

Special Interest Badges

Archery
Orienteering
Wilderness Experience
World Scouting
Languages
Tidy Towns

Mountain Biking
Patrol Camp Leadership
Sailing Adventure
Personal Fitness
Painting & Art
Community Radio
World Cultures
Navigation

Music
Dancing
Good Turn
Gardening
Photography
Nature Study
Recycling
Swimming
Cooking
Farming
Crafts
Soccer

Any subject or interest you
like can become a
Special Interest Badge



You design your own badge for
what you are interested in

Any subject or interest can be used to develop a Special Interest Badge

There are five Special Interest Badge areas

Skills

This can be any new personal skill e.g. technical, mechanical, music, drama, arts & crafts

Adventure

This should be an adventure journey that includes something completely new i.e. a new location, new method of travel, etc

Physical

This can include any physical pursuit, activity or sport

Community

Being involved in your community. This could be a service type project and you should create a plan that outlines what you will do and who will benefit.

Environment

This can be any project that improves the environment in any way.



Adventure



Physical



Community



Skills



Environment



Special Interest Badges 'Bar'

- Whatever subject or interest you pick must be linked to one of the Special Interest Badge areas.
- A Scout may achieve recognition for the same Special Interest Badge Area up to three times in any one Section. You are awarded the badge the first time you do a Special Interest Badge and a 'bar' for each of the others in this Special Interest Badge area.
- You have to chance to do 15 badges in each Section
- The Scout keeps a badge until it is replaced by an equivalent in the next Section.
- Special Interest badges have different colour combinations for each Section.



Choosing a subject or interest

Below are some suggested subjects that have been aligned with the Special Interest Badge areas. There are many more ideas that can be included. No matter what subject or interest you choose it will fall into one of the areas, sometimes it will fall into two or even three areas.

Community Involvement	Personal Skill	Physical Recreation	Adventure Journey	Environment
Good Turn / Service	Photography	Archery	Cycling Expedition	Ethical living
World Cultures & Ways of Living	Entertaining	Orienteering	Wilderness Experience	Eco-energy
World Scouting	Film/video production	Athletics	Horseback Expedition	Organic Gardening
Guide / Interpreter	Home repairs	Ball Games	Sailing Adventure	Weather Watch
Heritage	Information technology	Climbing Wall	Canoe Adventure	Animal welfare
Health Awareness	Music & Dance	Gymnastics	Bivvy Adventure	Conservation
Representation	Painting / Art	Water Safety	Camp Leadership	Nature Study
Tidy Towns	Crafts / Sculptor	Personal Fitness	Back Packing	Carbon footprint
Disability Awareness	Cooking	Swimming	Journey in a Strange Land	Environmental Audit
Active Citizenship	Motors	Martial Arts	Mountain Journey	Recycling
Faith & Beliefs	Navigator	Triathlon	Extended Hiking Expedition	Food Production
Community Radio	Observer / Tracker	Caving	Exploring	Naturalist
Current Affairs	Leadership / Mentoring	Snorkeling / SCUBA	Camping	Sustainable Building
Campaigning	Public Speaking	Mountain Biking	Nature Study Expedition	River Care
Languages	Archeology	Body Surfing	Photography Safari	Local Beautification
Surveys	Creative Writing	Canoeing	Treasure Quest	Tidy Towns
Interculturalism	Farming	Rock Climbing	Overseas Project	Nature Reserve

Creating your Special Interest Badge



Step 1 - Pick your subject or interest

Step 2 - Decide what Special Interest Area your subject or interest falls into.

Step 3 - Design your challenge in consultation with your Scouter or Mentor

Step 4 - Complete the challenge in agreed time

Step 5 - Wear the badge with pride

The Challenge

When designing your badge it should :-

- Challenge you to learn new skills or develop existing ones
- Help to increase your knowledge of the particular area
- Contain a practical element which will benefit others.

A template is provided to allow the you to set out your plan, which Personal Challenges you can undertake during the Special Interest Badge and to help you look back at what you have achieved.

[Link to Template](#)

You can use another method to document your Special Interest Badge e.g. poster, diary, email, social networking website etc.

Check out how some Scouts have designed their Special Interest Badge

Beaver Scouts

Cub Scouts

Scouts

Venture Scouts

Rover Scouts



Sample Projects: Active Citizenship

Agata is a 6 year old Beaver Scout who has just joined the Group after she moved from Hungary with her family. It will shortly be St. Patricks Day. All the Beaver Scouts are busy preparing for the festivities. Agata is not sure what all the fuss is about but wants to find out more.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Agata is:

- Find out about the legends of St. Patrick and other famous Irish saints (Columba or Brigid for example). The Beaver Scouts could help Agata find out about these other saints and produce a drama retelling the legend.
- Learn some basic Irish to practice with fellow Beaver Scouts for St. Patricks Day. Pick up a traditional Irish game e.g. Gaelic football, hurling, potato race, sack race etc.
- Have gained an understanding of Irish culture and the importance of St. Patricks Day, Agata will be ready to take a full part in the local St. Patricks Day parade with the rest of the rest of the Group.



Sample Projects: Archery

Marie is a 7 year old Beaver Scout. She loves the story of Robin Hood and how he is such a good shot with the Bow and Arrow. She wants to learn more about it and how she can make one.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Marie is:

- Find out how to make a Bow and Arrow using a simple design.
- Try and fire an arrow from the Bow she has made and see can she hit a target with it.
- Ask her to think of a game that the Beaver Scouts could play using a Bow and Arrow and then play it with them.





