



**rover
scouts**



handbook



ROVERS.IE





The Final Stage in Scouting Ireland's Youth Programme

The Rover Scout stage in the programme is bringing together all of your experiences from the previous sections. In Venture scouts, you've experienced a wide variety of activities, skills, and adventures and are looking to see how far these experiences will let you go. You've linked with a Rover scout section, and have tried out the projects that they base their programme around.

If you're new, this is a perfect place to broaden your experiences, connect with people and develop as a young adult.

In Rover scouts, it's crucial that you pave your own journey, create your own programme with those in your crew, and see what the world has to offer.

This is a time to think big, to look at how you've developed and to bring your experience of the ONE PROGRAMME to a spectacular end.



"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."



"On my honour I promise that I will do my best to further my understanding and acceptance of a Spiritual Reality, to serve my community, to help other people and to live by the Scout Law."



TERVETULOA
WILLKOMMEN
WELCOME
BENAVENUTI
DOBRO POZHALOVAT
TERE TULEMAST
VÄLKOMMEN
WELKOM
BIENVENIDOS
BENEVINGÜTS
BIENVENUE
KARIBUSANA
WELCOM
VELKOMMEN
VELKOMIN
BEM-VINDO
FAILTÉ
KALOS ORSATI



Section One

INTRODUCTION





What have I got myself into?

Rover scouting is your chance to try something **different**.

For 18-21 year olds, Rover scouts is a network offering exciting **opportunities** whether you're into rock-climbing, partying or something more obscure...

Becoming a Rover scout welcomes you to a **network** encompassing 450 Scout Groups, as well as many Universities and IT's around the country. So you'll always find someone to share your interests, and even go for a drink afterwards...

But it's **more** than just a social club. For many, the Leaving Cert is over and real life is about to begin, some are already in the thick of it. College, jobs, money and relationships are all a part of life. This is the time of life when we need to build our experience (and CV's), make our mistakes and enjoy life...

So when you and your mates organise a snowboarding trip to Switzerland, you're gaining vital **skills** which would make any employer take notice when you turn up for an interview – Rover scouts helps you harness this.

This handbook helps you make sense of what you have gotten yourself into with Rover scouts.

Be Friendly. Be Kind.

A bit about Scouting...

For those of you who have spent the best part of the last 10 years travelling the globe, meeting people from all over the world, having the craic on camp and spending your weekend doing things that no one would ever believe on the Monday, you can gloss over this bit – You already know exactly what Scouting is about.

For those of you new to all of this, a bit of an introduction might help.

Scouting's been around for **over 100 years** and enjoys a membership of over **28 million around the world**, but what's the reason for this success?

Maybe it's because Scouting gives young people a space where they can pretty much do whatever they want, with whoever they want.

Maybe it's because Scouting helps young people to gain skills and confidence that they probably wouldn't get anywhere else. Scouting's aim is to help young people see the world, meet new people and develop skills that they can use to help themselves and others.

Scouting allows young people to see the world, meet new people and develop skills that they can use to help themselves and others.

Be Honest. Be Trusted.



INFO!

Scouting's founder was a bit of a hippy - probably the first hippy in fact. Strange, when you consider that he started off as a soldier, and eventually ended up as Major General Robert Baden Powell. Baden Powell started Scouting in 1908, but it has changed a bit since then - girls are welcomed now, thankfully!

Scouting works with a simple system called the Scout Method.

This is comprised of:



**Promise
& Law**



**Activities Outdoors
and Indoor**



**Small
Groups**



**Symbolic
Framework**



**Young People
& Adults**



**Learning
by Doing**



**Leadership and
Responsibility**



**Personal
Progression**

Being a bit of a hippy and all, Baden Powell didn't like telling people that they couldn't do things. So instead he came up with the idea of giving people a guide for living, rather than a set of rules that can't be broken.

He included stuff that helps Rover scouts run a bit smoother, like trust and respect. So when you join Rover scouts you make a commitment to try to follow this guide as best you can. You make this commitment to yourself with your group when you feel ready. It can be as formal or informal as you like, at the top of a mountain, on a raft or somewhere that has a special relevance to you and the crew.

Be Respectful. Be Brave.



But first you'd better decide if
you want to join – So turn the
page, read on and see what
Rover scouts can do for you...





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Getting started

Groups, Counties and Colleges

We've tried to make this as easy as possible to get going. All you need to do is get a group of like-minded people to come together, use the support of a local scout group or the college you're in, decide on what activities people in the group want to do and go do them.

Rover scouts generally don't have any 'elder' leader in charge. Instead the Rovers themselves have the final say in what way the group runs and what activities they do. The group elect their own Crew Leader to be the point of contact between the crew and the group, scout county or college.

We know that setting up a group from scratch can be difficult, so it may be a good idea to ask someone more experienced for help and to offer advice in a mentoring role. This person is known as a Rover Scout Advisor.

The Crew decides when to meet (weekly, monthly, whenever). Activities should be decided at the meeting. Aim to have as many activities as possible.

If you want to set up a Rover Soc in your college contact your Clubs and Socs council and the Rover Team. We can help you get started and help you with ideas on recruiting members.

Be Loyal.



National Network

Apart from being a member of your own Rover Crew, there is a whole national network of other crews to connect with. Some crews will have access to climbing gear, kayaks and other equipment and might help you experience something new. It can be good for meeting new people and making up the numbers for activities.

Check out rovers.ie to help get you networking.

Rover Council (the National part)

A National Rover Council takes place once a year. This gives you the chance to express your views on how things are going. It's made up of all the crew leaders and two other rovers from each group.

An elected Chairperson of Rover age will keep the council going, and will work with the relevant national teams, who are elected to run Scouting Ireland. They will coordinate and represent the views of Rovers for their year in office, supported by any other reps appointed by the Rover Council. A Rover Programme Commissioner is appointed by the NMC to support the Rover Chairperson in their work.

For more information check out rovers.ie



Seek Justice for all.



ROVERS. IE



Rover Scouts Abroad

Ireland is a relative newcomer to the global community of Rovers. The concept is big in a number of countries including Portugal, Canada, Australia and the Czech Republic. Many other countries have similar ideas, just with different names...

“The young people, mainly young adults, in the Scout Network will be responsible for organising and running their own programmes.” – UK, Network Scouts



“They can choose their project and implement actions about various topics: international solidarity, European citizenship, social work, artistic expression... From their neighbourhood to the global scale, the [crews] are building a better world” – France, Aînés

“There are several levels of progression, based on individual goals, which have to be reached...” – Portugal, Rovers



“It can open doors to new friendships ... adventure and some unforgettable experiences...” – Australia, Rovers

Why not use the international network to link with a Rover crew abroad?

