

38th/40th Cork - Ballinlough Scout Group Membership Policy

Scouting in Ireland is a voluntary, uniformed, non-formal educational movement for young people. It is independent, non-political, open to all without distinction of gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of the Travelling Community, in accordance with the purpose, principles and method conceived by the Founder, Robert Baden-Powell as stated by the World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

The main object for which Our Scout Group is established is for the purpose of benefit to our community and beyond, to encourage, the social, physical, intellectual, character, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that those young people may achieve their full potential and, as responsible citizens, improve society.

It is the policy of the 38th/40th Cork Ballinlough Scout Group (the Group) to admit youth members, at the commencement of the Scout Year (September), where the:

- (a) youth member's parent/guardian (the Applicant) has expressed interest and joined the wait list, prior to the commencement of the Scout year, by completing the "join us" application form on the Group website; AND
- (b) youth member is within the age bracket for the applicable Scout section at the commencement of the Scout Year (Beavers 6/7/8 years old, Cubs 9/10/11 years, Scouts 12/13/14 years).

It is the policy of the Group not to discriminate on the basis of the following grounds, whether in respect of the youth member or the Applicant: Race or religion, Gender or sexual orientation, Civil or family status, Traveller community status or Disability or Special educational needs.

While it is the policy of the Group not to discriminate on the basis of:

Gender - it is the policy of the Group to strive for gender balance within sections where possible.

Disability or special educational needs - it is the policy of the Group to have an open discussion with Applicants about the Group's ability to provide reasonable accommodations and safely meet the support needs of youth members. If this discussion identifies a need for additional supports or accommodations, the Group Council will have input on whether and how those needs can be safely and reasonably accommodated.

It is the policy of the Group that any prior misconduct within Scouting Ireland (as defined in the Scouting Ireland Disciplinary Policy), by an adult volunteer or youth member, will be considered when assessing an application for membership or progression to the relevant section.

In the event that the relevant section (Beavers/Cubs/Scouts) would be oversubscribed based on the number of applications received, the following selection criteria will be applied (in order) when offering spaces to Applicants:

1. existing youth members moving between sections (eg: Cubs, moving to Scout section)
2. siblings of existing youth members
3. children of existing adult members
4. siblings or children of former members living within the LEA of Cork City South East (including the electoral divisions of Ballinlough A/B/C, Browningstown, City Hall B (Rochelle) and Knockrea A/B)
5. youth members living within the LEA of Cork City South East (as above)
6. youth members, selected at random, from those wait listed applications not meeting the above criteria.

This Policy was last reviewed and approved by the Group Council on 13th May 2026