Sample Projects: Information Technology

Karin is interested in doing a computer project. She has lived with computers all her life. Her dad and brothers have laptops and she uses a desktop. She likes art and can type on the computer. In discussion with her Scouter she has decided to develop the following challenge for herself.

The project, agreed between Karin and the Scouter is:

- She will find out more about how to draw on a computer. She will then produce a number of drawings that can be used as greeting cards.
- She will find out and learn how to upload a picture to the computer and place it in a document.
- Find out what the members of her Lodge think about the design of a Lodge logbook, gather ideas and suggestions.
- She will act as 'scribe' for her Lodge, and make a Lodge logbook. The logbook will have drawings, text and pictures.



Sample Projects: Conservation

Paul is a 7 year old Beaver Scout and is very enthusiastic for recycling at home. He has been telling the Scouters to not waste things in the Den so the Scouters thought it a good idea to run an activity with him and his Lodge.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Paul's Lodge is:

- Go through all of the waste in the Recycling Bin and see what can be reused.
- With the Scouters make things with other recyclable waste.
- Learn how to avoid using disposable things - use things which last longer.





Sample Projects: Faith & Beliefs

Abdul Salam is an 8 year old Beaver Scout who joined the Colony this year. He is the only Muslim in the Group and wants to make friends with the other Beaver Scouts but does not understand some of their customs or some of the things they do like saying "God bless you" The Scouters think it would be good if he tells others about being Muslim.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Abdul Salam is:

- Tell his Lodge about what things he does with his family and about going to the Mosque.
- Share some of his prayers with the Lodge and the importance of these prayers
- See what things he has in common with others in the Lodge



Sample Projects: Good Turn / Service

Aoife is a 7 year old Beaver Scout. She heard a radio advertisement that October 1 is International Day of Older Persons. She would like to do something to mark it.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Aoife is:

- Find out how many older persons (60+) are in the world, where the majority live etc. Think about what about roles older people have in our lives and with the Beaver Scouts create a picture collage of these.
- Learn to live like it was 100 years ago. Spend a night at home/in the Den with no heat, no light and play card games by candlelight.
- Aoife's action to mark October 1 is to spend the day with her grandparents doing something they like.





Sample Projects: Nature Study

Emma is a 7 year old Beaver Scout. She recently moved house and has to walk through the park to school. She has become fascinated by the trees in the park which lose more of their leaves every day. Emma wants to find out more about trees and why they lose all their leaves.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Emma is:

- Emma will find out about different types of tree and why certain types lose their leaves.
- Emma will ask the park warden about the trees that grow in the park and how to identify them.
- Emma will learn how to tell the age of a tree.
- Emma will lead her Lodge in creating a nature corner in the Scout Den.



Sample Projects: Orienteering

John has just taken part in his first orienteering event, which was run by his Scout County. He is enthusiastic to get a badge on his uniform for orienteering. John has a chat with his Scouter and it is agreed that he cannot get a badge just for taking part in the event but must continue developing his interest in orienteering to gain the badge.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and John is:

- John is to find out about maps. How they are made and how features on the ground are showing on the map.
- John is to make a map of a piece of ground that he plays on; showing trails, markers and feature.
- John is to participate in another orienteering activity, complete the course and find all markers.
- John is to learn about how a compass works and make a simple poster or training aid for his Lodge notice board.





Sample Projects: Photography

Catherine would like to do photography. She has the use of a camera from her parents and has taken photographs at parties and on holidays. Catherine chats with her Scouter and they decide what Catherine can do to develop her skills as a photographer.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Catherine is:

- She is to explore how to use her parent's camera and talk to her brother about photography, he is a keen photographer.
- She is to act as 'official' photographer on the next Beaver Scout activity and make a poster of photographs for the notice board.
- She is to make a simple picture album using her own personal photographs showing at least 4 subjects - landscape, portrait, sport, nature.



Sample Projects: Navigator

Joyce and her family have recently come to Ireland from Ethiopia. She has never seen the sea until her first outing with the Beaver Scouts to the beach. She is fascinated by the sea and wants to know more.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Joyce is:

- Joyce will find out as much as she can about beach: why some are sandy and others stony, why is it warmer in winter and cooler in the summer at the beach, how sand dunes are formed etc. and tell her Lodge what she found out.
- Joyce will collect sample of the shells and stones found at the beach for the Scout Den's nature corner.
- Joyce will help with the organisation of the Beaver Scouts first camp, which will be to a coastal location where Joyce can fill in the rest of the Beaver Scouts on what she has discovered.





Sample Projects: Wilderness Experience

Darrin is interested in adventure. He watches survival based programmes on television and wants to be able to explore the forest. He visited the Cub Scout camp during the summer and they showed him how to make a bread twist on a stick. Darrin would like to explore the subject more and become 'more expert' as he says himself.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Darrin is:

- Darrin is to create a survival kit that consists of at least 20 items and can fit in a small container.
- Darrin is to make a small shelter with other members of his Lodge or friends using a plastic sheet in his garden or at the local campsite on a hike or camp.
- Darrin is to visit and explore a wilderness area with his family or on a Colony hike. This might be a bog, seashore, forest, mountainside away from people with nature all around him.
- Darrin is to learn about nature and be able to identify at least six flowers and six birds found in hedgerows and wild meadowland.



