



# Our Scouting Journey

A Scouting Ireland Reflection and  
Evaluation Guide supported by SFNI

Quality Scouting Experience



## What is it all about?

**Looking back** at all we do in our Group, the activities we run, the fun and experiences we deliver and the impact this has for all our Group members is something we all do.

It may be something we consciously do, holding a conversation at the end of the night with our fellow Scouters or as part of the **Plan, Do, Review** process.

It may form part of an **activity evaluation** or even be as simple as having a quick chat asking a young person '**how they feel**' about something they have just done.

Regardless of how we '**look back**', reflection and evaluation is very much part of what we do.



## But why? What is it all for?

What this resource will do is **explore** the reason, purpose and benefits of adopting reflection and evaluation practice in all that you and your Group do.

It will also help to **demonstrate** the approaches and processes that are used within Scouting, highlighting how Groups work to ensure that the Scouting experience is the best that it can be.

By **recognising** and **understanding** all of the above, we as Scouters ensure that we deliver a **Quality Scouting Experience** for ourselves and our Groups.

Following the **standards** and **frameworks** expected in delivery and taking part in continuing reflection and evaluation all serve to strengthen our Scouting.

This resource will help **Scouters & Groups** appreciate what is it they do that works **really well** and acknowledge the areas they feel that they could **improve on**

## Where to begin...

As a reference point, for any type of reflection and evaluation it is always helpful to look at the **What**, **Why** and **How** behind what it is you do.

### The What we do

As Scouters we are dedicated to enabling and empowering young people to realise their potential. Our core values, based on the Scout Promise and Law, fostering active citizenship to help create better community; society and world; work together to help create opportunities for this potential to be realised.

### The Why we do it

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 How we do it

Voluntary membership of a group which, guided by adults, is increasingly self governing in its successive groups

The fostering of the individual good turn(s) and helping each other out; a commitment to Scouting's principles, and commitment to fellow Scouts and the Scout Group.

Commitment to a code of living as expressed in Promise & Law, the meaning of which is expanded as the member grows in maturity

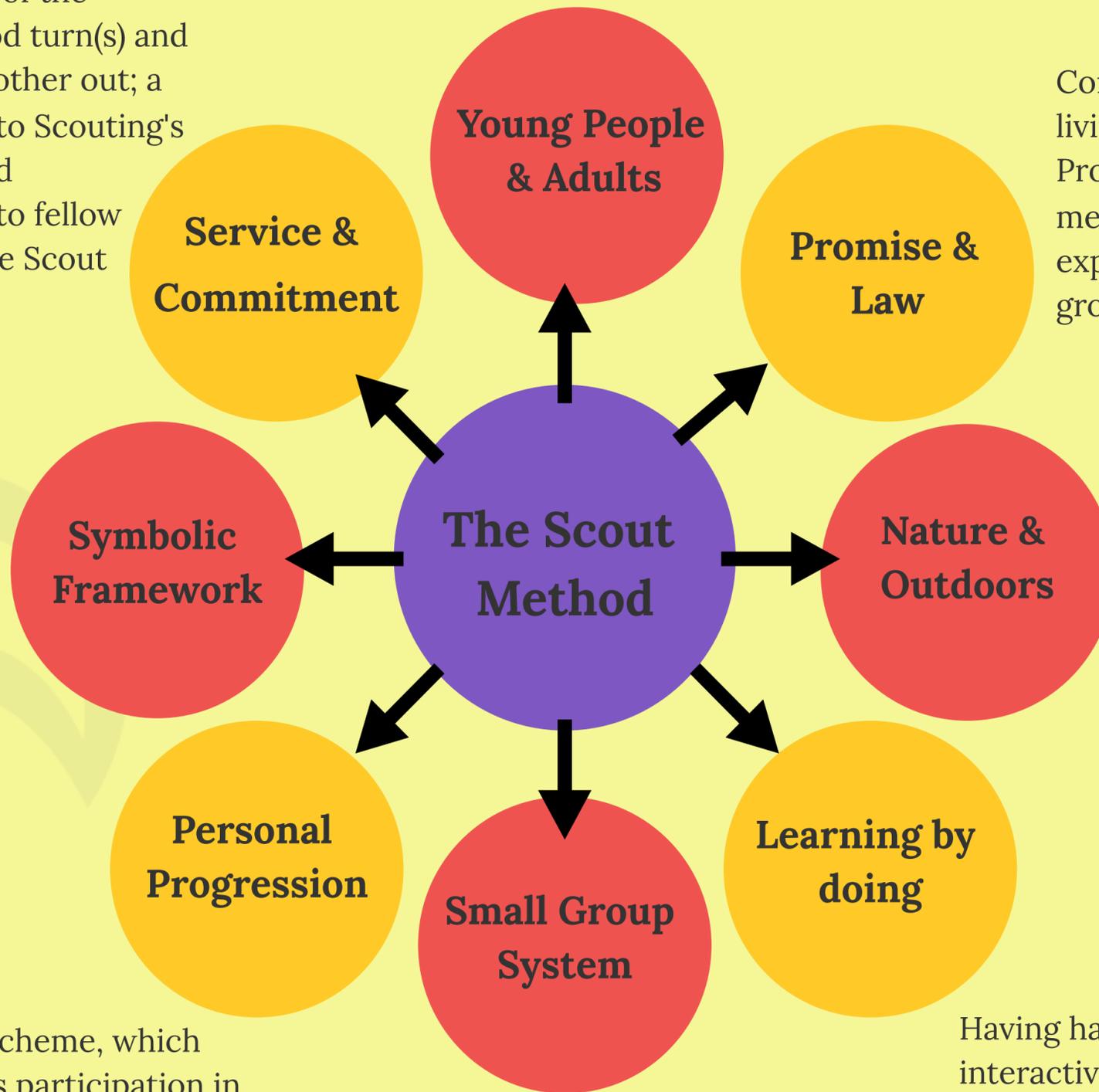
The use of words, names, stories etc. on a specific theme which stimulates the imagination and provide purpose for activities

