

The Chief Scout's Challenge

E

NVIRONMENT



P

ROGRAMME



I

NVESTITURE



C

AMPING



EPIC Challenge 2025–2026

Group Information Pack

Key Points

Target Start Date: September 2025

Target Award Ceremony: June 2026 (TBC) at Larch Hill

Award: Section/Group Pendant (received by Section Leader + 2 representatives)

Participation: Achieved as a Section Challenge

Theme: E.P.I.C. Challenge – Environment • Programme • Investiture • Camping

Overview

The **EPIC Challenge** is a year-long initiative encouraging active participation in four key pillars of Scouting:

- **Environment** – Engage with nature, conservation, or sustainability.
- **Programme** – Deliver a vibrant, varied programme tailored to your age section.
- **Investiture** – Celebrate Scouting identity and tradition.
- **Camping** – Camp together and grow through outdoor adventure.

The challenge can also help you progress through your own personal scouting journey by including Adventure Skill Badges or Special Interest Badges in your activities!* Keep an eye out for the following symbols next to the sections where this is applicable:



Opportunity to incorporate an Adventure Skill



Opportunity to incorporate a SIB

*Please note: This is not necessary to complete the challenge!

EPIC Challenge 2025–2026

Group Information Pack

Introduction

- What is EPIC - The Chief Scout's Challenge?
 - The Chief Scout Challenge is a section-based challenge which can be undertaken by one or all sections of a Scout Group during the Scouting year. It encourages active participation in the 4 key pillars of Scouting, and is an opportunity for all members of each section to get involved in the activities.
- How does it work?
 - Sections that complete the challenge will earn a pennant, which will be awarded in the summer of 2026. Should groups have all sections complete the challenge, they will earn an additional group pennant.
 - The Challenge should span your programme from September until June, focusing on the different goals outlined in each EPIC section. How you complete the challenges is up to you - try and make them unique to your group, and make sure to track your progress in your logs! Make your logs creative and unique to you - multiple media's can be used to track your progress, just make sure to let us know all of the amazing things you've gotten up to on your EPIC Journey!
- So what's involved in each pillar?
 - **Environment:** Climate action is a key part of being a Scout, and the environment section should help you to get creative and get involved at the local level. Connect with other interested groups and get scouting in your community!
 - **Programme:** The challenge will have a different programme focus each year, with the focus for 2025/2026 being hillwalking, through getting out on the hills and improving your skills at your weekly meetings.
 - **Investiture:** This should help youth members focus on the personal progression scheme from the ONE programme, and learn more about their section/group/Scouting Ireland. Your group may already have strong Investiture traditions, or might not be sure how to hold one - this section will help establish or reinforce these traditions for your section/group.
 - **Camping:** A huge part of what we do in Scouting, and the goal is to get out under canvas, in a hammock or maybe even in a bivy, and improve your skills in this area. Maybe culminate your year with a group camping weekend and campfire to celebrate!

EPIC Challenge 2025–2026

Group Information Pack

Structure

The challenge is divided into five levels based on section age ranges. Each level includes tasks across the EPIC pillars. All activities should be logged digitally or in a physical logbook (photos, drawings, notes, etc.). A simple template will be provided.

● Challenge 1: Beavers

Objective: Introduce adventure, nature, and Scouting basics.

- 🌍 **Environment:** Participate in a local tidy-up or biodiversity project (e.g., bug hotel, bird feeder). 🏆
- 🗺️ **Programme:** Complete 3x 5km walks with your section (can be themed: treasure hunt, nature bingo). Complete a hillwalking skills-based activity at your weekly meeting (examples to follow). 🏆
- ✨ **Investiture:** Lead or help organise a Section investiture (can be creative: woodland ceremony, family campfire) by the end of November / Attend a group investiture 🏆
- 🏕️ **Camping:** Attend 1+ night away (indoor/outdoor). 🏆 🏆

Bonus: Make a cup of tea or hot chocolate in a fun outdoor location with the section.

● Challenge 2: Cubs

Objective: Begin independent participation and responsibility.

