



3rd Monaghan Carrickmacross Scout Group Booklet 2019



Welcome everyone to the Group Booklet of 3rd Monaghan Carrickmacross Scout Group. It is designed to give some insights into the Scout Group and the programmes it offers to the young people in our community.

From Beaver Scouts through to Rover Scouts, I can assure you Scouting is a game second to none. The programmes offered are run to the highest standards laid down by Scouting Ireland. They help to develop young people's independence, leadership skills and their appreciation of the out of doors as well as the progressive schemes applied to each age range.



When you and your child become members of 3rd Monaghan Carrickmacross you will begin to see the real value that Scouting has to offer.

This booklet will go through:

- Small history of Scouting
- The communication systems that are in place in the group.
- The structure of the group and where you fit in.
- The expectations of the members of the group as regard to Leaders, youth members and parents.
- New developments in the group and important dates for the group

Please read this booklet carefully and fill out the necessary forms and if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact your section Leader or me at the number below.

Thank You and I look forward to scouting with you during the year.

Frank Jones, Group Leader, 087 6687246

History of Scouting

Scouting was founded by Baden Powell in England when he published his weekly magazine "Scouting for Boys" in 1907.

Within six months Scouting had started in Ireland with Troops in Greystones and Dundalk.



Scouting is now the Worlds largest youth organisation with over 30 Million Scouts in over one hundred and eighty countries.

Scouting is more than a Youth Organisation; it has a very well defined educational programme which tries to empower young people through the Scout Method. The Scout Method encourages young people to learn by doing, it encourages leadership, responsibility and instils value systems that will give them grounding for life.

Local History

The Carrickmacross group was established in 1932 by Christy Boyle who lived on O'Neill Street. The first troop was invested on the front lawn of the Catholic Church in May of 1932. Our group went mixed in 2003 thus giving girls a chance to enjoy the fun of Scouting and the group went from strength to strength.

So from humble beginnings in 1932 of 2 leaders and 16 scouts we have grown this year to having over 50 Leaders and 190 members with our own scout den and campsite.

Communications

National Website:

Scouting Ireland has a national website that goes through parental information, ONE Programme, Programme Sections and the important Code of Good Practice that all members adhere to, and much more that will give you as a parent more information and background into Scouting.

www.scouts.ie

Scouting Ireland have recently created a new online membership management system which can be seen at the following link - <https://my.scouts.ie>. During the year the group will be sending an invitation to you through the email address provided on the Activities Consent Form to register onto this system. This will enable you and your child to look at their scouting profile on the system.

Group's Facebook page:

The group has a **Facebook page** – “Carrickmacross Scout Group” for some information and photos of the sections on activities.

Text System:

The group has a text system in place and over the year you will receive a number of texts. To make sure that you are signed up for the texts fill in the activities consent form and tick the box for the text system, if you are still not on the system please let your Section Leader know.

Notes Home:

Over the year each section will give the youth members notes/letters to be taken home regarding activities, registration fees, etc. These notes will also be put up on the facebook page for information. If you have any questions regarding these notes please talk to your Section Leader.

Structure of Group

Programme Sections:

Scouting provides a non-formal education environment where young people are given the opportunity to develop in 6 prescribed areas – Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual – each of these areas tackled in an age appropriate way.

Beaver Scouts (7 – 8 years)



Beaver scouts are the youngest programme section in Scouting Ireland and is a 2 year programme which allows each young person to progress at their own pace through a number of badges – called Bree, Ruarc and Conn together with Special Interest Badges and Adventure Skills. The beavers work together in small groups called ‘Lodges’

The Beaver Scout Sections meet on Mondays from 7pm to 8:30pm and Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Section Leaders are Ciaran Garvey (087 6988656) and Vanessa McMullen (087 2264876).

Cub Scouts (9 - 11 years)



The cub section programme is called ‘Lands of Adventure’ where cub scouts will travel through different lands to take up challenges and adventures to progress their knowledge. Cub Scouts are awarded badges to show their progress these are called – Turas, Taisteal and Tagann. Cub Scouts can also gain Special Interest Badges and Adventure Skills and work in small groups called ‘Sixes’

The Cub Scout Sections meet on Mondays from 7pm to 8:30pm and Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. Section Leaders are Lisa Gollogly (087 6996735) and Brian Marron (087 9139290).