Sample Projects: World Cultures & Ways of Living

Sean is an 8 year old Beaver Scout. There are two new young people in his class this year. One is from Poland and the other from China. Sean has made friends with the two young people and says he wants to find out more about where these two young people come from.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Sean are:

- Find out about two different cultures living in your community e.g. Polish, Chinese, Traveller, Nigerian (In Sean's case it will likely be Polish and Chinese as this is where his friends are from. Sean might like to present what he has found through picture collages, artwork or telling the Lodge or Colony what he has found).
- Learn 2 games that young people from each of the two cultures in question that you have never played before.
- At your next Beaver Scout meeting lead the Lodge in these two games.





Sample Project: Active Citizenship

Barry is a 9 year old who has just joined Cub Scouts in Waterford. His Dad is involved in the annual Spraoi festival in Waterford. Barry would like to take part in the festival by helping designing a part of the street theatre parade.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Barry is:

- Barry will find out what the theme and requirements are for taking part in the street theatre parade this year. Barry and his fellow Cub Scouts will then decide on a design for the piece, based on what would be appealing to young people of Cub Scout age.
- Barry will learn how to design the costumes and other elements of the piece and how to act out the piece of street theatre.
- Barry will take part in the Spraoi in the Park parade on the final day of the festival.



Sample Project: Archery

Alan is an 11 year old Cub Scout. He is a War Hammer collector and loves the different weapons in it. His favourite is characters are the archers who have various weapons. He wants to try and make some of them like the crossbow and long bow.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Alan is:

- Look for pictures of how different armies in history used the weapons and see how he could remake them.
- Make a crossbow from the designs he finds and try firing it at a target.
- Make a Long Bow and try firing an arrow as far as he can. He should also try adjusting the bow to see do the changes make the arrow go farther.





Sample Project: Information Technology

Jim is a computer 'gamer'. However his computing skills are not the best. Originally, he thought that the computer badge was about gaming. In discussion with his Scouter it was agreed that perhaps his general knowledge of using a computer would be a better challenge for him at this stage.

The project, agreed between Jim and the Scouter (with the Six) is:

- Find out about word processing programmes and produce a guide to a game he has played to help a friend overcome the challenge or obstacle of the game.
- Find a simple sound editor programme on the web, download under supervision, and use it to edit a piece of music or recording.
- Find out how to upload pictures and music and create a short slideshow for a Scouts Own.
- Using a drawing programme, make a Six Logo. Then print it off on transfer paper and make a Patrol Flag or print it on a T-Shirt.



Sample Project: Conservation

Fiona is a 10 year old Cub Scout. In school she heard about countries suffering from drought. She asked her Scouter about this and what she can do about this. Her Six is also interested in doing something.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Fiona's Six is:

- Do a survey about how much water we use in a day.
- Visit a local water treatment plant and see what is involved in making water acceptable to drink.
- Run a campaign in the Six about what everybody can do to cut down on wasting water and make them conscious of how much they use.





Sample Project: Faith & Beliefs

Abigail is an 11 year old Cub Scout who is Jewish. On a recent trip to Dublin her Six had a discussion about bagels and their origin. They asked Abigail could they learn more about her religion and other common things that have a Jewish origin. Her Scouters said she could do this as a project.

The project, agreed between the Scouter, Abigail and the Sixer is:

- Ask her family about her family history and when they came to Ireland and what they did when they first started a living.
- Look at the daily things that they she and her Six uses that have Jewish connection and why they were so specific to Judaism.
- Visit her synagogue and talk to her Rabbi about the role and duties of a Jewish Child.



Sample Project: Good Turn/Service

Andrew is a 10 year old Cub Scout. His older sister has cystic fibrosis and is getting involved in the campaign to increase services for people with cystic fibrosis in Irish hospitals. Andrew would like to do something to help her.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Andrew is:

- Find out about cystic fibrosis, how it impacts on the sufferer and what can be done to help them.
- There are a number of traditional games which can help build empathy among Cub Scouts for people with debilitating illnesses. Andrew's Scouter can help him introduce these to the Cub Scouts and Andrew can lead his Six in these.
- Andrew will find out about Cystic Fibrosis Ireland (CFI) and their services. Invite his sister and a speaker from CFI to talk to the whole Scout Group.





Sample Project: Nature Study

Conor is a 10 year old Cub Scout. He lives in the countryside and has recently noticed a lot of rabbits running around the garden. Conor is curious about these animals and where they have come from.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Conor is:

- Conor's uncle is a vet so he will find out about rabbits: how they live, what they eat, breeding etc. Conor will also find out 2 differences between rabbits and their close cousins, hares.
- Conor's uncle and the local pet shop owner will help Conor learn how to care for a rabbit as a pet. A pet rabbit should only be bought from the pet shop - do not take in a wild rabbit.
- Skinning rabbits is part of Scouting's backwoods programme. Conor will learn this skill from a Scouter or an older Scout.
- Conor will also keep a pet rabbit, following his uncle's advice, and follow its progress to maturity as through a photo collection which he will present to the Scout Den



Sample Project: Orienteering

Paul is a good athlete and he has discovered that orienteering would be a good activity to take part in as it combines Scouting skills with his love of cross country running. He has visited an orienteering event that was run in his school and has a good idea of what orienteering is about.

After a talk with his Scouter they agreed the following project.