Visit rovers.ie for more on Rover Scouts abroad...





INFO!

Scouts of the World

The Scouts of the World Award is granted to young people having successfully accomplished a “Scouts of the World Discovery” and a “Scouts of the World Voluntary Service”.

The award is something unique and deeply personal, showing that a young person is aware of world issues and has acquired through a voluntary service the necessary experience and skills to become a well rounded individual.

For more details, check out the resources section of this book or online at rovers.ie

Joining Rover Scouts



There are a few things you might recognise from Venture scouts, or some things we should point out if you're new...

You might have noticed that we wear a neckerchief. This is just a way to tell groups apart, sort of like county colours. In order to become a full member of the crew and get your neckerchief there's a joining ceremony that we call an 'investiture'.

On its most basic level, this is a short ceremony where the entire crew gather to formally 'welcome' a new member. How your crew do it is entirely up to you, but the more unusual and spectacular the location you can find for it, the better. Some crews use the investiture as an opportunity to make the commitment of the Rover Scout promise, some don't.

How you do this is up to you, but make it memorable. Examples might be standing in a circle and each member invests the member on their left (or right), doing it on the top of a mountain, underwater somewhere, on a train, at an international border, on the top of a tall building, in the middle of O'Connell Street, Eyre Square, Patrick Street or outside Belfast City Hall...You get the idea!



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Section Two

WHAT YOU

CAN DO



Right, what do we mean by programme?

Programme is what you do, whatever that may be. Rovers aim to challenge themselves in different ways and have a bit of craic in the process - it really is that simple! The possibilities are endless in terms of what you can do. This is of course a good thing. But it also can lead to the question 'Where do I start?'.

We have a number of thoughts and ideas to help you come up with a whole range of things to do. You can use these ideas to build a plan for your crew, learning something new or exploring new ideas. Remember though, these concepts and actions are only us provoking a bit of thought. You should make sure to put your own mark on them, engage with them in a way that's relevant to you.

We've also included a few sample pages of activities and projects you could do, build around these ideas and learn something while you're at it. There are lots more sample pages on rovers.ie to help you bring it all together.





lots of
little ideas...

make
Big Ideas



Introducing the ASSES

To get you started and to keep life simple, we'd like to introduce the ASSES. These cover pretty much all you can do as a Rover. They are Adventurous, Social, Skill building, Environmental and Service to others. These areas should offer any number of possibilities of things for you to try with your Crew.

Adventurous ...

Get the adrenaline going, see how far you can push yourself

Social ...

Be a social animal, meet loads of people, from here and abroad, connect.

Skill building ...

Learn a new skill, or take one you already have to a new level.

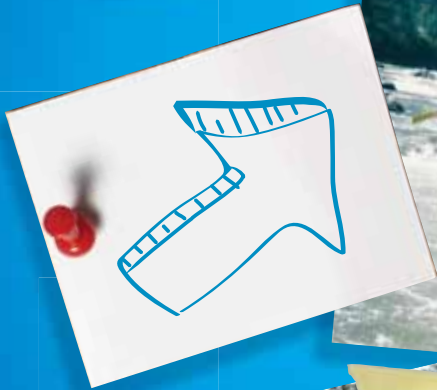
Environmental ...

Everything you do impacts on the environment, become aware of how

Service to others ...

Work with your community, this can be one of the most interesting experiences you'll have...







Spice it up!

Ok, we've introduced you to the ASSES, you've tried a few activities, and now you reckon you are ready for something more. Time to try some SPICES then.

We've thought about various ways you can develop as a person, it can be narrowed down to Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual development.

We'll be giving you some ideas relating to each of the SPICES. Some of them may be a bit unusual, but trust us, dive in and see what works. Each idea offers something to think about or something to try which will give you a better sense of what they are all about. You will get a whole lot of suggestions for interesting things to do by looking through these.

So the next time you sit down to come up with some activities, trying building in a few of these ideas.

Don't forget, if you're stuck or need extra help, just get in touch with your advisor or the Rover Team – we're there to help.



The Spices



Social

Feeling that you are part of a group, knowing you are part of something bigger. Developing an understanding of social issues in your community. Learning about other cultures.



Physical

Pushing yourself, reaching the limits of what you can achieve. Learn about your body and your development.



Intellectual

Develop your cop-on and common sense – Plan, analyse and take on board the consequences of actions.



Character

Self actualisation. Developing your own views and opinions while having respect for the opinions of others.



Emotional

Being aware of your emotions and having the confidence to express them in the appropriate manner.



Spiritual

Developing your understanding of a spiritual reality and respecting the spiritual beliefs of others.



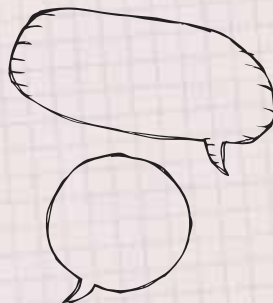
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Social

As a rule we are social creatures. We find it hard to exist in isolation. This applies both in our interaction with individuals and with the wider society. All other areas of our development are affected by our social development. The following thoughts explore some ideas relating to this.

"It's great to be independent, but there will always be occasions when we need help from others. So ask yourself, 'have you really made the effort to build friendships that will last when times get tough?' "



"It's one thing to put a message out there. It's another thing to have that message understood. Bear in mind that communication is a two way thing... Don't just tell someone, ask did they get the point."

"We all respect other cultures. It's an easy thing to say, but what do you really know about different groups in your society? And when was the last time you actually interacted in any way with people from another culture?"



" 'I'd love to get involved, but I don't really have the time!' Sound familiar? We all have the ability to make a positive impact on society in one way or another. We just have to make that decision to get involved."

"Make a promise to do my best? Live by a law? Who, me? Ok, but if you look at the message behind the words, their meaning is actually quite basic. Yes they require certain things from us, but you'd be surprised how much we already put into practice without even thinking about it."



Photo © World Scout Bureau, Inc.

...Look at how you interact with those around you. Each member of the crew agree to offer a certain amount of time and then make the voluntary organizations in your area aware of the availability of this time. Give a hand with a younger age section in your Scout Group.

See what happens when you can't communicate as you'd like to. For example, try only non-verbal communication. Or maybe give directions to other members of the Crew over the phone to help them navigate their way through an unfamiliar area.



Find out how many people of different nationalities the members of the Crew come into contact with on a regular basis. Form a link with Rovers from a country that none of the Crew has ever visited.

Imagine a day where you deliberately stick to NO parts of the Scout Law ... What would it be like?



