facilitates leadership opportunities, shared responsibility, effective learning, and adventures, all in a safe peer driven environment.

Symbolic Framework

Symbolic framework provides a backdrop for Scouting. Through the use of symbols, themes and stories the young person's imagination is stimulated and activities are given a purpose.

Young People and Adults Together

Scouts are supported and facilitated on their personal journey, while being encouraged and challenged to achieve their full potential, becoming increasingly self-managing as they progress through the sections.

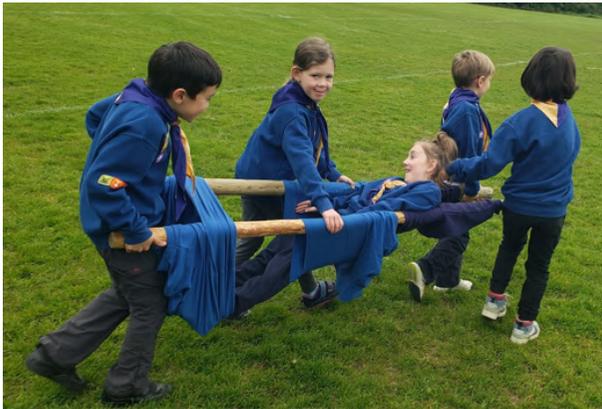


Sections & Age Ranges within our Group

Scouting Ireland is built on a shared respect for the uniqueness of young people. We believe in the abilities of young people and their wish to discover and harness their own potential. We help them achieve this by providing them with the support and encouragement they need. We provide active and creative programmes through which young people acquire skills and knowledge which contribute to their personal development through the process of the Scout Method. Youth members are split into five different groupings (Programme Sections) based on their age, the interaction between the various programme age ranges ensure an orderly development of the youth member through the common scout programme "ONE Programme".

Beavers Scouts (6-8 years)

Beaver Scouts are the youngest section. It's where they start the adventure and the emphasis is maximum fun. Don't let their cute factor fool you, as they can be as adventurous and daring as any other Scouts. While they are having fun, they still get to play with others so that we know how to get along with other people. Beaver Scouts are organised in small groups called Lodges. There are normally around five people in each Lodge. The Lodges are collected together in what we call a Colony. They also take on tasks so that they find out about responsibility. They learn lots of new skills by doing them but the most important thing is that they do it with other people, especially their friends.



Beaver Scouts are given a say in what is happening in the programme. This is done through review games and at Lodge gatherings called Log Chews. Log Chews should be led by the Scouters, but they exist so as to get the opinions of the Beaver Scouts

and to take account of these opinions, when making decisions for the future.

A Beaver Scout Lodge does not have a permanent leader. Every member should be given the chance of leading the Lodge at some time. Individual Beaver Scouts should be given responsibility for minor jobs, such as setting up for activities and tidying up afterwards, in order to further develop their ability to take on such jobs.

Every Beaver Scout should have a job within the Lodge, for example minding equipment, putting notices on the board, etc. Elders ensure that each Beaver Scout is given the chance to take on additional responsibility as they develop. They also do things like looking after the world through small things and demonstrating to others that they can be responsible.

Our Beaver Section meets on a Wednesday evening from 1800 – 1900, the Beaver Section leader is Sharon Fitzgerald.

Cub Scouts (9-11 years)

Cub Scouts are all about finding out about new things and new ways of having fun. They learn to become more responsible because we want to do more things like go on longer camps and lead activities. Cub Scouts are organised into small groups called Sixes and has one of the Cub Scouts as their leader and that person is called the Sixer. The Sixers meet and talk about things that the Cub Scouts would like to do and this meeting is called a Sixer Council.

Cub Scouts are given more responsibility and more say in the running of the programme and as a result can do more. Responsibility is the key to helping the Cub Scout grow as it teaches them to look after themselves and to look out for others. They spend more time working in small groups and making decisions as a team.

Each Cub Scout is given the chance to take on additional responsibility as they develop and the chance to act as the leader of a small group on a regular basis.

Getting out into Nature is what Cub Scouting is all about. There is so much to explore in nature and the Cub Scout Programme will help the Cub Scout find what to look out for.

Our Cub Scout Section meets on a Monday evening from 1900 – 2030, the Cub Scout Section Leader is Richard Cappin.

Scouts (12-15 years)

Scouting started out of the Scout section, so it stands to reason that they have some serious fun in Scouts. The Spirit of Adventure is what drives the Scout Section to challenge them to try new things, encourage Scouts to be more responsible and do more things as a team and even more leadership. Members of the Scout section have a better idea of what they want and like so it stands to reason that each Scout Section gets its identity from the members in the group and it is a chance for them to express that identity.