- Paul is to learn how to use a map and compass.
- Paul is to find out about orienteering maps and be able to show others how they differ from standard Ordnance survey maps.
- Paul is to enter into a competitive orienteering event either through his school or a Scout organised event.
- Paul is to setup a simple orienteering activity with the help of his Six at the next camp.
- Paul is to explore orienteering clubs in his area and see what is required to become a member and get active in the sport.





Sample Project: Photography

Brendan has a camera that his dad gave him. His dad is a member of the local camera club and he goes on outings with him. He likes photography and has shown his Scouter some of his work. His Scouter is impressed by what he has done and together they discuss how to devise a challenge for Brendan. Brendan would like to explore sports photography as he has already seen some 'brilliant shots' in a photography magazine.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Brendan is:

- To find out who are the best sports photographers in the world - this is to be done via a web search. Brendan will produce a photo album of his favourite pictures.
- To find out locations and events that he could go to and take some sports picture.
- Go to an event of his choice and take a series of photographs that will depict that sport. The photographs are to be displayed for the Cub Scout Section.
- Using at least 2 sports photographs - use a photo editing programme and create motion and blurring effects to enhance the 'feel' of the image.



Sample Project: Navigator

Sean is a 9 year old Cub Scout from an inland Scout Group. He loves stories about the sea and the explorers who found foreign countries. He wants to know how they found their way at sea.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Sean is:

- Learn about some of the explorers and pick one to focus in on. See what kind of ship they used and what routes they took.
- With your Six or family visit a ship and see can you visit the bridge.
- Show that you can read a land map and use a compass.





Sample Project: Wilderness Experience

Barbara has an interest in nature and wild places. She watches nature documentaries and would love to go to Africa sometime. She also likes the idea of camping in wild places and living off the land. She has taken part in a survival adventure last summer on camp.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Barbara is:

- Barbara will spend some time studying the wild places and wilderness areas that are in Ireland and explore one nearby.
- At the next Cub Scout camp, she should build a small shelter with members of her Six and sleep out under the stars.
- On a camp or hike she should compile a menu of foodstuffs and cook all the items backwoods style - members of her Six can help and join in.
- Barbara should learn how to light a fire using flint and steel and be able to light a fire using this method.
- Barbara is to learn about the mammals that live in Ireland and take photographs of animal tracks she has found in the wild and identify them.



Sample Project: World Culture & Ways of Living

Jane is an 11 year old Cub Scout. A family from Ghana have moved into the house next door. They arrived with very little English as French is the official language in Ghana. Jane invited the 11 year old twins from the family to her Cub Scout meeting but Jane is worried about how the twins will fit in and wants to be able to help them do this.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Jane are:

- Pick two different cultures living in the community and find out what they find different and challenging about living in Ireland (e.g. language, food, getting a job, missing home).
- Use your skills to help the integration of the new cultures into the community e.g. assist with a meeting promoting Scouting to minority communities, cook a traditional meal of the culture/community in question.
- Assist in a promotional campaign to advertise Scouting among minorities in your area and aim to have more young people from minority groups in your area in the Group by the end of the year.





Sample Projects: Active citizenship

Liam is a 13 year old Scout. He has just started secondary school. The school is currently undergoing renovations which result in young people not being able to hear in class with construction work and have to walk to and from school through the dirty building site. Liam wants to join the school council as a first year representative to highlight these issues.

The project, agreed between Liam and the Scouter is:

- Liam will find out about the school renovation work - the plans, when it will finish etc. and what benefits the renovation will have for young people.
- Liam will canvass for votes among his fellow first years and learn about public speaking skills to do this effectively.
- Liam will explore negotiating skills and conflict resolution skills with his uncle who works for the Labour Court so he will have basic skills which will be of use in School Council meetings
- Liam will illustrate his active citizenship by taking a full part in the School Council as a first year representative, representing the students views and reporting back to his fellow first years on the meetings.



Sample Projects: Archery

Robert is a 13 year old Scout. The theme for this year's annual camp is Lord of the Rings. Robert would like to assume the character of Legolas who is a skilled archer and run a small base on basic archery skills.

The project, agreed between Robert and the Scouter is:

- Robert will watch the three Lord of the Rings films again to see the design of Legolas's bow and arrows and his archery technique.
- Robert will make a number of bows and arrows based on the designed found in the films.
- Robert will run the base with the help of the local archery club.





Sample Projects: Information Technology

Mick just loves computers. He has an extensive library of music, which he uploads to a MP3 player. He is also keen on comedy and explores and plays videos from 'You Tube' regularly. He talked to his Scouter about what would challenge him and he agreed with his Scouter that he is more a 'user' than a 'creator'. So, he has devised a number of challenges that will enable him to explore his creative side and share his creations with others on the web.

The project, agreed between the Scouter and Mick, with the Patrol, is:

- Find out how to make a movie, including; scripting, storyboard, different angles, timing etc.
- Make separate recordings of your video pieces and create a movie by overlaying sound on top using window movie maker or similar software.
- Make a series of Scout skills videos with members of your Patrol and upload to 'You Tube'.
- Design and create a website for your Patrol.



Sample Projects: Conservation

Mary is a 13 year old Scout. Recently while walking to the Scout Den she has seen a lot of dead animals on the road. She is concerned that there will be no wildlife will be left in her town if the unfortunate accidents continue to occur.

The project, agreed between Mary and the Patrol Leader's Council is:

- Spend a week of the summer holidays surveying the road each day, recording the animals killed and the other animals she sees in the dense undergrowth either side of the road.
- Write to and meet the local council to express her concern about the rising numbers of dead animals on the road and ask for a reduced speed limit to be introduced in the interests of the wildlife and pedestrians.
- Work her Patrol and Scout Troop to establish a small nature reserve around the Scout Den.