Scouts (12 -15 years)

The logo for Scouts, featuring the word "SCOUTS" in orange capital letters on a dark green rectangular background.

Scouts also use travel as their way to pursue challenges, following the great explorer Tom Crean, using the Crean Adventures. Scouts set challenges for themselves and their patrol. The Crean Awards display the progress that scouts have made – the awards are called Discovery, Terra Nova, Endurance and Polar. Scouts also work towards Special Interest and Adventure Skills badges. Scouts work in small groups called 'Patrols'.

The Scout Section meets on Thursday evenings from 8pm to 9:30pm. Section Leader is Chris Duffy (087 9063528).

Venture Scouts (15 – 17)

The logo for Venture Scouts, featuring the words "VENTURE SCOUTS" in a stylized, light green font on a dark blue rectangular background.

When a young person progresses into Venture Scouts, their development in the 6 areas are self-directed using small groups called 'Crews' – these crews will create their own personal challenges and adventures within a framework. They work towards gaining badges called Suas & Trasna and their adventure programme is called 'Fiontar'.

The Venture Scout Section meets on Friday evenings from 8pm to 9:30pm.

Rover Scouts (18 – 26)

The logo for Rover Scouts, featuring the words "ROVER SCOUTS" in a bold, black font on a bright yellow-green rectangular background.

This is when the youth member becomes an adult in the association and they have a choice of becoming a Leader or Rover or both. The Rover programme revolves around projects involving: Adventurous, Social, Skill Building, Environmental and Service.

Group Council

The Scout Group Council is the managing body of the group and it makes decisions on things like: Budgets and finances, new Leaders, training, group projects and managing the day to day running of the group.

There are also group meetings which members include the Group Leader, Group Officers, Leaders from each section, members of the Parents and Friends Committee, etc. There is also youth representation at the group level through the system of youth councils and fora.

Parents and Friends Committee:

In order to support the Leaders in implementing an exciting adventurous programme for all the members, the Parents and Friends Committee help hugely behind the scenes with fundraising, admin and also gives parents a chance to feed ideas, etc into the group through the committee and Group Meetings.

The Parents and Friends committee are elected each year at the Annual Parents Meeting of the Group and members usually serve for a year or two. The group expects every parent to support and promote fundraising events that are organised throughout the year so as to maintain the quality of Scouting in the group and help keep the membership fees the cost of events at a reasonable level.

Please let the Group Leader know if this is something you might like to help out with for a specific amount of time.

Membership

Leaders:

Our dedicated team of over 50 Leaders are an indispensable asset to the group and without their commitment the group wouldn't be able to function properly.

Each Leader is registered with the National Association, Scouting Ireland, and are Garda Vetted through the application process. They also attend a number of training courses over their time as a Leader, these include: Safeguarding, 1st Aid, Programme Planning, Skills, etc.

All sections in the group operate an **Open Door Policy** and Parents should always feel free to call in and see any of the programme sections in operation. ***If any parent has any issue/concern whatsoever about their child's participation in the group, the activities they partake in or their supervision, they should bring it to the attention of the Section Leader or the Group Leader without delay.***

The welfare and safety of the members of 3rd Monaghan Carrickmacross Scout Group is the principal priority at all times. The scout group operates under the guidelines of the '**Code of Good Practice**' the child welfare and protection policy laid down by Scouting Ireland. This policy can be found in each section room or on www.scouts.ie and states that all adult leaders in the association should strive to protect all members from physical, emotional and sexual harm whilst in their care. We have a dedicated Child Protection Officer within Scouting Ireland who can be contacted on 01-4956300 if you or anyone has any child protection concerns.

Youth Members:

Membership Fees:

After over 5 years of no change this year's membership fees will increase to €170. This increase is mainly due to an increase of the affiliation and insurance fees to Scouting Ireland. These fees also go to the running of the Group as a whole and are an integral part of running the section meetings to the standard that we do. They are used for the section meetings, Leader training, hall and campsite upkeep, etc. We currently have one of the best equipped scout groups in this region with our own hall and campsite so all monies received is put to good use. However with this increase each section will be extra vigilant to keep cost of camps and events to a minimum.

We are going to collect the fees in the usual three instalments again this year.