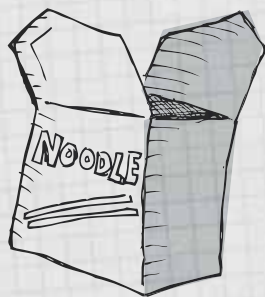


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Physical

We are all responsible for our own physical wellbeing. It's not just a matter of going for a jog in the mornings, though, or eating 5 portions of fruit a day. There are many aspects to physical health. Have a look at the following thoughts and consider how you can take charge of your own physical development.



"We don't like hearing it, but a diet of takeaway and beer does leave out a few things. Have a look at the food pyramid, consider ways to balance out your diet – everything can actually taste pretty good with a bit of effort"

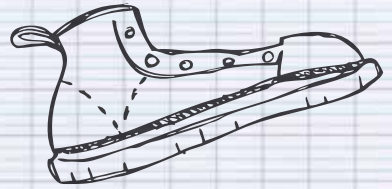
"Have you ever sat down next to someone on a train and thought, 'Oh no, picked the wrong seat!' It's never pleasant to work with someone who doesn't smell good, remembering that the same applies to others when they have to work with us."



"Had great intentions? We all have them. Every new year we sign up for gyms, go jogging, stop off at the swimming pool on the way home. By February we've let it slip a little and then we give up entirely. If only we had that enthusiasm all year round."

"It's all too easy to ignore the warning signs that our bodies send us. After all, we're young, fit and healthy. Getting sick is just for older people... Well actually, no. And no one knows better than us if something is wrong."

“We’ve all looked at someone and thought ‘How awful must it be to be like that?’ But have we ever stopped to think about what we can learn from how someone with a disability meets the challenges the world presents them?”



“Live like there is no tomorrow! Except there is a tomorrow, and a day after that. Any decision we make will have consequences, even if it simply means we will never hear the end of it from the lads!”

“Physical abuse? I presume we’re talking about violence in the home? – Well, yeah, but there is much more to it than that. Go on, think about it.”



Photo © World Scout Bureau, Inc.

Step back from what shape you’re in at the moment. How do other people deal with their physicality? Have a member of the crew randomly pick a disability. Determine how an activity can be adapted to allow that Crew member to participate fully.

Set the Crew a fitness challenge. Pick any physical activity, find out what level you are at now and aim to better that level in a month.

If your current diet is a long way from ‘five a day’, set a couple of goals to reduce fat and salt intake and see how you get on.



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Intellectual

Intelligence is not just about Maths and English. It is about the ability to solve problems, think creatively and use information. Have a look through the thoughts below and reassess your ideas on your own intelligence.



“How are you at analysing information?

Can you get what you want out of situations by working constructively with others? Is there really more than one solution to all of life's problems?”

“At school you're spoon fed information. But that changes the moment you step outside those school gates. From then on, whether you go to college, take on a trade or head off around the world, you'll only learn if you make a conscious decision to do so.”

“How's your creativity? Are you capable of really original ideas? Okay then, think of doing something that hasn't been done before. How easy is it?”

“Sometimes things don't work the way we planned. But that's okay, as long as we can identify why they didn't work and learn from the experience. Next time, we'll get it right.”

“Putting a team together is not as simple as bringing a bunch of people together. The difficult part is identifying what skills and abilities the team needs, and then matching people to those needs.”

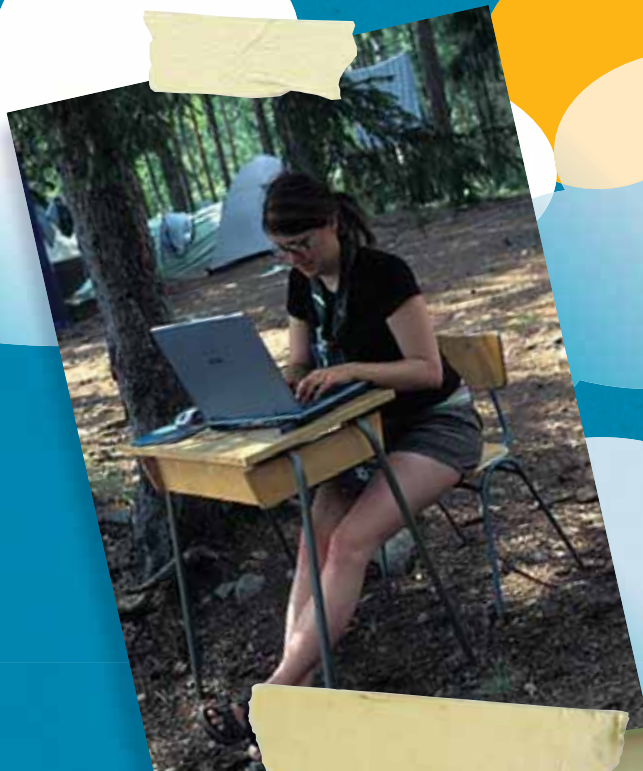
Put your mind to something. Find out about the international trade game to try out your negotiation skills. How branded are you? What brands do you use or like? What makes you choose a brand? Create a brand for your Crew and print some t-shirts.

Carry out a role-play whereby each member of the Crew is assigned an 'extreme personality' (happy, angry, depressed, etc). Now carry out a team task and try to manage all of these personalities. Take part in an extended 'trust' activity where one member of the crew is responsible for the safety of the rest of the Crew.



Try passing on some knowledge or skill to other members of your Crew firstly in a purely verbal style and then in a purely visual style. Find out who preferred each method. Plan an activity which includes a new experience for each member of the Crew.





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Character

Your character is a deeply individual and unique aspect in your personal development. Below are a few general thoughts about character. Look through them, see how you live up to your own expectations with them.

"Committing to something is pretty daunting, be it a contract, a relationship, whatever. Why is it, then, that we do it? Maybe it's the benefits we get, the confidence we show when we commit to something and live up to it, following through with our promises and with our principles... What is it for you?"

"What are the really important things in life? We're not talking about what we own here, but those things that have a real impact on our lives. What are they? Well they are different for everyone."

"Although some people might think otherwise, nobody can be great at everything. We all have something that we can excel at though. Ask yourself the question, what am I good at? And then challenge yourself to take it to the next level."

"So we are all agreed that we should stand up for our beliefs. But at what cost to ourselves? What if it means we run the risk of losing every shred of credibility we have with those around us? Do our beliefs really matter that much?"

"Treat others with respect. A very simple concept, but is it so easy to put into practice? What if it includes that idiot who joined the crew last week? He's been getting on everyone's nerves."



"Imagine a situation where you are standing at the front of a protest line in some far flung corner of the world. Or be realistic and ask yourself how many times you have thought, 'That really shouldn't be allowed to happen', and then walked right by."

