



Scouting Ireland

Venture Scout Challenge

Participant Criteria



This document has been developed in conjunction with the Programme Commissioner (Venture Scouts) in order to ensure that a minimum standard is upheld by participants in attempting to complete the Venture Scout Challenge Award. Updated 2014.

The Scouting Ireland Venture Scout Challenge Award

The Venture Scout Challenge is the challenge of a lifetime that is available to Venture Scouts aged over 15 on the day of departure and 18 or under on the 31st August of the year of departure. It is a chance to undertake an expedition over five to six days that brings a real understanding of our country, its people and way of life. It is designed to help young people develop a real understanding of the environment we live in by traveling through the country, working as a small team to complete a series of projects, and, most importantly, by meeting local people.

The basic elements of the Scouting Ireland Venture Scout Challenge Expedition are as follows:

1. Five to six days of traveling covering a minimum of 100 km of countryside through towns and villages.
2. Keeping a log of your journey and experiences.
3. Completing a number of prescribed projects assigned to you by the Expedition Team.
4. Completing the Special Interests Badge agreed prior to departure with the Expedition Team.
5. Living on a limited budget.
6. Successfully completing the adventure skills aspect of the challenge.

The way in which you carry out these challenges is as important as completing them. Over the course of the Venture Scout Challenge Expedition you and your teammate must do your personal best and demonstrate that you have done so through the Scouting Method and in line with the Scout Law & Scout Promise.

The Scouting Ireland Venture Scout Challenge Awards

The Scouting Ireland Venture Scout Challenge Awards shall consist of the following three levels:

1. Certificate.
2. Certificate & Badge.
3. Certificate, Badge & Challenge Woggle.

The **Certificate** shall be awarded to those individuals who take part in all or some of the expedition and have not been removed from the expedition for reasons contrary to the Scout Method.

The **Badge** shall be awarded to those individuals who satisfy the requirements of the Certificate and in addition complete the required distance, within the specified time frame, within budget and attempt all of the prescribed projects and Special Interest Badge.

The **Challenge Woggle** shall be awarded to those individuals who satisfy the requirements of the Certificate and Badge; and in addition complete the logs, prescribed projects and Special Interest Badges and the designated Adventure Skill Element to meet the criteria as outlined in this document.

In all instances the "year-specific badge" may only be worn by the recipients of the award of that year, and may be worn on the Scout Uniform for life.

In all instances the "Challenge Woggle" may only be worn by the recipients of the award, and may be worn on the Scout Uniform for life.

It must be noted that the timelines and procedures of the appeals process as outlined in NE 5 applies in all instances where a recipient wishes to appeal the decision of the Expedition Team.



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The Scouting Ireland Venture Scout Challenge Award Criteria

The Scouting Ireland Challenge Award Criteria will be split into six sections for explanation purposes as follows:

1. The integration and adherence to the Scout Method.
2. The requirements with respect to Distance and Budgets.
3. The compilation of the Log Book.
4. The conducting and reporting on, the prescribed challenges.
5. The conducting and reporting on, the Special Interests Badge.
6. The completion of designated Adventure Skills Elements.

It must be noted that the criteria detailed in this document are the standard requirements and should not be seen as absolute.

Where participants have physical, mental or learning disabilities it will be at the discretion of the Event Expedition Leader in consultation with the Programme Commissioner (Venture Scouts) to treat each case separately and agree the most appropriate manner in which the criteria are challenged as necessary to reflect the abilities of the said participant.

The purpose of this document is to outline the criteria that will be used by the Venture Scout Challenge Assessment Team during the course of the expedition. It has been created so that you, the participant, will be aware of the criteria under which you are being assessed. It will give you a more informed idea of what aspects the assessors will be focussing on during the course of the review.

Some things to remember...The Assessment Team are not present on the event to prevent you from achieving the Venture Scout Challenge Award. Their role will be to ensure that there is a high standard of participation and to assess each participant as to whether they have completed all of the necessary components of the challenge as set out in the six sections below.