Outdoor activities, adventure and exploration of nature give endless possibility for how the world shapes development of the young person

An award scheme, which encourages participation in its full range of activities and provides recognition and group achievements.

The basic organisational structure of Scouting. Young people experience adventure and challenge in small teams.

Having hands-on and interactive activities allowing young people to take ownership over what they do.



# The Scouting Experience

How you go about the delivery of Scouting is very much going to be determined by a number of factors:

- The young people who make up your Group**
- The Scouters and Section Leaders in your Group
- The programme and activities that you deliver**
- The skills and training that you have or that you need to do this
- The governance and leadership in your Group**
- The support you access through Scouting Ireland, SFNI or any other funding body such as the Education Authority for example.

Regardless of these factors, there are **underlying methods** and **process** for Scouters to follow and use to make the Scouting Experience come alive; and the next few pages will highlight and illustrate this.



## The Scouting Experience:

### Who is involved and what do they do?

**Trustees, Scouters** and **young people** all come together to make the Group work. Each will bring something different to the Group, but work collectively to ensure the Scouting experience is the best that it can be.

**Trustees** look after how your Group is run, they ensure that all **registration, policy** and **guidance** is up to date and help support Leaders & Scouters in making Scouting happen.

**The Group Leader & Scouters** support the delivery of Scouting. Responsibility for **how** the Group is run, **how activities happen** and how the **Scout Method** is delivered.

Scouters will **reflect** on their abilities, plan future training and look at what may be required to add to their own **Scouting Journey**.

**Young people shape their own experiences.** They will explore what it means to belong to a group, plan their journeys, be supported by Scouters to make them happen, and reflect on their **experiences** and **learning**.

# The Scouting Experience: Delivery

**Trustees, Leaders & Scouters and young people** have their own roles and responsibilities in the delivery of Scouting. Knowing what these are and how these can be implemented all add together to demonstrate what good governance and quality looks like in the Scouting Experience.

Below are some more details regard the roles and expectations of those who make up the Scout Group:

## Trustee

- Make sure the group follows Scouting Ireland **guidance, policy** and **rules** and that **Scouting Values** are at the fore of all delivery.
- Oversee **registration** with Scouting Ireland and all other **Charity Commission** and other **Funding bodies**.
- Provide **due diligence** and **reporting** around group **finance** and **delivery**.
- Maintain **accurate records** and reporting of meeting agendas and outcomes.

## Leader/ Scouters

- Plan** and **create** a programme for their Section in **consultation** with young people.
- Use **Scout Programme Framework** to inform and guide activities and delivery.
- Identify **training needs** to develop themselves to assist in delivery of Scouting.
- Maintain **accurate records** regard consent, attendance, activities, completed programmes delivery and evaluations.

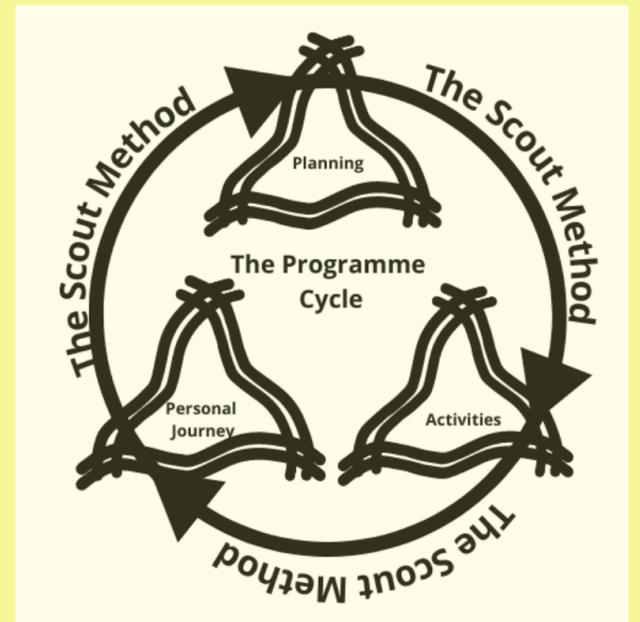
## Young People

- Work with Scouters to **choose the direction** their Scouting Journey will take.
- Follow the Scout Programme to track their **own achievements**.
- Engage in reflection and evaluation to **identify** skills and knowledge learning.
- Develop **their voice** to help support and work with peers to add to and shape the Scouting Experience.