This identity is shaped by the Scout Promise and Law that teaches crucial values in taking on life's challenges. These include loyalty, trustworthiness, respect and bravery to name a few. The word for when all the Scouts are together is a Troop, but that Troop is made up of small groups called Patrols. Every Patrol has a Patrol Leader, who meets with the other Patrol Leaders to talk about things that are going in the Troop. This meeting is called a Patrol Leaders Council.

Our Scout Section meets on Wednesday evenings from 2000 - 2130, the Scout Section leaders is David Ellard.





The ONE Programme

ONE Programme is the programme of Scouting Ireland and is used in all 5 Programme Sections. This principle means that each Section of Scouting Ireland delivers the programme in a similar way. ONE Programme delivers the Aim (SPICES) of our Association through the use of the Scout Method and the entire programme operates on the basis of Plan, Do and Review.

Uniform

The uniform identifies who we are and marks us as members of the International Scouting Movement. The uniform consists of:

- A beaver or cub jumper or scout shirt
- The 17th Dalkey Neckerchief and woggle
- Navy hard wearing trousers (these do not need to be the official scout trousers)

The uniform can be purchased from the Scout Shop in Bray or via www.thescoutshop.ie. From time to time we may have second hand uniforms.

Members are required to wear the uniform on different occasions, for example, weekly meetings, travel to and from events such as camps, Group events such as out St. Patricks Day Parade and on other occasions where their leaders require it.

The neckerchief is the most distinctive part of the scout's uniform and identifies the group they belong to. 17th Dalkey has a gold and navy neckerchief. The neckerchief must be worn at all times by invested members. Investiture will take place within the first few weeks. This is a requirement for insurance purposes and scouts without their neckerchief may be refused permission to participate in any scouting activity.

Costs

The membership fee will be set at the start of the Scouting Year. There will be concessions for siblings already in the group. This will be reviewed annually.

€65 of this goes to Scouting Ireland to cover registration, national costs and insurance. The remainder stays with the group to pay for Den maintenance, electricity and heating, insurance, leader training, materials etc.

There will be additional costs for the uniform, personal equipment your scout may need (rucksack, boots, waterproof clothes etc.), personal scout materials, and outing/camping/transport costs etc.

Financial issues should not be a barrier to any child being a Scout, and there are a lot of financial pressures on families at the start of a school year. If you have concerns or need to spread payments out, please speak with your section leader to discuss payment options.

Most outdoor shops offer discounts to scouts so if you do need to buy any outdoor clothing or equipment dont forget to bring along your scout neckerchief and ask for a discount!



Equipment

The equipment suitable for your scout will depend on their section and interests.

Within the first couple of months all our sections will be going on hikes and scouts will be expected to have the following items. They will not need these items when they first start and leaders will give parents plenty of notice up upcoming hikes and what they will need.

- A small backpack that can carry a snack and rain gear
- A pair of hiking boots
- A waterproof rain coat
- A pair of waterproof trousers
- For Beavers, the Beaver Map from the scout shop.

As they progress they will begin camping, first inside in the Den, and later outside in tents. For this they will require.

- A rucksack
- A good quality outdoor 3 season sleeping bag.
- A sleeping mat
- A head torch
- Cup, plates and cutlery for camping.

Many of these items will last for several years of their journey through scouting!

Scouts and Ventures will also require:

- A Silva Style Compass
- Copy of OS Map Sheet 56
- Knife (after completing knife safety, and leaders will advise on what kind)
- A copy of The Scouting Trail

The group will supply tents, cooking equipment, chairs and tables, pioneering equipment etc.

Your leaders will be happy to give advice on any equipment before you purchase.

Many outdoor stores offer discounts to scouts so be sure to bring your neckerchief and ask for a discount when buying in person!



This range of skill areas has been chosen to provide a framework for an active and adventurous outdoor programme providing fun, friendship and challenge. Competency in specific Adventure Skills allows our youth members to carry out a great variety of Scouting adventures and activities in a safe and competent manner.

Each Adventure Skill is organised into nine stages. Each stage builds on the previous and leads on to the next. Stages are not aligned to any Section. While a Beaver Scout may naturally start at stage 1 and move through the stages in their time in Scouting, a new Scout joining at 13 years of age would be expected to start at stage 1 and move up. So Adventure Skills present a progressive standard for all youth members. The Adventure Skills Award for each stage indicates that the young person has achieved a specific level of knowledge and ability in relation to that Stage of that Adventure Skill.

Special Interest Badges

Special interest badges are open ended badges that reflect the interests of the young person undertaking them. Any subject is possible and the requirements are designed by the young person in consultation and agreement with their Scouters.