"Cinema and TV has given us a bizarre impression of what it takes to follow our dreams. Usually it involves a montage of hard work, accompanied by a great soundtrack. In reality it takes just a little bit more effort than that."



"What is it that makes your experience in Rover scouts different to anything else you've done? What is it that allows people from different parts of the world who have never met before to have so much in common? The answer to all those questions is Scouting Spirit. Are you feeling it yet?"

Check back with rovers.ie for some character building ideas, and share your own experiences. After taking your own unique and personal approach to learning about your character, how does it compare with how others have treated their journey? Would you like to try one of their approaches instead?



Photo © World Scout Bureau, Inc.



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Emotional

We all feel emotion. With such a huge spectrum of feeling, and different reactions to how we deal with things, our emotional growth stems from how comfortable we are with ourselves. Those around us play a vital role in how our emotional side develops, and we should be mindful of this. Check out how closely, you think, the thoughts below apply to you.



“Some days are better than others. But sometimes it's hard to put your finger on why. There may not be a specific answer. It may be simply down to how you feel.”

“Do you ever feel that things are piling up on top of you? That there's too much to deal with? Sometimes it's good to talk to others, but what do you do if you feel that you have no one to turn to?”

“It's probably easier to walk away from someone who's wrecking your head. But sometimes we simply have to recognise that there may well be reasons why someone is behaving in a certain way. What if that someone was you?”

“You've sat there listening to absolute nonsense for the last twenty minutes. The group don't have a clue what they are talking about. It's time to tell them exactly what you are thinking... right?”

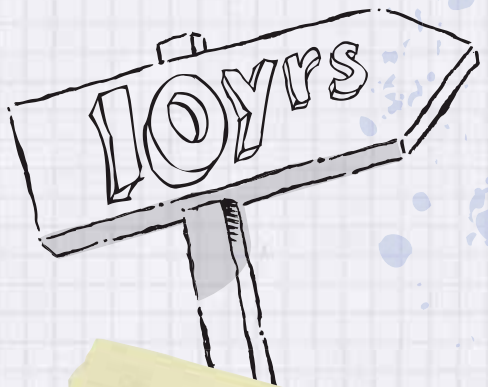
"Sometimes you can't help but long for the days when you could simply turn to someone else to solve all your problems. Of course there are still times when that may well be the right idea. But the thing is – that should be the exception rather than the rule."

"Are the decisions you make completely random? Or is there a common store of ideas you draw upon? These ideas make up your personal beliefs. How important are they to you?"

"Where do I see myself in ten years time? Bit of a tough question, but I could tell you what I'm really in to right now. Maybe there is a clue in there somewhere..."

Look at how each of these thoughts play a role in how you've developed as a person, consider how that makes you feel, for better or worse. Share it with the crew, or find a way of expressing your thoughts with others.

How would you improve your understanding of what's there? Do you do this in everything you do? Do you find it hard to look at yourself as an emotional person? Or share your feelings with those around you? Do you think anyone in your crew might have a different insight into what you're like emotionally? Is there anyone you have a real connection with, or that you inexplicably cannot stand?





show your
emotions





Spiritual

Most of us would immediately link this back to our faith, but remember that your spiritual development is much more than this. It's about your personal outlook on how the world works, what powers are at work, looking beyond our tangible, physical existence, and asking ourselves what we really see our lives as. You might find a church brings about this spiritual development, or your experience of nature, or maybe just those around you.

"Many of us will still hold the same belief system we inherited from our parents. Others will have chosen another. What is the core message of what you believe? And do you still believe that this is relevant to you today?"

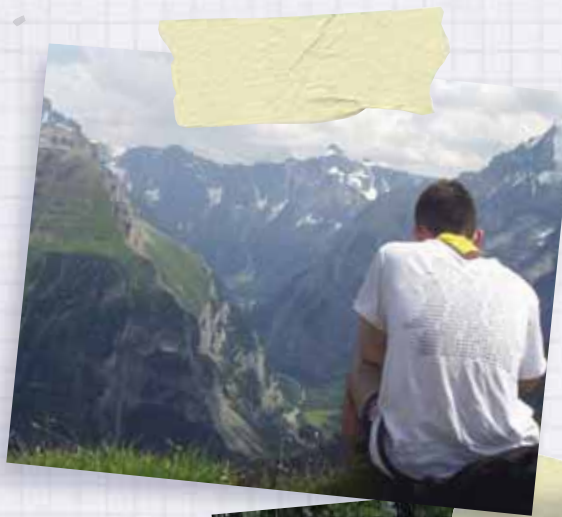
"Every action we take impacts on the environment, for better or for worse (of course some actions have a much bigger impact than others). But how does it really make a difference to you in the long run?"

"Whatever your belief system, it affects the way you interact with the world around you. Consider the way you deal with the people you know. Is there a rule for one and a different rule for another? Or are you more consistent with how you approach and connect with people?"



"At this stage, what I believe in has changed. Maybe just a little or maybe a lot, but how I've grown up, the experiences in my life and the company I keep have shaped the development of my spirituality, and how I connect with my beliefs. How are these essential to how I live, and how I fit in to the world around me?"

Identify how important your spiritual development is. Do your beliefs and principles resemble the ones of those around you, or have you changed from what you might have previously thought to be important? How fundamental are these changes? Is it in reaction to your own life experiences, or of those around you? How has the world influenced the way you perceive yourself spiritually?



Discuss this, and see how your spiritual journey is included in everything you do, the choices you make. Then see how it's affected those around you.







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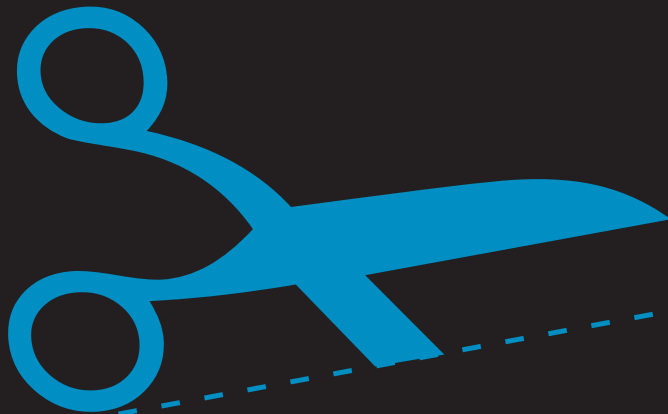


Need help putting this all together?

Just like in school, in college, in work or just at home, it helps to have a plan when we're getting something together. For your crew, you're going to have to allow for a whole host of other events, distractions, opinions and concerns.

