 **September 2019**

**140Th Beaumont Scout Group**

**Group Leader**: Alan Dobbs **Deputy Group Leader**: Amy Caulfield

# SCOUTS ‘CODE OF PRACTICE’

# FOR ALL MEETINGS AND ASSOCIATED GROUP ACTIVITIES

**Note:** except where otherwise specified, the term ‘Scout’ applies to all youth members (under 18 years of age) of the various Sections of the Group and the term ‘Scouter’ applies to Adult members (over 18 years of age).

The 140th Beaumont Scout Group has set out the ‘Scouts Code of Practice’ below to achieve the following:

* the safe and efficient running of its meetings and associated activities that the Group undertakes;
* to maintain good order throughout all of the Sections of the Group for the enjoyment of all concerned;
* to encourage good behaviour through self-discipline and respect for others and their property, in accordance with the Scout Promise and Law;
* to ensure full participation, by each youth member, in the 140th’s Scout Programme.

#### Organisational Structure of the 140th Beaumont Scout

#### The organisational structure of the 140th Beaumont Scout Group is as follows:-

* Group Leader - the Group Leader has overall responsibility for the Group and its activities – all members of the Group should, when requested or directed by the Group Leader, follow any directive or such other request made by the Group Leader at all times.
* Deputy Group Leader(s) - the Deputy Group Leader(s) supports and assists the Group Leader with these responsibilities – all members of the Group should, when requested or directed by the Deputy Group Leader, follow any directive or such other request made by the Deputy Group Leader at all times.
* Group Council – consists of Group Leader, Group Chairperson, Deputy Group Leader(s), Secretary, Treasurer, Section Scouters, Group Quartermaster, Parents Representatives and Youth Representatives (Scouts).
* Scouters - i.e. adult members of the Beaver, Cub, Scout and Venture Sections are responsible for the normal day-to-day running of those Sections.

#### Behaviour

1. All Scouts are expected to be respectful to all Scouts and Scouters of the 140th Beaumont Scout Group at all times either while at meetings or associated activities;

2. Bullying, bad language or bad behaviour will **not** be tolerated, under any circumstances, in any of the 140th Beaumont Scout Group meetings or associated activities and will be dealt with in an appropriate manner.

### Uniforms

* 1. Each Scout must have a Scout uniform as Uniforms are **compulsory** and must be worn by **ALL** Scouts at **ALL** meetings, and at **ALL** associated Group activities, this includes, once the Scout has been invested, the 140th Beaumont Scout Group Necko**.** All items of uniform should have the members name clearly marked on them;
	2. The Group Leader may allow Sections to wear attire other than the full Scout uniform at certain Group meetings or activities;
	3. Badges must be returned when requested by a Scouter of a Section;

### Scout Den

* 1. Scouts are expected to treat the Scout Den and its environs with respect at all times.

7. Scouts must report any damages or breakages to a Leader.

### Meetings and Associated Activities

8. Scouts must attend all meetings and they or their Parent/Guardian should, if they are

unable to attend a meeting inform the Section Scouters. Any Scout who misses **3**

**consecutive meetings, without any notification being received** by the Section

Scouters, will be deemed to have let their membership of the Group lapse and a

replacement, from either a lower Section or the Group’s waiting list will take their

place in that Section.

9. Scouts should be left at, and collected from, meetings and activities **ON TIME**. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts **must** be collected **from the front gate** of the Scout Den at the end of each meeting – it is important that Beavers, Cubs and younger Scouts do **NOT cross the road unaccompanied**. They **will not** be permitted to leave the Scout Den area unless prior arrangements have been made between Parents/Guardians and the relevant Leader.

10. No responsibility will be accepted by the 140th Beaumont Scout Group if a Scout of

any Section leaves the Scout Den, or its environs, without prior arrangements being made with the relevant Leader.

11. All Scouts are expected to participate in all Scout Programmes and activities to the

 best of their ability and in a spirit of camaraderie and fun.

12. All Scouts must accept and obey instructions, and abide by such instructions, of the designated Scouter(s) while at meetings or on camp or any associated activities. Failure to do so will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

13. No food or chewing/bubble gum is permitted at meetings. Scouts can bring a drink, preferably water, to meetings in the event they get thirsty. No cans are permitted, only plastic bottles or beakers with lids, which must be taken home with the Scout.

14. Excessive jewellery is not permitted. This is not a cosmetic issue but a Health and Safety one. Hoop/dangly earrings, necklaces and rings can all lead to serious injury, to the wearer and others, during activities – **PLEASE LEAVE THEM AT HOME**.

15. Mobile phones or other similar electronic equipment are not permitted during meetings. If there is a necessity to bring a mobile phone to a meeting, it must be turned off on arrival and left in the kitchen in the Scout Den until the meeting is finished.

16. Mobile phones may be brought on camp etc., and are to be used only with the

Scouter’s permission or in the event of an emergency. **Under no circumstances are Scouts permitted to take photographs of other Scouts with their mobile phones.**

17. For Health and Safety reasons, Scouts are not permitted to wear ‘Roller Blades’ or any similar type of footwear with wheels at meetings or associated activities

18. In all matters relating to Section meetings and associated activities, the 140th

Group Committee reserves the right to take whatever action it deems necessary

where issues of discipline and/or misbehaviour occur and which it deems to be inappropriate.