Sample Projects: Faith & Beliefs

Mary is a 13 year old Scout. Her older sister recently returned from Southeast Asia. Mary has heard her sister talking about converting to Buddhism. Mary would like to find out about more about the Buddhist family of beliefs and practices.

The project, agreed between Mary and the Scouter is:

- Find out about the life of the founder of Buddhism, Gautama Buddha
- Do a web search of the main concepts of Buddhism e.g. karma, samsara, middle way.
- Mary and her sister will talk to her Troop about Buddhism as part of a 'Religions of the World' night where the other Scouts also let the Troop know of the religious tradition (or none) which they were brought up with.



Sample Projects: Good Turn / Service

Anne is a 12 year old Scout. Anne's dad helps out every week delivering meals to homeless people around the city. Anne has always wanted to help out her dad as it seemed like an adventurous night while also helping less fortunate people.

The project, agreed between Anne and the Scouter is:

- Anne will find out about why people need the service. Anne will also find out why certain food and not others are given out (food nutrition) with a view to becoming a long-term volunteer.
- Anne will learn new skills such as cooking highly nutritional meals, recognising people's needs through body language etc.
- Anne's action will be to participate in the meals service for 3 weeks with a view to then becoming a long-term volunteer.





Sample Projects: Nature Study

Grace is a 13 year old Scout. Her uncle works for the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Living on a farm, she is interested in the general area when she goes to university and finding ways that can allow farmers to make a living while protecting Ireland's unique biodiversity.

The project, agreed between Grace and the Scouter is:

- Find out what terms like biodiversity, invasive species, ecosystem and so on mean and example of biodiversity, invasive species and ecosystems in Ireland.
- Learn about the work of the National Biodiversity Data Centre and how the Scout Section and the entire Group could get involved.
- Record the plant and animal life of the family farm to measure the level of biodiversity and recommend what needs to be done to maintain or increase the biodiversity.

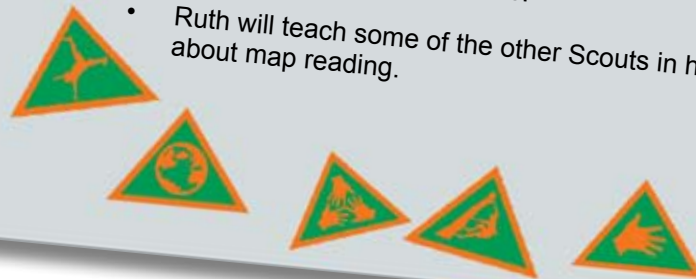


Sample Projects: Orienteering

Ruth's friend is into orienteering and is a member of a school based club. Ruth has attended a few events and developed an interest in the sport. She has some basic knowledge and would like to build on her knowledge, perhaps using orienteering as a way of improving her navigation skills on the mountains.

Ruth had a chat with her Scouter and they decided on the following project.

- Ruth will refine her navigation ability by improving her map reading skills and her compass work skills.
- Ruth will enter at least 2 competitive events, relevant to her experience and seek to improve her discovery of markers and overall times between each event.
- Ruth will act as hike leader on a Scout mountain adventure, choosing the route, making the route card and navigating the adventure.
- Ruth will teach some of the other Scouts in her Troop about map reading.





Sample Projects: Photography

Mary would love to do photography. She takes pictures on her mobile and sometimes uses her parent's camera. At Christmas she got a camera for her birthday and now she wants to develop an interest/hobby in photography.

The project, agreed Mary and the Scouter is:

- Find out about her camera and know how to use all the functions other than the programme mode.
- Attend a photography course at school.
- Take a wide variety of photographs over a two month period and display her personal favourites on the notice board.
- Act as 'Official' photographer for the Section or Group newsletter and capture the action and spirit of Scouting activities in her Section.
- Submit one of your photographs to National Office and try to have it published on the Association's website or in a Scouting publication.



Sample Projects: Navigator

Anne is a Scout who has always wanted to go sailing. She asks her Scouter what she has to do to be a navigator as she wants to know how to find her way at sea.

The project, agreed between Anne and the Scouter is:

- Go to your nearest Lifeboat centre and ask about using charts at sea and the various parts of the charts.
- See what things are in common with ordinary maps and what the differences are.
- Go on a boat in the inland waterways to get accustomed to reading water depths and features on the inland charts.





Sample Projects: Wilderness Experience

Sandra has heard that a Bear Grylls is the Chief Scout of The Scout Association (UK). She has seen some of his television programmes and has been inspired by his ability to overcome all kinds of obstacles in the wilderness. When she gets older Sandra would like to be a wilderness adventurer.

The project, agreed between Sandra and the Scouter is:

- One of Bear Grylls television programmes sees him tackling the wilderness of western Ireland. Two of the skills he uses are rock climbing and bog snorkeling. Sandra has not tried these activities before so she will attempt to gain some experience.
- Sandra will learn survival techniques such as lighting fires, bivvying and backwoods cooking and put these into practice on a survival camp.
- Sandra will take the lead in organising a camp in summer based on the theme of Bear Grylls's wilderness expeditions.



Sample Projects: World Cultures & Ways of Living

Mark is a Scout. His brother works for a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Asia. Every few months Mark gets photos from his brother of what looks like a different world. Only some of the people can afford to wear designer clothes and live in comfortable houses like in Ireland. Mark is curious about these differences and wants to find out more.