It's important to cover as many bases as you can, from logistics in where you're going, to costs, to insurance, to generating an interest in what you're doing.

To help, try a model of **Plan-Do-Review**, three really simple mechanisms to make sure you can get the most out of your activities... Here are a few things to keep in mind...





PLAN

Using one of your meetings, put it together

- Decide what projects you are going to do
- Plan a wide variety of activities
- Keep our 'thoughts' and 'ideas' from above in mind when planning
- Choose dates and stick to them
- List all available resources
- Plan what equipment you'll need and any preparations needed to get it ready
- Establish roles, jobs and deadlines
- Discuss possible alternatives, just in case
- Be aware that your plans may have to adapt closer to the date



Everything's in place, go for it!

- Make sure all needed equipment is ready to go
- Share the responsibilities between you
- Ensure all members have an up to date programme
- Have a laugh



REVIEW

Not too riveting, but makes the next one easier...

- Discuss good points and bad points
- See how activities could have been improved
- Take notes and keep track of them for next time



It's quick and simple, but using this method makes life really easy after a while, and we like things to be easy to plan, the challenge should lie in actually doing it.

(An extended version of this model for large scale projects is called 'The Project Method'. Details of this can be found on rovers.ie.)

As ever, you can ask advice from the people you know, the advisor you've appointed or the National team. They're all good to sound your ideas off... Otherwise, check out rovers.ie for other resources and advice.



Section Three

PROJECTS

AND

ACTIVITIES

Little & Large ↗



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Projects & Activities

As we've already suggested, the possibilities are endless in terms of the activities you can do. You should take some time to try out different things, maybe trying activities that are suggested by the ASSES and the SPICES. After a while you might want to challenge yourself a bit more, so we suggest that you consider taking on a project.

Projects take a little more effort, but you get a lot more out of them. It'll involve combining a number of related activities to work towards a goal over a period of time. Again, there are no limits on what your projects will be, but every project should involve the following:

- * All members of the Crew or a number of teams within the Crew
- * A clearly defined goal ... why are we doing the project?
What is the end result?
- * The Scout Method ... we mentioned this earlier
- * A variety of learning opportunities. there will be something for everyone to gain by taking part in the project.

Projects by their nature require a slightly more organised approach than activities. Have a look at the Project Method on rovers.ie for more details about this.

Basic Car Maintenance

Boxes Ticked –

ASSES: Skill



SPICES: Intellectual



None of us ever want to be stranded on the side of a deserted road, in the middle of a stormy night, with a broken down car – it's a low budget horror movie waiting to happen. That's a pretty good reason to give this a go...

To start, an evening class in your local area might be an idea, or some great step-by-step guides on the internet. Better still, maybe you have an experienced member of your group who can help out?

A quick checklist of stuff you might need or look at:

A car jack, oil, extra light bulbs, break fluid, water, battery charger, dipstick, spare tyres, windshield cleaner, torch, first aid kit, empty fuel container... and a car would also help.

Get good enough at it, and you might save yourself a fortune on repairs and services, just remember that you can do as much damage as you can good if you're not paying attention...

Refurbish your Hall/Room

Boxes Ticked –

ASSES: Service, Environmental



SPICES: Physical



There's always something to fix up in the room that we use for meetings. Maybe we should clean it more often, maybe that mural of our mates head doesn't really look as good as we thought it did, maybe that game of ultimate fireball was a little more damaging than we thought it was.

Luckily, this activity makes amends for whatever we might have done. A bit of paint will cover up the nice messages that were left by the previous crew, maybe throwing up a notice board would make us look more organised.

Better still, this is a really cheap thing to do, asking around will usually yield tins of paint, old brushes and rollers, carpets, rugs, even furniture.

In fact, without even really trying, we've managed to try our hand at freecycling as well, reducing our environmental impact by reusing old furniture and materials, and recycling the paint that might have otherwise been sent to landfill or just poured down somebody's drain. Not bad for a day's work.



Bag Packing

Boxes Ticked –

ASSES: Service



SPICES: Character,
Social



This is where all those hours wasted playing Tetris can finally be put to use – with hopes of raising money for whatever project or charity you see fit. Ring up your local supermarket to organise a weekend of bag packing.



According to labour laws and all that, a person can't really be left packing bags all day. Break your group into shifts and operate a rota for everyone's hours so people can get the breaks they need.

Depending on how many hours you put in, you can raise quite a bit of cash. Put the money toward trips abroad, a charity or a local project.

It's not too difficult to prepare for either, all you really need are buckets, t-shirts and the patience of a saint.

As much as this is a service project, it has its advantages for you too. Any employer who is worth their salt will want to know that they have competent members of staff, people that'll go the extra mile, and people that are passionate about what they get involved in.

Public Speaking

Boxes Ticked –

ASSES: Service



SPICES: Character,
Social



None of us like it, but everyone has to do it at some stage, in a presentation, interview or whatever; public speaking is an unavoidable evil for most. That said, there's ways to get better, and a host of techniques to be really comfortable and effective in the process.

Start off working on stance, how to present yourself when speaking, how to control breathing and nerves and how to form a speech. This is not a once off activity, it'll require a few sessions, over a few evenings or maybe a weekend.

It'd be good to have a facilitator of some description, a raised platform of some kind, and loads of water. Maybe look at pursuing a qualification in Oral Communication (The fancy term for Public Speaking).

It has its advantages though. Any profession requires the ability to communicate effectively, and an aptitude for public speaking increases your ability in interview situations, as well as being a positive trait for the job itself.

Youth for Development Prize

PERU

This is a summary of an international aid project undertaken by the Rover scout age range of 3/40/41st Dublin Donnybrook group in 2004. Below are excerpts from the log that won them the International Youth for Development Prize 2005...

Mantay - Mothers, Murals & Mosaics

"During a 3 and a half week expedition to Peru in 2004 by 38 Irish Rovers we engaged in 2 community based development projects.

"In the Mantay House Project in San Geronimo, we worked with a local contact and community group called Mantay that assists young single mothers and their children ... our special job was to decorate a new refuge for them, provide educational materials and do a "mother & child" photo portraits as a gift for the mothers.

"For the Cusco Interactive Mural Project, this involved the Rovers designing and creating the outline of a 300 meters long "interactive mural". We painted the outline of a cartoon style educational mural in the centre of Cusco that local agencies dealing with street children would later colour in according to a colour scheme that we had left with them.



“On top of co-operation from agencies within Peru both projects were carried out with the assistance of local Scouts & Rovers from the St. Paul’s Scout Group in Cusco.”

“The achievements of our project relate closest to the following 3 Millennium Goals:

- Promoting gender equality & empowering women.
- Improving maternal health.
- Developing a global partnership for development.