- 🌍 **Environment:** Collaborate with a local group (e.g., Tidy Towns) on an ongoing environmental task. 🏆
- 🗺️ **Programme:** Complete 3x 10km hikes (could reflect mountain height). Complete a hillwalking skills based activity at your weekly meeting (examples to follow) 🏆
- ✨ **Investiture:** Lead or help organise a new cub's investiture event / Attend and help with the cub section of a group investiture by the end of November 🏆
- 🏕️ **Camping:** Camp a total of 3+ nights (can be split across weekends). Sixer and Seconder involvement in planning one overnight. 🏆 🏆

Bonus: Participate in a cultural/seasonal event (e.g., a St. Patrick's Day Parade activity or Easter trail).

EPIC Challenge 2025–2026

Group Information Pack

◆ Challenge 3: Scouts

Objective: Foster leadership and endurance.

-  **Environment:** Create and present an environmental project (e.g., eco-audit of Scout Den, tree planting). 
-  **Programme:** Complete 3x 15km hikes (encourage elevation gain). Complete a hillwalking skills based activity at your weekly meeting (examples to follow) 
-  **Investiture:** Organise & lead a creative section investiture ceremony or welcome campfire by the end of November / attend a group investiture 
-  **Camping:** Accumulate 5+ nights under canvas, including one hike-in camp. Plan to attend an annual camp.  

Bonus: Make a brew (tea, soup) on a hike using lightweight gear.

● Challenge 4: Ventures

Objective: Emphasise expedition planning, service, and leadership.

-  **Environment:** Lead or coordinate a local environmental impact project (e.g., rewilding, school garden). 
-  **Programme:** Complete one 50km expedition OR three 20km hikes with altitude. 
-  **Investiture:** Participate in or lead your own investiture ceremony and mentor or assist with younger section investitures by the end of November / attend group investiture 
-  **Camping:** Plan and lead a Venture-only camp. Camp or hammock in an unusual place.  

Bonus: Organise a Group-wide hike with staggered routes for each section.

● Challenge 5: Rovers

Objective: Champion Scouting values and leave a legacy.

-  **Environment:** Partner with a community organisation for a long-term sustainability initiative. 
-  **Programme:** Organise two crew or county Rover only hillwalking events. 
-  **Investiture:** Participate in your own investiture ceremony somewhere out of the ordinary. 
-  **Camping:** Plan and complete a 60km expedition OR three 20km hikes, including high-altitude. Camp above the ground (hammocks/raised platforms etc).  

Bonus: Document the entire EPIC journey and help to compile the Group's logbook.

EPIC Challenge 2025–2026

Group Information Pack

Award & Logbook

Each **section** submits their own logbook, digital or paper. The format is flexible:

-  Photos/Vlogs
-  Notes
-  Drawings
-  Activity Checklists/Plans/Brainstorms

An **EPIC Challenge Logbook Template** will be provided

Challenge Criteria:

Criteria	Description	Achieved?
Participation	Section engagement. Numbers involved	
Environmental Impact	Visible and meaningful contribution to environmental improvement	
Programme Quality	Variety, age-appropriateness, originality	
Investiture Creativity	Inclusivity, ceremony design, involvement of youth members. Understanding of what scouting is about	
Camping Achievement	Nights under canvas, location difficulty, skills used	
Logbook Quality	Presentation, storytelling, reflection, creativity	
Youth led programme	Evidence of youth members involvement in planning and execution of the challenge	

EPIC Challenge 2025–2026

Group Information Pack

Next Steps

- Hold a section leaders meeting to finalise how your section/group will take on the challenge
- Register your sections via Microsoft form (Link in launch email/Chief scout link-tree). Each section should register separately!
- Keep up to date with check ins with your youth members and leader team throughout the year
- Fill in your log with all your exciting adventures!
- Submit the logbook by **1st May 2026** for marking - separate form for submission to follow
- Award Ceremony in **June 2026 in Larch Hill**

Please email any questions to cs.admin@scouts.ie and we'll be happy to help!