



SEPTEMBER 2025

# 115th Ballinteer Scout Group Welcome to our Scout Family



## September 2025 and time for another scouting year to begin!

We're returning after a packed summer of camps and activities and we're looking forward to getting back to our weekly meetings. We've put together this welcome letter to explain some basic information about the group and to cover the rules and requirements we need every member and their grown-ups to agree to. **We will go forward with the understanding that everyone has had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with its contents and we welcome any questions or comments.**

115th Ballinteer scout group is part of Scouting Ireland and as such there are certain rules and safeguarding that we must comply with. Although each section operates independently during the week, there are some basic rules, requirements, and fundamentals that the leadership team has agreed on to operate in the best way possible.

This September we have many returning children, some progressing to new sections and some who are brand new to our scout group. Every section runs differently but in general meetings have a similar structure. Weekly meetings are usually 1-2hrs long and most happen at the scout den, with occasional offsite meetings for hikes, special events, or practicing specific skills. We aim to cater to the age group and interests of the section members. During meetings, members split up into small working groups to get to know each other, plan and review activities, or work together on a challenge or a skill. We play lots of games that are fun but give opportunities for teamwork, leadership, practicing communication, and gaining confidence. We also work on scout skills like pioneering, first aid, backwoods, camping, and hiking amongst other things. **Please check with your section leaders as to the uniform requirements for your child's specific section.**

We try to start meetings promptly and begin with roll calls in case of emergencies, so it is important that members arrive on time. For safety, shortly after the meeting has begun we close the front door and we may not hear knocking on the door. **If your child is late please do not leave them until you know they are safe inside and a leader has been made aware that they have arrived.** Leaders will be unlikely to look at their phones during the meetings so please do not rely on that as a way of notifying them if it's after the start time.

## Section details

2 BEAVER COLONIES (SNR INF (6) - 2ND CLASS)  
WEDNESDAY 6.30-7.30  
FRIDAY 6.30-7.30

2 CUB PACKS (3RD-5TH)  
MONDAY 6.30-8  
THURSDAY 6.30-8

2 SCOUT TROOPS (6TH CLASS-3RD YR)  
MONDAY 8-9.30  
THURSDAY 8-9.30

1 VENTURE GROUP (4TH YR TO 18YRS OLD)  
THURSDAY 8-10

1 ROVER GROUP (18YRS-25YRS)

IN ORDER TO STAY WITHIN LEADER RATIO AND TO RUN A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMME FOR OUR MEMBERS, WE HAVE LIMITS ON NUMBERS AND ARE STRICT ON MEMBERS TRANSITIONING TO THE NEXT STAGE WHEN THEY ARE IN THE CORRECT CLASS.

FOR UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT VISIT [THESCOUTSHOP.IE](https://www.thescoutshop.ie)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SCOUTING IN GENERAL VISIT [SCOUTING.IE](https://www.scouting.ie)

## HEALTH FORMS AND ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Each year we ask parents/guardians to fill out a health and information form for each member of the group. This is an important document and **it is essential that a new form is returned each year so we have up-to-date information for each child.** The form only takes a few minutes to complete and is a mandatory requirement from Scouting Ireland.

The form is an opportunity to share any information that will help leaders understand any adjustments or considerations they need to make when planning activities or organising the program.

Completed forms are kept safe and confidential and are only accessed by the necessary leaders, so we ask that you be as open as possible so your child's leaders can be as well informed as possible. If there is an issue that you feel is better explained in person, please contact your leader team and organise a time to meet them to discuss it. The leader teams want to help every member have the best experience they can and understanding each person's needs helps them to do this.

**Members cannot attend meetings or activities if we do not have a current health form for them on file.**

## WHATS APP GROUPS

In recent years sections have used Whatsapp to stay in contact when possible. As part of the health and information form, we ask for consent for including members in photos. The groups are only open to parents/guardians and the Leader team and these photos should not be shared outside of the group unless the photo is only of your child. Unfortunately, we've had an incident where members were picked on by peers as a result of shared photos. Our priority is to protect our youth members and therefore if there is any indication that the rules of the group are not being respected, we will return to just written messages.

## THE SCOUT DEN

Our group is in the very privileged position of having our own building in which to run our meetings. The building was fundraised and paid for by members and their families. The maintenance and upkeep of the den also fall to the group so it is important that all members do their part and respect our group home. Leaders and older members meet when needed to help sort, clean, redecorate and repair what we can. We are always happy for help, guidance, and support and often we reach out to our community (and our families) when a job is beyond our abilities. We are trying our best to maintain the grass out the front of the den so we ask that no one parks there. If you ever notice suspicious activity around the den, please notify the leader team.

## THE LEADER TEAM

**Our group could not exist without our team of adult volunteers who really go above and beyond to make everything happen.** The leaders have a variety of backgrounds and skill sets, some have children in the group and many were youth members in the group in the past. All our leaders believe that scouting is a great opportunity for our members and believe in the benefits it can have for each individual. Leaders are Garda vetted and have completed child safeguarding and leadership training. As well as weekly meetings, leaders give their time for additional training, planning meetings, weekend activities, admin duties and den maintenance and quite often have to help out other sections to cover leader absences.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

As our leader team are all volunteers who are running our group in their free time, we are happy willing to have support from the families of our members. Small actions like returning forms or replies, dropping and collecting on time, giving leaders notice of non-attendance in plenty of time, all make a big difference.

We are always looking for new leaders to help out at weekly meetings or just at activities. Please let any of the section leaders know if you are interested or know anyone who is.

**Many in our community have skills that would be so welcomed or even just a willingness to help out with maintenance, admin or other easy tasks that would make a huge difference to the group. If that's you, we'd love to hear from you!**