“Through the completion of these 2 projects the Rovers gained many valuable experiences – working as a team, developing themselves, helping others to develop and volunteering nothing but their time and talents for the good of others. But, it is perhaps in the participation, not the completion of the projects that show exactly what kind of people these scouts really are. As scouts of the world they are enthusiastic, dedicated young people who were deeply affected by their experiences in Peru, both personally and as a group. By their own actions they were achieving the Millennium Goals of improving maternal health, promoting equality, empowering the young women of Mantay and developing a global partnership, not just for development, but more importantly for friendship.”



Boxes Ticked –

ASSES: Adventure, Social, Service ☒

SPICES: All of them really!



[illegible]

The Explorer Belt

As the most demanding national event run for Rovers, the Explorer Belt presents an opportunity to experience a physical, mental and personal challenge, as well as experiencing and getting to know different cultures. Here are a few details of the report from the 2009 expedition to Sweden and Denmark...

“... The adventure began.

“Each team had to walk a minimum of 200km to arrive back to base camp in Denmark on Tuesday 21st July. They could travel an extra 100km using certified public transport and this was broken into 10km per day.

“Along the way, teams had to keep a log book of each of the day's events including people they interacted with, budgets, menu, route taken etc. They also had to complete a number of challenges along the way and keep a record of these in their project books.

“This year there was a new element to the belt introduced – The Personal Challenges. These were devised before the expedition by each participant and agreed with the Expedition Leader. The idea of these challenges was to encourage each participant to focus on an area of themselves that they would like to improve.



“Following the 11 days that the teams were on the road, they arrived back to base camp on the 11th. They were greeted by the staff of the belt, base camp & assessment teams. Teams arrived back tired but full of stories...

“On Wednesday the contingent was taken into Copenhagen for the day. While here they got to meet the Irish Ambassador to Sweden, explore the shops of Copenhagen, and were taken to a fun park ‘Tivoli Gardens’

“The assessment teams went through all the materials very carefully. Each teams had to then take part in two reviews with the assessment teams to discuss their experiences, clarify any outstanding issues and review their personal challenges. ... Some teams think this is the worst part, waiting around to be called for the chat. The assessment teams enjoyed hearing the stories of the belt and being able to share in some way the experiences each of the teams had.

“Tensions and emotions were running high when the results were read out and when it was announced that all teams had been successful in keeping their Belt; there was a huge sigh of relief. This was the first year every team had been successful. ... This will be indeed something that this group will remember for the rest of their lives.”



Boxes Ticked –

ASSES: Adventure, Social, Spiritual



SPICES: All of them really!

Staffing Festivals



For a while now, our over 18 year old members have been packing up, heading to Ireland's award winning music festivals and not only helping out thousands of people throughout the country, but showing that there's more to scouting than what we see on American TV shows... Below is some of the news coverage that our projects have gotten over the last few years...

"A first for any festival in Ireland the Electric Picnic... teamed up with Scouting Ireland to assist picnic-goers in erecting their tents. Any discarded tents were subsequently gathered up ... and sent to developing countries. It was so successful Scouting Ireland are returning to do it again this year.

So if you're having trouble keeping it up at the Electric Picnic (your tent, that is), look no further than the nearest tent fixing base, run this year by the guys & girls from Scouting Ireland."

– Electric Picnic



Boxes Ticked –

ASSES: Adventure, Social, Spiritual



SPICES: All of them really!

"Inexperienced campers will have help on hand with the Scouting Ireland Festival Crew returning to Oxegen for the fourth consecutive year to advise on surviving the great outdoors. The scouts will also help fans pitch and repair tents in return for a small charitable donation to raise funds for Scouting Ireland projects."

– Irish Times

"Scouting Ireland Festival Crew working with MCD and The Salvation Army ensured that almost 1000 sleeping bags will be available for Homeless people on the streets of Dublin. Collecting and recycling sleeping bags left behind at the Oxegen Music Festival, Scouting Ireland

Festival Crew delivered almost 1000 sleeping bags to The Salvation Army who will clean and redistribute them to those sleeping rough on the streets of Dublin."

– Oxegen.ie



And a quick account from last year...

"...Unbelievable. You get to go to some of the best gigs in Europe and not only do your bit for SI and the homeless folk, but you make a bit of cash for local charities and spend 5 amazing days camping behind main stage with 100 other young people like you. You can see the gigs, meet your mates and be a [Rover] all in the same weekend. I'm there again next year, without a doubt..."

Flotilla Sailing

Another option in Rover scouts is the Rover Mariner, which caters for a more water-based approach to your activities. Below is an account of an expedition undertaken by a group in Dublin...

"In order to prepare we realised that we would have to take on a number of training courses which included life saving, coastal navigation, day skipper and coastal skipper, VHF radio and also get some practice in sailing something bigger than a rubber dingy.

"To start we researched our destination and the logistics around getting there and the hiring of the vessels. Our best plan was to fly to the UK (Manchester and Gatwick) and catch a flight out of there to Athens.

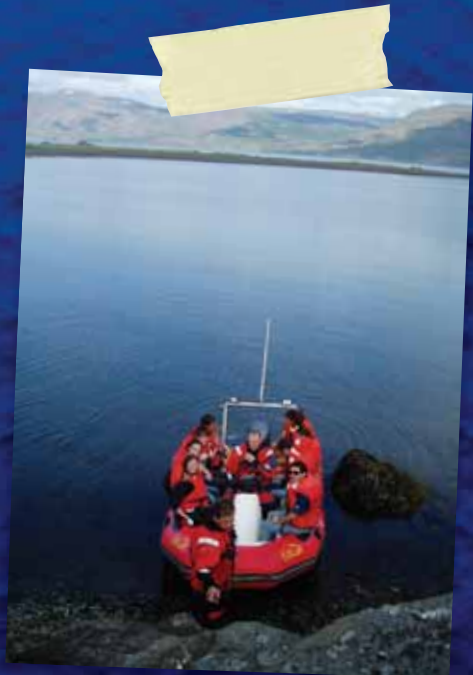


"In order to prepare we realised that we would have to take on a number of training courses which included life saving, coastal navigation, day skipper and coastal skipper, VHF radio and also get some practice in sailing something bigger than a rubber dingy.

"We had to look into the numbers going to ascertain how many berths we needed and also the types of boats that would work for our crew. The smaller, older boats worked out cheaper per person. A Jaguar 27 worked out the most economical so we went for those.

"Before we went, we worked towards the ECC (European Certificate of Competence), doing an ISA boat safety course, some of us getting a VHF license, and all of us getting some sailing experience with local sailing clubs and sea scout troops in the area.