Badges are presented under a number of themes into which the special interest subject will fall. The themes are:

- Adventure
- Community
- Environment
- Physical
- Skill

Badge requirements will differ depending on the individual Scout undertaking for the badge. The principle of 'doing one's best' is the key feature of badges awarded under this area. The system allows everyone to choose what they want to do, it provides recognition for personal effort, rather than achieving a grade, so everyone has a chance to achieve the badge.

We encourage parents to talk to their kids about possible special interest badges they could achieve and bring these ideas to the leaders who can facilitate getting the badge. More information and ideas for badges can be found at <https://www.dalkeyscouts.ie/special-interest-badges/>



Scout Promise and Law

The Scout Promise and the Scout Law underpin our values. Every Scout in the world makes the Scout Promise when they first join Scouting.

The Scout Law:

- A Scout is to be trusted.
- A Scout is loyal.
- A Scout is helpful and considerate to all.
- A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
- A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
- A Scout has respect for self and others.
- A Scout respects nature and the environment.

The Scout Promise:

On my honour I promise that I will do my best,
to do my duty to God,
to serve my community,
to help other people and to live by the Scout Law.

Or

On my honour I promise to do my best,
to uphold our Scout Principles,
to serve my community,
to help other people and to live by the Scout Law.



Code of Conduct

All sections will develop their own code of behaviour. Youth members will agree on a set of rules that they agree to follow to help the sections run well.

In addition there are some general guidelines for behaviour that we expect scouts to follow:

- Each Scout is expected to be well behaved and show consideration for other scouts, scouters and visitors.
- Each Scout is expected to show respect for group property, other Scout's belongings and their own belongings.
- Each Scout is expected to do their best.
- Electronic devices should not be visible or audible.

For Parents

Section meetings will begin on time so please ensure your child is punctual.

Children must be collected promptly

If your child cannot attend a meeting please let us know in advance.

If a child has not attended three meetings in a row without informing us, their place may be allocated to another child.





Helping your Scout and the Group

Being a Scouter

The best way to help our group is to get involved as a leader! Many of our leaders are parents who had no previous experience with scouting when they got involved. If you have time to attend the weekly meeting, the occasional outing and camp and have an interest in the outdoors we'd love to have you on the team!

Scouting Ireland provides all the training you need to get started.

Parents and Friends Support Group

The Parents and Friends support group will support the group council to deliver our scouting program. This role will include fundraising, help with policy documents, helping with den maintenance etc. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Helping your Scout

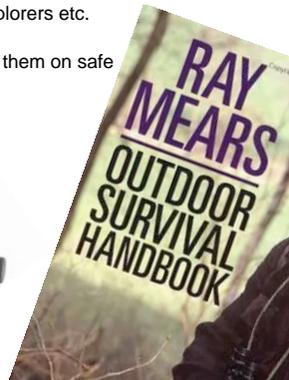
It's important for young Scouts to get encouragement and support from their family. Encourage your young scouts to take part in activities. Have a look through their section books - the Beaver Scout Adventure, Cub Scouts Adventure Quest, and the Scouting Trail, so you can support ideas they may have for activities, badges and awards.

There are plenty of great ideas for Christmas and Birthday presents too:

Equipment - Rucksack, Sleeping Bag, mug, cutlery, compass, headtorch, firesteel, clothing etc.

Books - on wilderness survival, bushcraft, wildlife, famous explorers etc.

Please don't buy your scouts knives until we have trained them on safe usage and given some recommendations!



Safeguarding

Scouting Ireland is dedicated to keeping young people safe.

We are committed to ensuring our safeguarding practices comply with best practice and Scouting Ireland requirements, while reflecting statutory responsibilities and Government guidance. Young people in Scouting are supported, encouraged and facilitated by adult volunteers, all of whom understand the responsibility and trust placed in them by parents and guardians.

All scouters must be Garda Vetted and undergo Scouting Ireland Safeguarding Training every three years.

Full details on Scouting Ireland Safeguarding Policies are available at. <https://www.scouts.ie/safety/safeguarding>

If you have questions...

Sometimes parents and caregivers have questions or concerns.

The first point of contact should be your child's section leader.

Please be aware that meeting nights are busy and it may be difficult to have a detailed conversation on meeting nights. You may like to give them a call or message and catch up in person another time.

If you still need information the next point of contact is the Group Leader who is ultimately responsible for all youth members and scouters in the group.

And if that doesn't work out or the group leader is unavailable, contact Scouting Ireland who will be able to put you in touch with the local County Commissioner.

Of course if your concern relates to child safety you should immediately bring it to the attention of a leader or contact Scouting Ireland directly on at safeguarding@scouts.ie or 01 4956300.

Parents will be added to section WhatsApp groups where you can also ask questions.





facebook.com/17thDalkey



[@17thdalkey](https://instagram.com/@17thdalkey)



www.dalkeyscouts.ie