It must be noted that a scoring system is not utilised as part of the assessment process. Each team is reviewed [by the assessors and the participants themselves] in their own right and a mutual agreement involving all parties regarding the type of Award is strived for in all instances.



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PART ONE: The integration and adherence to the Scout Method

What does this mean?

Adults and Young People working together

Adults act as coaches to Venture Scouts they are there to motivate the Venture Scouts but to let them make their own decisions, except if there are any legal, moral or safety implications of the decision.

Learning By Doing

Take ownership of things and take a hands-on approach to learning. Look for a reason why you do things instead of dismissing it because you don't understand.

Service and Commitment

You can make an impact, as you go along the road by being willing to help others or do something for the community you pass through. Also, remember that you have a commitment to the people you represent at home.

Personal Progression

Take ownership of the goals and challenges you have. It is your responsibility to stand and be counted for your own personal development.

Symbolic Framework

You are on a journey in more ways than literally. The journey is part of a symbolic approach to getting ready for the real world. The meaning behind these symbols takes on greater importance.

Small Group System

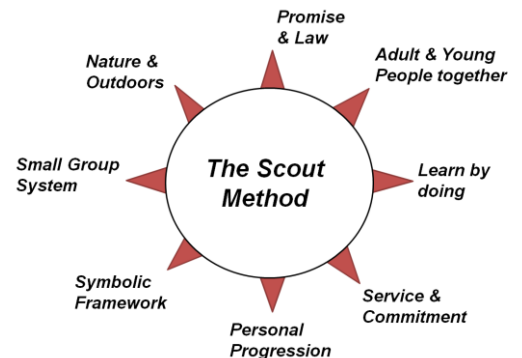
Working as a team to achieve a common task is part of the Challenge. There is also the chance to show teamwork and leadership working together and not dominated by either. This is about shared responsibility.

Nature & Outdoors

There is a need to take responsibility here as well. It is all about Conservation and Preservation of the environment and the realisation that everyone has an impact on Nature, and what we need to do is minimise our effect.

Promise and Law

This is the glue that holds everything together. You have taken a Promise and commitment to the Law. Now you have to show your understanding of the Scouting Spirit and the Duty you have to fulfil to yourself, to others and to a higher power.



The rules and guidelines for behaviour for the Venture Scout Challenge as for any scouting activity is the Scout Method. Participants found to be in breach of the scout method will jeopardise their chances of receiving the Venture Scout Challenge Award, and more importantly those found to be in breach of the Scout Law & Scout Promise will be **dismissed** from the expedition.

See the Venture Scout Challenge, Scout Method Tool Box for further clarification



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PART TWO: The requirements with respect to Distance and Budgets

1. You and your partner must complete 100 km by foot.
2. You may not double count distance, if you cover the same path twice. Hence you should not re walk your path unless necessary or by choice.
3. The living expenses budget must be accounted for by means of receipts and evidence of forward planning must be included in the team logbook in the form of a living expenses cash flow projection – updated daily.

PART THREE: The compilation of the Log Book

In order to achieve the minimum standard of Venture Scout Challenge Award, your logbook must as a minimum:

1. Give a comprehensive account of your total time spent on the challenge. Illustrations and/or photographs should supplement your written work.
2. Contain full details of the people you interacted with throughout the course of any given day. Evidence of how you embraced the local culture as a result of these interactions must be clearly demonstrated in your account.
3. Show details of your daily journey and distance covered by way of illustrated and well-referenced maps.
4. Show details of all other daily expenditure supported by receipts plus evidence that you put proper planning into how you would use your allocated budget.
5. Give details of how you followed a balanced diet on a daily basis supported by detailed menus.
6. Clearly show that both team members have made equal and individual contributions throughout the completion of the log.