19. The 140th Group accepts no responsibility for personal items lost, stolen or damaged

while Scouts are attending meetings or associated activities including camping trips or overnights.

20. It is very important that Scouts inform their Section Leader if they are unwell and/or

 require medication and/or become unwell during a meeting or associated activity.

21. Scouts are reminded that they should listen and follow directions, at meetings and

 associated activities, from their Scouter(s) and/or by their Sixer in the Cub Section

 and their PL (Patrol Leader) in the Scout Section.

### Camping/Overnight and/or other Activities

22. Scouts must assist Scouters in all the required preparations for camping trips or

overnights, this Includes:-

* + helping with the necessary organisation before, during and after such events,
	+ the assembling and disassembly of the equipment involved,
	+ the storage etc., of the equipment involved,
	+ the tidying of areas used during and after such activity,
	+ Parents/Guardians should be aware that lifts etc., may be required for such events,
	+ Scouts/Parents and Guardians should ensure, before they go home after such

 activities, that the Scouter(s) does not require any further assistance in any of the

 above areas.

23. At such activities, Scouters are supervisors and Scouts must always carry out the duties requested by their Scouters.

24. Scouts must ensure that they have the correct personal and camping gear, failure to do so will result in a Scout not being permitted to travel for hiking or camping activities.

25. Parents/Guardians are required to ensure that Scouts have the correct personal / camping gear for all our activities and should note that any Scout found not to have the correct personal/camping gear at an activity will be required to be collected and brought home by their Parent/Guardian.

### Disciplinary Procedures

It is very important to note that the following disciplinary procedures are in operation:- Scouts who consistently misbehave at meetings and/or associated activities will;

* 1. be verbally reasoned with and warned on 2 occasions by the Scouter(s) about their

 behaviour,

b) on the 3rd occasion a written warning, in the form of a letter will issue, which will record

 previous verbal warnings given to the Scout,

c) any further misbehaviour by that Scout will result in the Scouter contacting parents /

 guardians by phone on the meeting night or associated activity requesting the

 parent/guardian to collect the Scout immediately – when this action is required, that

 Scout will automatically and with immediate effect, be requested to ‘stand down’, from the

 Group and all its activities until such time as the Group Council has convened a

 meeting to discuss the matter.

The Code of Practice and the Rules it contains are for the benefit of all Scouts and Scouters etc., If a Scout is persistently misbehaving it disturbs the entire Section and other Scouts will miss out if a Scouters time is taken up trying to deal with one individual.

**General**

Social Media - the ‘Scouting Ireland Activities Consent Form’ which is completed each year by all Parents/Guardians as part of the 140th Beaumont Scout Groups Registration pack asks “*Do you give permission and consent that photographs may be taken for promotional and record purposes during activities which may include your child?*” Photographs are normally taken by Scouters when we are at activities such as a Hike, Camping or Summer Camps and would include Investitures. Such Photographs may be put on our Facebook page and/or our website page. The 140th Beaumont Scout Group is very mindful of issues regarding the posting of photographs and we have control measures in place to manage our Facebook and/or website pages.

Scouting Ireland have guidelines regarding Social Media for Scout Groups, ‘(SID 39D/11) Scouting Ireland – Social Networking Guidelines’ refers. Also, Scouting Ireland’s Code of Good Practice (SID 39/05), which is for Adult members of Scouting Ireland, contains a Section on the use of Email and Social Networking Sites (Page 17 refers). These Guidelines are available on request.

It should be noted that if a Parent/Guardian ticks the ‘No’ box on the Scouting Ireland Activities Consent Form’ at “*Do you give permission and consent that photographs may be taken for promotional and record purposes during activities which may include your child?*” that this will place restrictions on youth members and their Leaders when on activities and other events such as Investitures whereby Leaders must ensure that no photographs are taken or displayed of that youth member in any shape or form at that activity or event and it may be that, in some cases, a youth member may be restricted from participating in Group or County activities/events if the Leaders cannot ensure that photographs will not be taken.

Parents/Guardians are advised and encouraged to keep in regular contact with the Scouters of the Section that their Scout attends and to be familiar with the friends they keep. Any Parent/Guardian who has a concern about their Scouts involvement in the Group should raise and discuss the matter with the relevant Scouters.

Parents/Guardians are also reminded that all the Group’s Scouters and helpers are all volunteers and that there is a purpose behind the weekly Section meetings and associated activities and it should be noted that they are not child-minding facilities that are being provided. Without the high level of commitment of our Scouters there would not be a 140th Beaumont Scout Group and it is important that all the Scouters are treated in a courteous and respectful manner by all Parents/Guardians and those associated with the Group.

It must be understood that if Scouts cannot show themselves to be trustworthy and well behaved at Group meetings and its associated activities then the Scouters are going to be unwilling to organise activities and outings away from the Scout Den. The Group needs to be confident that all meetings and associated activities are run safely and smoothly and therefore it is very important that Scouts and their families respect and abide by the Rules of the 140th Group as detailed above.

***Yours in Scouting***

***Alan Dobbs***

***Group Leader***