- The **first** instalment of €70 will be collected at the registration night on the **4th September**
- The **second** of €50 is due on the on the week ending on the **29th November**
- The **third** of €50 is due on the week ending on the **7th February**

We would really appreciate it if you could all have the fees paid on time this year, although the majority do pay on time there is a small number that we have to keep reminding and this takes up unnecessary time and resources. We will send out a group text a week before each due date to remind you all.

If for any reason anyone is having difficulty paying please contact your child's section leader in the strictest confidence.

The process of collecting the instalments are as agreed at the group council and it is as follows:

- Reminder text sent the week of instalment due
- 1 week after date - Individual text to parents
- 2 weeks after date – Letter posted from Group to parent
- Receipts given to the parents when payment is made

All sections try to keep costs of activities, camps, etc as low as possible.

The twelve days of Christmas tickets will be available from the end of October and money collected can be offset against the dues. Any excess money can be offset against weekends and annual camp fees only as per previous years.

Uniform and Programme Books:

Scouting is a uniformed organisation and all sections in the Group wear the prescribed uniform laid down by Scouting Ireland. The uniform provides an identity for the scouts and gives them a real sense of belonging to the group.

Each of the Sections wears a slightly different uniform to distinguish between them. All members of the Group wear a Blue and Yellow Neckerchief, our group's colours, available from the sections.

- Beavers wear light blue sweat top and pull-up trousers
(Approx Cost €40)
- Cubs Wear dark Blue sweat Top and pull-up trousers
(Approx Cost €40)
- Scouts ,Ventures, Rovers and leaders wear a Blue Shirt & Cargo Pants
(Approx Cost €60)

Details and pictures of the uniform are available on The Scout Shop website www.thescoutshop.ie and are to be purchased from the website.

The Parents & Friends committee manage a second hand swap shop for uniforms, etc. If you have a uniform you no longer need or would like to pick up a bargain, contact Sharon Finnegan on 087 7408129.

Parents should desist from purchasing a uniform until indicated to do so by the leaders of the section. It takes some new members a while to settle in and decide if their new section is for them. Scouting Ireland branded hoodies, t-shirts, etc can also be purchased in The Scout Shop.

Activities/Meetings:

Over the year each section will have a number of meetings and activities and for each member to be fully insured, etc an “**Activities Consent Form**” must be completed for each member. This form and also the managing medications form (if needed) will be given out with this booklet. Please fill in the form with as much accuracy as possible and hand it back to the section Leader as soon as you can to ensure the outmost welfare and safety for your child. All personal data will be collected, used and disposed of in accordance with GDPR Guidelines.

For your child to get the most from their scouting experience it is important that they attend as many meetings and activities as possible, with the annual camp (usually during the summer) being especially important as it is the highlight of the year.

Each section has their own code of conduct/behaviour that goes through what is expected of the youth members during their scouting time

and each parent and youth member should familiarise themselves with these codes and also the possible responses to breaking the codes. The Scout Law and Promise are the underlying principles for the codes of conduct in each section.

Note: Parents should ensure that a leader of their child's section is present before leaving a Beaver, Cub, or Scout at the den. Just because the den is open does not mean that **a relevant leader is present**. Where a Beaver, Cub or Scout is to be collected from the den the Group asks that Parents do so at the appropriate time, as the environs of the den can be dangerous not only from horseplay but also from traffic on the road outside.

Parents Involvement:

When a youth member joins a section in the group the parents of that child also become members and are expected to help out with the Parents and Friend Committee with functions and events in the group from time to time and show their support for the leaders, all of whom give their time voluntarily.

You can also become more involved with the running of the group by taking on a role on the Parents and Friends Committee or even as a Leader in one of the sections. Any extra support that you can give would be much appreciated.

Campsite Location

The campsite is located beside Dun Na Rí forest park in Kingscourt. Take the right turn straight after the entrance to the forest park or you can park at Kingscourt GAA grounds and walk down to the campsite.

Important dates to remember:

There are a number of important dates throughout the year which includes:

- **Group Link Camp:** 14th – 15th September at the Campsite
- **Group Annual Parents Meeting:** Wednesday 20th November at the Scout Hall at 8pm
- **Group Investiture:** Friday the 18th October in the Church
- **Jason Thornton Trail :** Sunday the 9th February

Other important dates will be sent out through the text system.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet and for your support over the last number of years and in advance for your continued support over the coming year and we look forward to what the year will bring!

Visit our facebook page for more information and reports on sectional events, etc!