# The Scouting Experience

## Plan, Do, Review- The Programme Cycle

Following the **Programme Cycle** makes it easy to understand and see the work and activities that make Scouting happen.



**Planning:** Working with young people to decide what **adventures** will be taking place over the next year. Explore ideas for **activities** and **events** and look at how these link into **SPICES**.

Draw up a **plan** and create a **timetable** or **calendar** so everyone knows what is coming up.

**Doing:** At its simplest this is just '**learn by doing**'. Activities and events that are planned need to be **hands on** and **practical** and support given for the young people to **learn new skills** and see how they have used them.

**Reviewing:** Looking back and **exploring** how activities have been run and **reflecting** on what has happened is fundamental to ensuring that young people **recognise and see** all that it is that they have achieved. It also helps Scouters reflect on their programme delivery and decide what worked well and what could be changed.

# Quality Scouting Experience

Understanding and using the approaches and actions required to run Scout programmes and activities can often seem like a daunting challenge.

Working collectively with everyone involved in the Group and making sure that they are aware of their role and responsibilities will make this challenge easier.

Both **Scouting Ireland** and **Scout Foundation Northern Ireland (SFNI)** can sign post and provide you with all the relevant policy, documentation, resources and training opportunities that will support you in running your Group.

## QSE

**Scouting Ireland** have also produced the **Quality Scouting Experience toolkit** and **support session** for Groups to link in with to better identify the work that they deliver and support reflection and evaluation of programmes and future direction.

What follows are a number of **QSE resources** that can be used to help identify, reflect and evaluate Scouting delivery and enable Groups to complete the full **QSE journey**.

**QSE**

## QSE- Starting the process

### Reflection

**To start the process** meet with your young people, either as a whole group or in their Sections.

With them, **identify** all the **activities, programmes and badges** that have been completed across the last **12 months** and record them.

Split the activities and learning across each of the **SPICES** headings, using **appropriate terms** depending on age- for examples working with Beavers or Cubs use heading like 'Working together' or 'Nature/ Outdoors' instead of Social and Spiritual etc.

Discuss with your group the '**best things**' about the programme and activities, explore the things that could be '**done differently**' and make note of '**actions to take**' for the future and record these for future planning.

**Completing this task will help you to evaluate the quality of your Scouting Experience-The following guide resources should also be used to help reflect on how the Group is managed and run.**

The best thing about this year's Scouting is...

Things we could improve on or do differently...

Actions we will take next year...

# QSE- A Guide to Being Safe



## Checklist

Access NI/ Garda Vetting up to date for all Scouters

List of other Training delivered to Scouters

Relevant policy easily accessible & understood

Safeguarding Training up to date for all Scouters

Risk Assessments updated for all activities

All permissions & consent properly filed

# QSE- A Guide for Good Governance



## Checklist

Trustee training up to date



Financial records maintained



Scouting Ireland registration complete



Charity Commission/ other funder registration



Relevant policy easily accessible & understood



Scouting Ireland database records up to date



# QSE- A Guide to Communication



## Checklist



Mailing lists signed up to



Young Person consent for images etc. recorded



Youth team/ Youth council platforms in place



GDPR Consent recorded



Platform for sharing information with parents in place



Reporting/ logs of activity up to date



## Next steps

The **aim** of this guide has been to present to you the **benefits** that **reflection** and **evaluation** hold, not only for **you**, your **Group** and your **delivery** of the **Scouting Experience**, but also highlight the role this process plays in ensuring the **quality** of Scouting and the continued **good governance** of your Group.

**Evaluating** and **recording** your activities and actions serves to illustrate how Scouting has been delivered and the impact it holds, so that others can easily understand this.

Engaging with the full **Quality Scouting Experience (QSE)** process will also provide Groups with a much deeper insight and ability to effectively identify, reflect on and evaluate the contributions made to successfully support young people to achieve their full potential.

**For more information** about QSE contact your Scouting Ireland Support Officer or visit <https://sfni.org/scouters/quality-assurance/>

**For support** accessing policy, guidance and programme documents contact SFNI staff or visit [www.scouts.ie](http://www.scouts.ie) or [www.ssfni.org](http://www.ssfni.org)



**Our Scouting Journey: Quality Scouting Experiences  
A Reflection and Evaluation Guide**

**Created by SFNI Programme Lead (06/22) with guidance  
taken from Scouting Ireland QSE Framework and the  
One Programme Scout Handbook**

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