The project, agreed between Mark and the Scouter is:

- Mark's brother has worked primarily in South-East Asia. Pick 2 of the cultures present there and find out which aspects of the culture are as a result of injustice and inequality and which parts of the culture are traditional, unique and worthy of celebration.
- What would it be like to live in conditions similar those prevalent in South-East Asia? Try building and living in shelters like those in South-East Asia and keeping food without a fridge while on your next Scout camp. (Life Development Education resource can help you with this).
- It is easy to take action to highlight the injustices and inequalities in South-East Asia. There are many options to take action at home. Mark will try one of these.





Sample Projects: Active citizenship

Alice is a 16 year old Venture Scout. She is concerned about the town's litter, particularly on the lane to her house where people dump illegally in the river. An independent candidate for the upcoming local elections is promising to tackle these issues. Alice is considering getting involved in the candidate's campaign.

The project that Alice has agreed is:

- Alice will find out more about the illegal dumping and why people feel compelled to dump in the river. Alice will explore the general environmental issues so she will be knowledgeable enough to join the campaign.
- Alice will learn about canvassing skills, body language, vote tallying in count centre, map reading etc.
- Alice will join the local candidate's campaign to highlight local environmental issues and thus become an active citizen.



Sample Projects: Archery

Niamh is a 16 year old Venture Scout. Her father is in the local archery club and she has gone with him a number of times and has learnt how to shoot an arrow. After seeing the Olympic Games she wants to try entering a competition to show how good she is.

The project that Niamh has agreed is:

- Talk to the local Archery Club about competitions you can join and ask for advice as to what you should do.
- Get some expert training for your technique so that it will enhance your shooting.
- Enter an Irish Amateur Archery Association (IAAA) competition and do your best.





Sample Projects: Information Technology

Emily is a newly-elected national Venture Scout Representative. She is thinking of new ways to let Venture Scouts around the country know about what is happening. She would like to produce a web-based magazine.

The project that Emily has agreed is:

- Conduct a needs assessment survey of the Venture Scouts Emily represents to ascertain if there is demand of a web-based magazine.
- Undertake computer training on designing software and uploading to the internet.
- Collect articles, photographs and author items on subjects of interest to Venture Scouts.
- Finish and upload the magazine, taking feedback on how to improve for the next issue.



Sample Projects: Conservation

James is a 16 year old Venture Scout in a Sea Scout Group. He has been on a number of overnight sailing trips where water had to be rationed and the crew had to be conscious of things they used and to conserve. He wants to know if his Team can run a simulated activity like this on land.

The project, agreed by James's Team is:

- Go on a camp to see how much things are taken for granted and do a survey of how much of each thing they use.
- Run a second camp where they put what they find into action and ration out the things they took for granted like water etc...
- Go to the Cub Scout meeting to tell them about what they learnt and what it was like and how similar it could be to living in a developing country.





Sample Projects: Faith & Beliefs

Niall is a 15 year old Venture Scout. He is fascinated with Native Americans and the use of totems. He wants to learn more about the importance of spirits in Native American culture.

The project that Niall has agreed with his Team is:

- Do a web search about the different totems and their meaning. Find out why each person had a totem.
- Find out about the different spiritual beliefs of the Native Americans and the importance of nature to them.
- Share your findings with your Team and run a camp on a Native American theme.



Sample Projects: Good Turn / Service

Alan is a 15 year old Venture Scout. He attends many sporting events and would like to get even closer to the action. He is thinking of joining the first aid teams at these events. He thinks it will also be good experience for him as he would like to study medicine after school.

The project that Alan has agreed is:

- Attend a first aid course run by Order of Malta, St. Johns Ambulance, Red Cross etc.
- Share the knowledge with the other Venture Scouts in a 2 hour introduction to first aid.
- Attend a number of sporting events as a first-aider and keep a log of the experience.





Sample Projects: Nature Study

Ruth is a 15 year old Venture Scout. She recently saw a television programme highlighting endangered animals in Ireland. She is concerned that we will lose so many beautiful creatures. Ruth would like to raise awareness about endangered animals in Ireland and contribute to preventing their extinction.

- Ruth will pick 2 animals, the red squirrel and the corncrake, and explore the reasons why these animals are endangered in Ireland.
- Ruth will learn basic tracking skills to try to view these animals in the wild.
- Ruth wants to write letters to national newspapers and she wants to get a slot on local radio's student hour to highlight the issue.



Sample Projects: Orienteering

Peter has been hiking for years as a Scout. He knows his map and compass skills and is a good navigator. Peter is also very competitive and takes part in a number of sports in his spare time. Recently, he has been involved in helping out at a county orienteering event and after talking to one of the organisers- orienteering is to be his new sport!

The project that Peter has agreed is:

- Peter is to join a local orienteering club and compete in an orienteering competition.
- Peter is to devise and set up an exercise routine / fitness plan to improve his competitive edge and general fitness levels.
- Peter is to take part in a number of different types of orienteering events - Mountain bike orienteering, night orienteering event, marker and time trials events etc. and fully discover the sport of orienteering.
- Peter is to assist the County Programme Team in course setting at a County orienteering event.





Sample Projects: Photography

Kevin is interested in wildlife photography. He recently came across a programme for young people with an interest in wildlife photography Kevin needs to build up his experience before he applies to the programme.