"The weather was truly amazing the sailing fantastic. Working in our small groups on different watches was an experience. Rising at 4am to the smell of the sea, to take the helm, manning the ships wheel over crystal clear waters, watching the wind catch the sail and we glide along...



"An amazing Adventure."

DO YOUR OWN

What

Where

SPICES

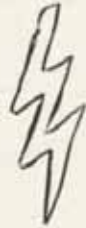
ASSES

Equipment

Cost / Insurance

Who

Who's in charge?



[illegible]

The Rover Challenge

The Rover Challenge is a good way to give an overall structure to the kind of things we've mentioned so far. It also encourages you to focus on your own development.

While it follows on from related programmes that are undertaken in other sections, the Rover Challenge is different in that it focuses purely on activities and projects designed by you. After all, you have a lot of other things to fit into life, so this approach is more flexible and allows you to set the timescale for what you want to do.

The Rover Challenge is a mix of the ASSES and the SPICES, and is set out in two stages. One of our key ideas is progression. We also recognise that the place you are in when you join as a Rover is likely to be very different to the place you are in when you leave. To reflect this, the following stages are used:

- **Participation**
- **Leadership**

Both 'Participation' and 'Leadership' involve undertaking a series of projects. But the key difference between the two is the role you take on within the Rover Crew. At the 'Participation' stage your role is to take an active part in the successful delivery of the project, at the 'Leadership' stage your role is to plan and organise the project.

The Rover Challenge in a nutshell

For those who like things in lists and bullet points, we've summarised what you need to do as follows...

Leadership

- Be involved in planning and organising one or more projects which are based on all 5 of the ASSES.
- In carrying out these projects visit each of the 36 key ideas in the SPICES.
- Review the 36 key ideas as you go along to see how you are getting on.

Participation

- Be involved in delivering one or more projects which are based on all 5 of the ASSES.
- In carrying out these projects visit each of the 36 key ideas in the SPICES.
- Review the 36 key ideas as you go along to see how you are getting on.



More about ASSES in the Rover Challenge

For the purposes of taking on a project for the Rover Challenge we've narrowed the focus of the ASSES a little...

Adventurous - Engage in an expedition based around one or more of the adventure skills developed during your time in the programme... Go for something that will really stretch you.

Social - Get to know about the culture of people in other communities and other countries. The idea is to find out what life is really like, don't just be a tourist.

Skill building - Skills take on all shapes and forms. You are encouraged here to either develop a new skill or take an existing skill to a higher level.

Environmental - Examine the impact you have on the world around you. Take on a project that has a positive impact.

Service - Take a look at your local community and the wider global community. Identify a project that you can undertake that will make a lasting difference.

The idea is to take on a project from each of the ASSES during both 'Participation' and 'Leadership'. This can be 5 individual projects (one for each of the ASSES) or you can combine a number of them into bigger projects. This is about how you want to shape your programme.

More about SPICES in the Rover Challenge

The second element of the projects is the SPICES. While the projects will be based on the ASSES areas, each project should build in the various ideas presented in the SPICES.

You've already been introduced to the SPICES and various ideas associated with each one. These ideas are also referred to as learning objectives, and there a total of 36 in total. That sounds like a lot, but it's not really.

The idea is to incorporate opportunities to explore these key ideas when carrying out your projects. What you will probably realise as you go along is that unplanned opportunities to explore the SPICES will crop up all the time.

You will also come to realise that the SPICES can crop up just about anywhere, whether you are undertaking a simple activity or a more complicated project.

As you carry out your projects you should review how you are doing in terms of the SPICES. And that's it.

For more advice and tips in relation to carrying out the Rover Challenge check out rovers.ie.



Photo © World Scout Bureau, Inc.



Photo © World Scout Bureau, Inc.



Recognition

Completing the Participation or Leadership stages of the Rover Challenge is worth marking. You've gone to considerable effort to complete the projects, so it's time to recognise what went into it.

Whatever way you want to mark this, it's important that you do it in a relevant and appropriate way. For our part, badges are available for each stage. Pins are available as well.

In terms of pins, there are a number available. Green is for when you commit to joining the crew, orange is when you complete the Participation cycle and Purple is for the Leadership challenge.

You should find a suitable occasion to present these badges and pins to members of the crew. Ideally, try something that will mean something to the recipients.

Details of the pins, badges and other forms of recognition are available on rovers.ie.



ROVERS. IE



Section Four

RESOURCES



[illegible]

An Gaisce and the Chief Scout Award



The ASSES cover the areas needed to achieve the Chief Scout Award which, in turn, helps to achieve the Gold Gaisce/Duke of Edinburgh awards.

A Rover will take a minimum of 18 months to complete the Chief Scout Award (12 months if the Rover holds a Venture Chief Scout Award).

To complete it they will need to prove a level of competency and participation in a range of areas...

- Skill
- Physical
- Community
- Environment
- Scout Skill
- An Expedition
- A Residential trip



The award (as with An Gaisce) needs to be applied for in advance, and tracked with an advisor or mentor.



ROVERS.IE

The Scouts of the World

The Scouts of the World award encourages involvement of young adults in the development of society by giving them the skills and opportunities to face the challenges and problems in the world.

The award promotes global citizenship and its emphasis is on three core themes:

- Peace
- Environment
- Development

The award is simple and flexible. Firstly it invites young people to explore the challenges of today's world and become active global citizens. Then it provides an opportunity to join the scouts of the world network which helps to link up young people who have completed the award.

There are two main components, Discovery and Voluntary service. The award is granted to individuals who have successfully completed these steps. After completion, you are invited to join the scouts of the world network

Plenty more help and advice to help you get started on the Scouts of the World Award can be found on rovers.ie

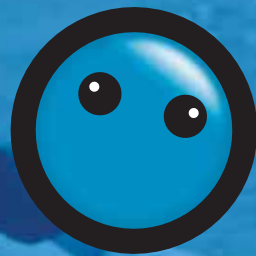


The Rover Mariner

The Rover Mariner allows you to compliment the Rover Challenge completely based on water and water activities. However there is a bit of a difference, as they are set water based challenges that you must do.

This approach contains 4 key challenges:

- Adventure
- Environmental
- Skills
- Event/Competition



If water activities are what you're into, this is definitely something to consider. The programme has a waterborne expedition, races, competitions, a survey of the environment that you use for your activities and a proof and evaluation of your competencies in whatever particular area you decide to specialise in.

It's a big project, as well as taking in most of the Rover challenge as well, so it fits for a crew that has a history or interest in the water. We have recognition for this approach as well, for the water programme the pins are light blue for Participation and Navy for Leadership, to recognise that you've taken part in something different.