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PART FOUR: The conducting and reporting on, the Prescribed Challenges - Team Effort

In order to achieve the minimum standard of Venture Scout Challenge Award each of your individual projects must

1. Comprehensively meet all of the aims that are outlined within the specific project.
2. Illustrations and/or photographs must supplement all written work where applicable.
3. Contain full details of the people you interacted with to assist in the completion of each project.
4. Clearly show how you embraced the local culture as a result of these interactions.
5. Clearly demonstrate that you have learnt something new by undertaking the project.
6. Clearly demonstrate a detailed understanding of the project that you undertook.
7. Clearly show that both team members have made equal and individual contributions throughout the completion of the prescribed challenges.

PART FIVE: The conducting and reporting on Special Interests Badge (SIB)

In order to achieve the minimum standard of the Venture Scout Challenge, each of your SIBs must:

1. Comprehensively meet the measurable you identified (Minimum 3 measurables).
2. Illustrations and/or photographs must supplement all written work where applicable.
3. Contain full details of the people you interacted with to assist in the completion of each SIB.
4. Clearly show how you embraced the local culture as a result of these interactions.
5. Clearly demonstrate that you have learnt something new by undertaking the project.
6. Clearly demonstrate a detailed understanding of the project that you undertook.

Each participant must achieve the SIB s/he has chosen in order to satisfy the criteria





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PART SIX: The completion of ALL designated Adventure Skill Elements – Hillwalking - Paddling – Backwoods

In order to achieve the minimum standard of Venture Scout Challenge award, you must:

(A) Hillwalking

1. You and your partner must successfully complete by foot the prescribed mountain route (the distance covered on this is included in the overall 100km to be completed during the Challenge) and be capable of the necessary navigation skills to complete this route.
2. An accurate and detailed route card completed by you and your partner in the preceding days of the event must be submitted to staff at the designated start point before beginning this aspect of the challenge.

(B) Paddling

1. You and your partner must successfully complete the prescribed paddling route and be capable of the necessary skills to complete this route.
2. You and your partner must show a clear understanding of the necessary safety precautions while on and off the water.

(C) Backwoods

3. During the expedition, you and your partner must construct and spend at least one night in a backwoods shelter. This shelter must be completely dismantled after use and no physical evidence left.
4. During the expedition at least one of your meals should be prepared and cooked backwoods style. There should be no physical evidence of this left behind.

Subject in all designated Adventure Skills

5. There should be a clear knowledge of the requisite personal & group equipment needed to successfully complete these adventure skills (This also includes meals that will provide sufficient nourishment to sustain you while on the expedition).
6. Complete the prescribed projects assigned to you by the expedition team for the designated adventure skill.
7. The principle of Leave No Trace must be adhered to over the full duration of the expedition and in particular while on the Adventure skill elements.



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The Scouting Ireland Venture Scout Challenge Award Assessment Process

The Venture Scout Challenge Assessment process will follow the following procedure and will be overseen by the Assessment Team Lead who is appointed by the Programme Commissioner for the given expedition.

1. At check-in on the final day you will hand over the following [unless advised differently on the day of departure]
 - a. Log Book.
 - b. Challenges Book with prescribed challenges and Special Interest Badge Material [and any supporting material(s) as deemed necessary by you or the requirements]
 - c. Map with route clearly marked on it.
 - d. Remaining budget money [if any].
2. You will return to base camp and be introduced to your assessment team [made up of two Adult Scouters familiar with the aims, ethos and requirements of the Venture Scout Challenge and who have been trained to take on this role].
3. Your assessment team will over the next few days, read your Log Book, Challenges Book and SIB's in order to get a feel of your experiences on the road.
4. Your assessment team will then meet with you periodically over the next few days to discuss the contents of your Log Book, Challenges Book and SIB's, in order for you to realise the true value of your experiences.
5. In all instances during the assessment, you and your assessors will use the contents of this document as a guideline for recognising and evaluating your best efforts.
6. You and your Assessment team will strive to come to a mutual agreement based on your best efforts of what level of award you shall be awarded at the presentation ceremony [prior to the ceremony taking place].
7. The presentation meal will be in full Scouting Ireland uniform and the 3 levels of awards will be presented by the Chief Scout or his / her representative.



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