The project that Kevin has agreed is:

- Kevin has attended beginner and intermediate photography courses. He will attend an advanced course to enhance his skills to the level needed for the programme.
- Kevin will take photos of wildlife in his local area and present his photography in an exhibition in the local library.
- Find out about the methods of wildlife photography in the field and coping with the challenges posed by working in developing countries.
- Kevin will take a wide variety of photographs to be included in his portfolio to apply for the programme and then apply for this Special Interest Badge he will have a very good chance of getting on the programme.



Sample Projects: Navigator

Jacob is a Venture Scout in a Sea Scout Group. He is well used to sailing but has never plotted a course at sea. He really needs to know how to use a marine compass and navigational charts.

The project that Jacob has agreed is:

- Talk to your Scouter, or an agreed mentor, about going on a navigational course.
- Go out on the water with an experienced sailor to see how he plots a course and is able to follow it.
- With the help of your Scouter or agreed mentor plot out a course in restricted water and follow the course.





Sample Projects: Wilderness Experience

Sean has been into hillwalking for some time. His walking adventures have generally been in low lying mountain areas and he now wants to explore further afield. Backwoods and survival are his next favourite things about Scouting. After discussion with his Scouter he has decided that he needs to be in real wilderness areas. His experience to date has been in 'safe' locations with help near at hand.

The project that Sean has agreed is:

- Sean is to take part in a Mountain Adventure Challenge (MPC/ Sionnach) in a mountain range away from his local area.
- Sean is to make a survival kit containing items that will be of real value to him if he finds himself in difficulty.
- Sean is to make a personal first aid kit and learn how to deal with first aid situations.
- Sean is to make a bivvy sheet and camp overnight with another Venture Scout(s) in a wilderness area close to a stream and forest.
- Sean is to create a photo album of his wilderness experiences showing wild places, dramatic sunsets and cloud formations, wild food, fauna and wildlife.



Sample Projects: World Cultures & Ways of Living

Matt has just joined Venture Scouts. He recently spent his holidays with his family in Kenya. He spent so much time on wildlife safari that he never really got to experience the culture of the many tribes in Kenya. He would like to make up for this now.

The project that Mark has agreed is:

- Pick 3 of the tribal cultures present in Kenya (Masai, Kikuyu and Luo are three of the biggest and most well-known) and learn about the unique aspects of their culture.
- Try living like the Masai for a weekend camp. You will have to build huts from cattle dung (or mud) and straw, drink only hot milk (you can try putting cow's blood in it if you like!) and eat only lamb or beef. The campfire must include Masai dancing, which Matt can teach the others.
- The remote tribes of Kenya are among the poorest people in the world. This is despite Kenya being relatively prosperous and possessing considerable economic potential. Matt will find out why these tribes remain poor and if he can do anything about it.





Sample Projects: Active citizenship

Tony is a 19 year old Rover Scout. He, like many college students, is concerned about government proposals to increase college registration fees. Tony wants to find a novel way of highlighting the hardship these increases will cause for students.

The project that Tony has chosen is:

- To gain enough knowledge of government proposals on college registration fees to be able to explain why Tony is so passionate about this issue.
- Tony has always had an interest in film-making so he can use these skills and additional ones he will learn (script writing for example) to make a film to present his opinion on college registration fees.
- Tony's action is to make a short film highlighting the potential hardship an increase in college registration fees could have on students.



Sample Projects: Archery

David is a 19 year old Rover Scout. He has been doing archery for nearly 8 years and wanted to try something new with it. On a recent school trip to an Outdoor Education Centre (OEC) he did archery and ended up showing others how to do it properly. He wants to look at teaching it to others.

The project that David has chosen is:

- David should approach the local OECs or Scout Camp sites to get the experience of leading archery activities.
- Get the help of Archery Instructors to get some tips in how to work with people.
- He should see about doing an Instructor course.





Sample Projects: Information Technology

Maria is interested in computers. She spends a lot of time on social network pages, downloading music and surfing the web. She owns her own laptop. She wants to do 'something serious' with computers as she feels that she is 'playing' rather than being 'constructive' with her computer. She has devised the following challenge with the help of her leader.

The project that Maria has chosen and agreed with the Group Leader is:

- Explore the concept/campaign 'One laptop for every child' (\$100 dollar laptop) and create a campaign with her friends and others to provide a number of laptops for children in developing countries.
- Learn how to design websites and create interactive quizzes that can be used to learn about Nature.
- Using 'You Tube' and other 'Learn to' video sites she is to learn at least 2 new skills.
- Visit each Section in the Scout Group and collect photos, recordings and comments, then create a short presentation to be shown at the annual parent's night to show 'Scouting in Action' in your Group.



Sample Projects: Conservation

Ruth is an 18 year old Rover Scout. She has just started college and found out how hard it can be to conserve energy in her new home and so keep the cost of heating down to a minimum. She has learned what she needs to do but now sees a value in conserving energy. She wants to tell others about this.

The project that Ruth has agreed with her Team is:

- Run a jumper weekend where her Team promotes the value of wearing a jumper as opposed to using heating.
- Run an energy hunt with the Beaver Scouts to find what electrical appliances are not being used but still using power.
- Visit a local ecological centre and learn how alternative energy can be created and see if you can build an alternative energy source with the Venture Scouts.





