

New Scouting Ireland Strategy Aims to Equip Young People Across Ireland for Life, Leadership and Citizenship

Scouting Ireland sets out a clear national vision to strengthen youth leadership, wellbeing and community participation through Scouting

25 May 2026: Scouting Ireland has launched its new Strategic Plan 2026 – 2029, *Building Tomorrow's Scouting Today*. The plan sets out a clear national vision for the Scouting Movement in Ireland, to support the development, wellbeing and leadership potential of young people across Ireland.

The new Strategic Plan responds to the growing challenges facing young people, including pressures on mental wellbeing, reduced social connection, and the need for safe, positive spaces where young people can build confidence, skills, and a sense of belonging.

Scouting Ireland is one of the largest youth movements throughout the island of Ireland, with over 28,000 youth members, who are supported by a further 10,000 trained adult volunteers across more than 420 Scout Groups. The new Strategic Plan focuses on strengthening that impact, ensuring more young people can access high-quality, youth-led programmes that foster active citizenship and helping create a better community, society and world.

Over the last 12 months, Scouting Ireland has established 20 new groups across Ireland, with ambitious plans to meet demand in as many communities as possible over the duration of the Strategic Plan, ensuring balanced sustainable growth led by quality programme and volunteers.

Speaking at the launch of the Strategy, Aidan Magner Chair of Scouting Ireland said: "Scouting Ireland has been at the heart of communities in Ireland for close to 120 years and the Strategic Plan 2026 – 2029 establishes clear building blocks for our future. Its successful implementation will ensure that by 2030 we are a stronger organisation which continues to deliver for our Youth members, our Volunteers and for wider society by securing a vibrant future for scouting in Ireland."

The plan is grounded in the Aim of Scouting Ireland: *to encourage the social, physical, intellectual, character, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, improve society.*

The strategy places young people at the centre of decision-making and programme delivery. Key priorities for Scouting Ireland over the four-year period include expanding youth leadership opportunities, strengthening safeguarding and wellbeing supports, improving accessibility and inclusion, and ensuring volunteers are well-supported to deliver safe, engaging and impactful experiences for young people.

CEO of Scouting Ireland, Seán Sheehan, highlighted the importance of Scouting for young people in a rapidly changing world, "This plan is about making sure Scouting continues to be a place where young people feel safe, supported and empowered. Our aim is simple: to help young people reach their full potential and contribute positively to Irish society, ensuring more families can benefit from the positive, life-shaping experience Scouting offers."

In February this year, Scouting Ireland became one of the first National Scout Organisations in the World, to be awarded the Safe from Harm Assessment (SfH) by the World Organisation for

the Scout Movement (WOSM), validating the rigour of the current systems in line with best international practice.

The official launch of the Strategic Plan was held at Larch Hill, Scouting Ireland's national centre in Tibradden, and marks a national milestone for the organisation, bringing together Scouting Ireland leadership, volunteers and young people to share the vision behind the plan and its impact on communities across Ireland.

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Images Credit

Scouting Ireland / George Archer.

About Scouting Ireland

Scouting Ireland is the largest non-formal education youth movement on the island of Ireland with over 40,000 members and volunteers. During the year beaver, cubs, scouts and venture scouts learn key skills for life such as leadership, communication skills, personal responsibility, teamwork, the ability to work with others and the tools to deal with many of the challenges impacting them today such as bullying, self-esteem and lack of confidence.

The full Scouting Ireland Strategic Plan 2026-2029 is available on the Scouting Ireland website, <https://www.scouts.ie/about-scouting-ireland/mission-aim-strategy>