For requirements and further details, find us on rovers.ie

A person wearing a blue jacket, yellow pants, a white helmet, and red shoes is rappelling down a waterfall. They have their arms raised and a surprised expression. The background is a lush green forest with mossy rocks.

Feeling
a bit
advent

Rovers are
all about the
adventure

Air activities
Backwoods
Camping
Emergencies
Hill walking

urous?

Paddling
Pioneering
Rowing
Sailing

Check out the
Adventure Skills
Handbook or



ROVERS.IE

for further information...

Special Interest Awards

For those interested in a little bit extra, there are awards available... Special Interest awards are one part of Scouting Ireland's youth programme. They are achieved by the Rover on the basis of personal effort, rather than achieving a grade.

There are 5 Special Interest Areas:

Personal Skill

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

Physical/ Recreation

This can include any physical pursuit or activity

Adventure/ Journey

This should include something completely new i.e. a new location, new method of travel, etc

Community Involvement

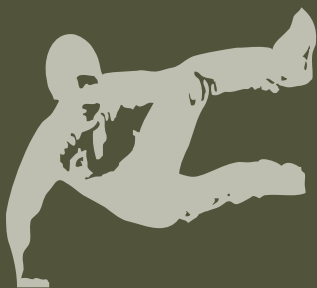
This should be a service type project and the plan should outline who will benefit and how

Environment

This can be any project that improves the environment

- Challenge yourself to learn new skills or develop existing ones
- Increase your knowledge of an area particular to you
- Include a practical element which will benefit others.

Check out **rovers.ie** for more details.



You've finished your time as a Rover. It's time to move on and find something else to occupy your free time.

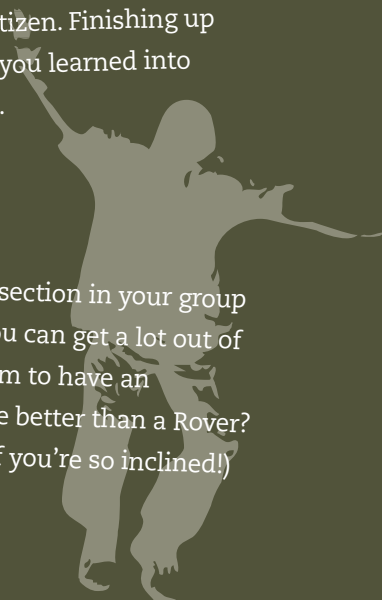
DEPARTURE ➡



After coming up through the sections, and now Rover scouts, you have hopefully become a full, well rounded citizen. Finishing up here doesn't stop you from putting whatever you learned into practice, or from staying involved in Scouting.

Becoming a Scouter

You may want to become a Scouter in another section in your group or possibly move to a completely new group. You can get a lot out of helping with younger sections, it's great for them to have an experienced person to learn from. Who could be better than a Rover? (You can do this while in Rover scouts as well, if you're so inclined!)



Becoming a Rover Advisor

If you're interested in passing on what you have learned through Rover scouts onto the next group coming through then think about becoming a Rover Advisor. This would mean you offer your advice and experiences to the Rovers.

Working Nationally

There are always loads of teams that could use some decent help nationally. This could include anything from improving the programme we work with, developing our campsites, organising our events, or running the association. The opportunities are always there, and people are always welcome.

Working in Europe

Look around and check with other associations to see what's available abroad. There are a number of unique and diverse positions and opportunities out there; it'd be worth your while looking them up.

Leaving Scouting

If you're finished with Scouting after Rover scouts we hope you can use what you've learned to help you in your actual life. Good luck!



Mark the Occasion

Use the departure of a crew member to indicate the milestone in the history of your group and crew. Find a place, event, ceremony or anything that is unique or important to you and take the time to mark this occasion. As always, do it your way. Visit rovers.ie if you need any ideas...

Mind Yourself!

To keep our programme going, it's pretty important that all of the rovers are in good nick, and the only person that can be sure that everything's ok is you. Health is a broad concept, it doesn't just mean being free of illness. Think about these...



Physical:

Your body. Traditionally a 'medical' model of health.

Mental:

The ability to think and make judgements.

Social:

The ability to make and maintain relationships.

Emotional:

Being able to recognise emotions such as fear, joy, grief and anger and to express these emotions appropriately. This includes stress, anxiety etc.

Spiritual:

Not only includes religious beliefs but may also be other personal beliefs, principles of behaviour and ways of being at peace with oneself.

Sexual:

Acceptance of and ability to achieve a satisfactory expression of one's health.

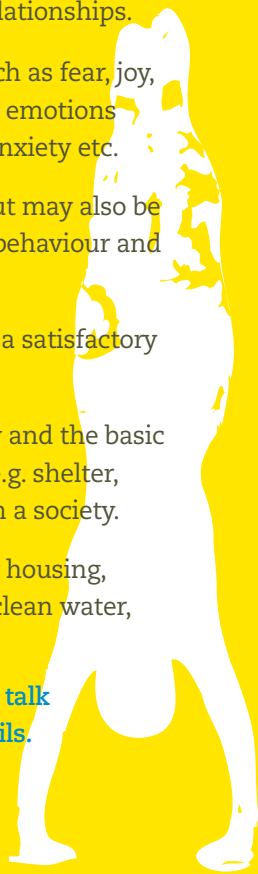
Societal:

Relates to the person in their society and the basic infrastructure necessary for health e.g. shelter, peace, food, income, integration with a society.

Environmental:

The physical environment including housing, transport, sanitation, availability of clean water, pollution control.

If you're worried about anything there, need someone to talk to about it, get in touch or go to rovers.ie for further details.



Notes & Contacts



THE ROVER TEAM HELP...

Garrett Flynn, Anne Kelly, Conor Quinlan, Simon Toner, Rob Gardner, Paula Higgins, Jamie 'NMC' Gorman, Ciara Higgins, Kate Cowan, Hugh and his mate from the working weekends (yarr), Pauline Lucas, Scout and Venture Youth Reps, Programme Development Team, scouts.ie, UN International Youth for Development Prize, respective owners of picture and photo copyrights, the Professionals, Dave and Ruth from DCD, anyone who had to put up with our questions and pestering, anyone we're forgetting ...

An extended thank you and acknowledgement of the vast scope of work and effort put into the programme development process. These contributions, productions and ideas have informed and shaped the formation of the Rover Scout section and its place within a continuous and inclusive programme. A sincere and deserved thank you.

Cover Photo's: 'juggler', 'skateboarder', 'scouts with heads together', 'walking the plank' © World Scout Bureau, Inc.

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