

Introduction

The Safe from Harm (SFH) Youth Programme is designed to promote youth members' understanding of harm so they can;

- Recognise it, in its many forms.
- Gain an understanding of steps they can take to prevent it where possible.
- Effectively address it, if it occurs either to themselves or others.

The SFH Youth Programme ensures that Scouting Ireland (SI) meets the safeguarding requirements of the World Organisation of Scout Movement (WOSM).

All groups are encouraged to implement this programme, thereby underpinning our commitment to the safety, respect and wellbeing of our young people across all Scouting activities.

Aim

The aim of the programme is to promote and develop a Child Centered, age-appropriate range of activities which are underpinned by Scouting Ireland's ONE Programme. All the activities align with key learning objectives within our SPICES framework (Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual).

Through the Programme youth members will become aware of;

- Their rights in relation to safety and wellbeing.
- How to distinguish the difference between right and wrong.
- How to recognise trustworthy adults and peers who can help and support them.
- The first steps to take should they feel uncomfortable about a situation or if they have been subjected to any form of harm.
- How to report serious harm in an appropriate manner.

Harm is broadly defined as ill-treatment, or neglect that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect a child's health, development, or welfare, or sexual abuse of a child.

Programme Framework

The SFH Youth Programme is underpinned by the SPICES framework. Each area contributes to building resilience and creating an awareness of a safe culture in our youth members.

While each aspect of the Framework is central to how youth members keep themselves and their peers safe from harm, '**Character**' specifically refers to the commitment to uphold the

Scout Promise and Law. The respect youth members have for themselves and each other derives from this. It is summarised in the **'Character'** statement below:

'Accepting myself and recognising my own potential for growth and what it is I can become. Developing myself in a manner consistent with a set of values and with mutual respect and understanding for others.'

The table below highlights that members as young as 6 years can broadly understand what is right and wrong when it is explained in an appropriate age manner. The understanding deepens as youth members progress through the sections.



Pre-Adolescence	Early Adolescence	Adolescence	Post Adolescence
Understand the ideas of right and wrong	Show I understand the difference between right and wrong	Show that I have principles and that I understand the Promise and Law	Demonstrate that I have the confidence to live by the Promise and Law

Programme Themes

The SFH Youth Programme is delivered through seven themes. Each of them incorporates learning objectives from the SPICES that build towards a safe, inclusive and respectful environment.

1. We Promise – Understanding the Scout Promise and Law.
2. Think Scout – Developing positive attitudes, values and judgment.
3. Safe Scout – Recognising harm and gaining insight in how to act and report.
4. I Care We Care - Building empathy and promoting community involvement.
5. Trail & Ways – Respecting rules, pathways and responsibilities.
6. Scout Signals – Communicating concerns and identifying signs of harm.
7. Friendship Knot – Strengthening bonds through kindness and trust.

The learning objectives from the SPICES framework that are key to SFH outcomes are bundled under these themes. For each theme there is a selection of programme ideas that can be used and adapted. Some are section specific, others are based on whole group involvement.

The activities in the programme offer a broad range of opportunities for youth members to learn about the importance of being kind and respectful to themselves and others. While there are specific learning objectives for each topic, you may find that other learning objectives are achieved within many of the activities.

Implementation

Scouters: The SFH Youth Programme is designed to provide Scouters with resources that will assist youth members in developing and planning a rounded programme cycle. They are not intended as a standalone programme but as an integrated resource within our current ONE Programme.

Youth Members: The SFH Youth Programme provides youth members with ideas for activities that they can build into their programme cycle during the planning process. The activities create opportunities to explore kindness, respect for self & others and responsibility in an age-appropriate manner.

Benefits include:

- A safer, more inclusive Scouting environment.
- Increased awareness of safeguarding.
- A stronger sense of community within SI and the world in general.
- The opportunity for self-exploration and discovery.
- Building trust between peers and adults.

Safe From Harm Youth Programme Award.

Sections level: If a section completes one activity in each of the seven areas, they can apply for the SFH badge for each member of the section who has taken part in the activities.

To achieve a Group Award, the following criteria must be met:

- The entire Group completes **one full Group activity**, *or* two **joint activities between sections**.
- In addition, **three sections must each complete an individual activity**.

Example:

- Option 1: One full Group activity.
- Option 2: Beaver Scouts & Cub Scouts complete one joint activity **plus** Scouts & Venture Scouts complete one joint activity.

In both cases, three different sections must also complete their own individual activities.

