Online and Use of Social Media Policy

10th Mayo Kiltimagh Scouts

The majority of this policy is that of Scouting Ireland. 10th Mayo Kiltimagh Scouts have added several addendums, as agreed by the Group Council, to that policy below, [**indicated as such**.]

Scouting Online and Social Media

While social network profiles are easy to set up and use, it is important that you keep a professional distance online, just as you would in the offline world. You should think carefully about how any digital communication might appear to a third party. Compared with a conversation in the real world, technology increases the potential for messages to be taken out of context and misinterpreted. For example, the use of sarcasm or innuendo would not be appropriate.

It is essential to remember that you are in a position of trust. If you have a website or have set up a profile or page on a social network for your group, bear in mind that once you place something there, it is in the public domain, which means people can access it, change it and share it with others.

Creating your Account

When choosing a name for your account, please observe the following:

- Social media accounts, pages or events should not be prefixed with "Scouting Ireland" or "National" unless advised by the Communications Commissioner.
- Social media accounts can use "Scouting Ireland" at the end of the account name.

Managing your Content

When setting up a Section or Group social networking account, we recommend that you:

- Monitor the site frequently, and set up activity notifications to help.

- Have at least two administrators, and preferably more.

- Provide a clear and direct method for users to contact the administrators.

Having multiple trusted administrator's means that inappropriate posts are far more likely to be identified and removed quickly, and providing a contact email address means that other users can let you know if they come across any inappropriate material.

It is also beneficial to post some information regarding your expectations of users, both adult and youth, what sort of interaction you'd like, and what might be unwelcome.

Guidance for Scouters

Remember you are in a position of trust as a Scouter.

- Remember that some services have a minimum age requirement. Many have a minimum age of 13, so be aware some members in your section may not be able to join.

- Conduct yourself in an appropriate way, as you would face to face - be aware of what you say and how you say it.

- Do not engage in one-to-one conversations with young people via chat facilities or instant messaging, this would preclude the use of messaging apps such as Snap Chat, KIK or any similar apps.

- The use of group chat apps such as WhatsApp is ok, but at least three Adults / Scouters should be included in the group. [**This should always include the section leader and deputy section leader, 10th Mayo]**

- Do not provide personal details about young people on your accounts, such as full names, school names, e-mail addresses, dates of birth, etc.

- Always ensure you have parental permission to use any photos of young people and only use their first names on any caption. This can be obtained from the Scouting Ireland Activities Consent Form (SIF-11/05), which is available from www.scouts.ie (All groups should have a copy of this for each Scout and have it updated annually).

- Only use appropriate photos, the sort that you would be happy putting on a public notice board - remember that everyone can view them.

- If you are concerned about the way a young person is attempting to contact you, report it immediately to your Group Leader (or appropriate member of Scouting Ireland).

- Don't use your personal social networking account to communicate with young people.

- Only set up pages for events, activities or groups for which you are responsible.

- Other advice on best practices for code of behaviour for Scouters can be found in the Scouting Ireland Code of Good Practice document (SID-39/05 refers).

- Failure to follow these guidelines could lead to disciplinary procedures, if in doubt seek advice, contact communications@scouts.ie

What are inappropriate posts?

If your content, or that posted by others, contains any of the following, it should be removed from the site immediately and the user should be blocked or reported where possible:

- Pornography or nudity

- Inappropriate language

- Graphic or gratuitous violence

- Sensitive or personal information

- Bullying, intimidation or harassment

- Hate speech, threats or attempts to incite violence

- Unlawful, misleading, malicious or discriminatory content
- Spam or advertising for a product or service that is not directly related to Scouting

Also remember that posts must comply with the terms of use of whatever website you are using. Occasionally a young user may unthinkingly post something inappropriate. In cases such as these it is fair to give the user a warning, or simply remove the offending post. There would be no need to block or report the user unless the problem persists.

If you find a post that presents you with serious cause for concern, take further action appropriate to the circumstances.

What if a post contains criticism of Scouting Ireland [or 10th Mayo]?

Scouting Ireland encourages and supports constructive criticism and debate amongst its members. Discussions of this nature can help resolve issues for individuals and can also provide excellent feedback to Scouting Ireland's management on areas where we need to improve.

However, we do ask that our members be mindful when posting criticism online, individuals should never be named in public posts, be aware that online posts can be seen by any number of other users, if a user has a genuine complaint, please advise them to follow correct procedures as per Scouting Ireland's policies and procedures. You can also e-mail communications@scouts.ie **[or contact your Group Leader]** if you have discovered content, either positive or negative, that you think Scouting Ireland **[or 10th Mayo]** should know about.

Additional Contacts

If you have a concern about the health safety and well-being of a youth member please contact the Child Protection Officer in Scouting Ireland National Office on 01 4956300 or e-mail cpo@scouts.ie.

Further Addendums by 10th Mayo Kiltimagh Scouts

- Adult Scouters should under no circumstances correspond with youth members in personal social media groups.
- Personal social media should not be used, by youth members or adult scouters, for the purposes of organising scouting activity.
- Responsibility for contacting parents / youth members remains with the section leader / deputy section leader.
- Whatsapp groups regarding 10th Mayo Activity / corresponding with parents should always include at least three adult scouters, to include the section leader and deputy section leader.
- All correspondance with youth members must be cc'd with youth members' parents.
- Without exception all communications / messages sent to any youth will be sent to all age appropriate youths in that group. All communications pertaining to 10th Mayo activities should be inclusive of all members of the group i.e. Beavers / Cubs / Scouts. Where possible

all youth members are to be offered the opportunity to take part and be included at all times.

This policy was agreed by 10th Mayo Group Council on _____. It will be reviewed and, if necessary revised, on _____.