

# 29<sup>th</sup> Dublin Blackrock Scout Troop



4<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Dear Parents,

Now that things are settling down, as section leader, I wanted to write a note of welcome for the new scouting year, introduce the leaders in the section and pass on some important information to you.

### **The new scout section has 5 leaders currently:**

Paul O'Loughlin Kennedy, Daragh Moore, Aoife Keogh, Steven Mackie and Kevin Baker.

This is a small number of leaders for a section this size and will get smaller as Aoife's college commitments will preclude her from attending meetings from Mid October. This leaves us in a very difficult situation and could result in us having to suspend meetings until we can find another female leader (ideally 2). So if anyone can make a commitment to assist at weekly meetings, or has a cousin, niece or friend, over the age of 18 we would be very grateful. Scouting experience is not necessary as training will be provided. We will need some assistance for some weekend activities so when you get notification of an activity please do consider if you would be able to come with us on the activity.

For your scout to get the most from the programme, participation is the key and while fun is part of everything we do, in order to have fun at meetings and on activities, it is necessary to have discipline. Disruptive messing will not be tolerated as it interferes with the running of the meetings and could affect the safety of other scouts.

### **The ONE Programme:**

Each Scout received their folder with the one programme books and activity skills book last year. They should have these still, as we will be using these at each meeting it is important that they bring these with them. Scouts joining this year will receive their books tonight. Scouts may, indeed are encouraged, to decorate the front of their folders – or at least put their name on it!

### **Meetings:**

These will take place from 7.30pm to 9.30pm each Tuesday evening during school term time. Please ensure that your scout is on time for meetings. If your scout is unable to attend, it is important that we know – please text me or even better.... please let your scout's patrol leader know beforehand. Your scout should ensure that they have a contact number for their Patrol leader. Please note that should a scout miss 3 meetings in a row without letting us know or having a reasonable excuse, we will have to review their position in the troop. If there is a special reason why your scout may be unable to attend for a period of time, please contact me to let me know in advance. We will not have a meeting on November 1st (mid-term). We will finish up for Christmas on December 13<sup>th</sup>, restarting on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Uniform:**

Scouting Ireland is a uniformed organisation and all members must have full scout uniform, which should be worn on most occasions. This comprises Neckerchief (29<sup>th</sup> Dublin), Scout Shirt, Scout Trousers (if a belt is required it should be a Scout Belt), and dark shoes.

For weekly meetings, the Scout Shirt and Necker are standard, the trousers and dark shoes may be replaced by a dark tracksuit and runners. Please make sure that your scouts uniform makes it into the wash every now and then!!! Activities will either require full uniform or just necker to be worn – Your scout will be told at the meetings what is appropriate.

### **Activities:**

In general, a sheet will be put up in the den and each scout planning to attend should sign up. Any parents who plan to attend also should sign up. Bearing in mind that we will need some parents on each activity.

### **Hike Sunday October 16<sup>th</sup> - Djouce Mountain**

Meet at the Crone Car Park at 11am. We need people to *be on time* – allow 60 minutes from South Dublin. Directions will be given out next week or possibly put up on the website....[www.29thdublin.org](http://www.29thdublin.org)

Expected return - to car park between 1630 and 1700hrs. Lifts will be required and should be arranged in patrols: Scouts need to know who will give them a lift home.

Neckerchiefs to be worn, NO JEANS, comfortable strong shoes/runners/hiking boots, waterproofs, warm gloves and hat, packed lunch, water, if you have a flask a hot drink is advisable.

### **National Aquatic Centre – Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup> – Details to follow later**

#### **Bag Pack – November 12<sup>th</sup> 10am to 7pm:**

We are very lucky to have secured a bag pack in Dunnes Stores - This is one of the great ways to raise funds and we will be looking for volunteers to do 3 hour slots – 10 to 1, 1 to 4 and 4 to 7. There are over 15 checkouts to be manned so Dads, Mums, Brothers and Sisters, Cousins, Aunts, Uncles and friends are all invited along – Dunnes insist that packers must be 14 or over – Scouts should be in full, neat uniform and everyone else will be given a necker or tee shirt to wear. A roster will be put up in the Den shortly so please do pop in to sign up.

#### **Den:**

Much work has been done in the last few years to improve the den and we are all benefiting. As someone said recently “ Lots done, More to do” !! There are plans to continue these improvements: Kitchen, toilets, showers, grounds maintenance.....Our children all benefit from whatever is done so if you can't commit to helping as a leader perhaps you could assist with fundraising, advice on renovations, help with the grounds...etc..... Please don't leave ALL the additional work to the leaders who are already very committed to the Group.

#### **Communications:**

Our preference for sending out letters is by email (saving the trees and all that ....!) but until we have established that all parents actually check their email on a regular basis (!) we will have letters to hand out as well. Should you want to contact the leaders you can email us on [29thblackrock.scouts@gmail.com](mailto:29thblackrock.scouts@gmail.com) or feel free to email me directly or call me on my mobile below. If it goes to messaging please leave your name AND phone number and mention the scouts name and I will call you back as soon as possible. I hope to be in the leaders room in the den from around 6.30pm most evenings before the meeting so if you need to speak to me you can find me there – just let me know you are coming down.

Yours in Scouting

*Paul*

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