Sample Projects: Faith & Beliefs

Emer is a 19 year old Rover Scout. She has always been close to her grandmother who taught her about being a 'Good Christian'. She wants to share some of those beliefs with her Patrol so she organises the spiritual aspect of their next camp.

The project that Emer has chosen is:

- Run a Samaritan Challenge where the members try to do as many good deeds in the local town as possible.
- Plan a Scouts Own around the Scout Law and all that a Scout is.
- With her Team try and relive some traditions that their grandparents had and why they had them. They should talk to their grandparents about this.



Sample Projects: Good Turn / Service

Eoin is a 19 year old Rover Scout. His little sister has been diagnosed with a disability. Eoin is not sure how to react to this but he wants to find out more and put what he learns into practice to ensure his sister has a good quality of life.

The project that Eoin has chosen is:

- Explore the physical and intellectual disabilities. Talk to people with disabilities and their carers to find out what challenges they face in their lives.
- Eoin will learn how to build a ramp to the front door of the house for his sister. Eoin will also learn to drive so he can drive his sister to her social events.
- Taking what he has learned, Eoin will present to the local council a number of ways they can make the town more accessible for people with disabilities and implore them to act on his findings.





Sample Projects: Nature Study

John is a 19 year old Rover Scout. John's sister is a wildlife photographer who has worked for television and on producing books depicting the world's most impressive creatures. John would love to get close to these animals e.g. lions, elephants, ostriches. John's special interest badge will be his working towards achieving this.

The project that John has chosen is:

- John will first have to find out how he can get close to these creatures. A safari holiday is too expensive but there are a number of voluntary opportunities John can choose from. Before he goes John will have to undertake extensive preparation so his knowledge is sufficient to contribute to the voluntary opportunity.
- A number of skills are needed to track these animals in the wild and contribute to their continued well-being: radio telemetry, using GPS, navigation techniques, animal identification etc. John will have to learn these.
- John's action will be to spend at least 2 weeks on a voluntary expedition to a national park in Tanzania assisting the continued research into animal behaviour to ensure their survival.



Sample Projects: Orienteering

Evelyn is an expert in orienteering. She wishes to continue to test herself so she is entering the Provincial and Irish Championships. She has an excellent coach who is also a Scouter and now needs to start preparing.

The project that Evelyn has chosen is:

- Devise a training plan to ensure maximum performance on the day of the Championships. This will involve diet, training time and leisure time while balancing college work and Evelyn's other responsibilities.
- Take part in a number of local orienteering events as part of the preparation for the Championships.
- Actively seek a local sponsor to assist with travel costs.
- Participate in the Provincial and Irish Championships.





Sample Projects: Photography

Carol has been into photography for some time. She selected photography as her skill element when taking part in the President's Award - which she did through school during transition year.

The project that Carol has chosen is:

- She will explore some world-renowned photographers work and select one as a favourite or inspiration and complete her quest by studying his/her work more fully and selecting a series of photograph's which she will use to present an talk to the Rover Scout Section.
- She will join the photographic society in college and present some of her work in monthly competitions and exhibitions.
- She will produce a series of 20 photographs showing a wide range of subject matter and mount and display those images in a public venue, for example the Scout Den on parent's night, a college function, a private display opportunity, a photographers display function.
- She will undertake to set up a training workshop for buddy photographers in the Group.



Sample Projects: Navigator

Aoife is a 20 year old Rover Scout. She has been doing sailing for nearly ten years and has recently done her advanced boat handling. She now wants to look at bringing a group on a circuit of Ireland with some other Rover Scouts.

The project that Aoife has chosen is:

- Discuss with the Rover Scout Section what the challenges will be and what each one needs to do while on board.
- Plan the trip and give a copy to the Scouter so that someone back at land knows where they will be.
- Talk to the local sailing club about her plans and ask for any advice that they have.





Sample Projects: Wilderness Experience

Mick has an interest in the spiritual aspect of the Wilderness Experience having studied aspects of a hermit's life during a transition year project. He has extensive Scouting skills and has been in wilderness situations on expeditions in the past.

The project that Mick chosen is:

- Mick is to find out about wilderness areas in Ireland and choose one to visit and explore.
- Mick is to visit the chosen area, with others, and camp in this area for a number of nights, under a theme of "Back to Basics". One of the nights he should spend alone (away from the other members of the party) under the stars.
- Mick is to explore further the connection with wild places and spiritual well being and present a talk on the subject to the Rover Scout Section.
- Mick is to organise with others a Scouts Own / Reflection which is to take place on a hike or camp in a wilderness area.



Sample Projects: World Cultures & Ways of Living

Lisa is an 18 year old Rover Scout. During her first year in university she attended a talk by a member of an organization campaigning for democracy and environmental awareness in Zimbabwe. The story of persecution of anyone who speaks out against the Zimbabwean government had a deep effect on Lisa and she wants to contribute towards the movement to peace and environmental awareness in Southern Africa.

- The project that Lisa has chosen and agreed with the Rover Scout Section is that she will work towards the Scouts of the World Award. This consists of two parts: Scouts of the World Discovery and Scouts of the World Voluntary Service.

For more see www.scouts.org/scoutsoftheworld



Which Special Interest Area are you going to work on?

What is your project? Describe what you want to do and the steps to get there

What do you hope to achieve doing this badge? How will you know you are finished?

Which Personal Challenges will this help you with?

At the end: How did your plan go? What did you learn from it?

Special Interest Badge Design template



Planned Start Date:

Planned Finish Date:

Signed (youth member):

Signed (Mentor):