

SELB Youth Service

Killowen, Shannagh-More and Binnian Outdoor Education Centres

The Southern Education and Library Board, Youth Service, has provided outdoor education service for schools and youth groups since 1973. The provision for Outdoor Education has developed in to a highly respected service delivering a wide range of activities, programmes, residential experiences and training opportunities for young people, teachers and youth workers.

- **VISION**

To provide positive learning experiences in the outdoor environment for all young people in the Board's area.

- **MISSION**

- Offer outdoor education through adventurous and environmental activities that are fun, challenging and affordable in both residential and community settings.
- Provide opportunities that support young people in their personal and social development, to benefit themselves, others and the environment.
- Encourage individuals to develop knowledge and attitudes and specific skills to appreciate and journey in the outdoor environment.
- Provide support for the curriculum in schools and youth organisations.
- Enhance the development of outdoor education in the community through the provision of leadership training courses.

FACILITIES/RESOURCES

Killowen and Shannagh-more are fully staffed residential centres while Binnian is self-catering and normally self-programming.

Activities available at the centres include canoeing, hill walking, sailing, rock climbing, orienteering, adventure walks, bouldering and environmental studies.

The centres also provide a range of training opportunities for teachers and youth workers in the various activities offered.

The SELB youth service, as with all other statutory services is obliged to meet and respond to the needs of those sections of our population who are most disadvantaged. Therefore those organisations in section 75 groupings or schools/groups with students/members experiencing marginalisation or exclusion may receive special consideration when applying for booking.

BOOKING PROCEDURES

The centres offer a range of different booking options for schools and youth groups and are flexible in attempting to meet the needs of groups and offer residential experiences as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Monday to Fri day | (4 nights stay) | Mon to Wed or Wed to Fri | (2 nights stay) |
| Mon to Thurs or Tues to Fri | (3 nights stay) | Friday to Sunday | (2 nights stay) |

The centres also offer limited provision for day activity groups (non-residential) and will also look at proposed residential of different duration. Normally all meals and instruction are provided, except at Binnian, for all residential courses and day activity groups. Self-programming facilities are available. Killowen offers day provision for environmental studies.

RESIDENTIAL BOOKING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2005 – AUGUST 2006

- The initial allocation of places for residential stays will be made in the 2nd week in February 2005. Schools and youth groups should submit bookings prior to this date to ensure consideration of their preferred options for the period September 2005 – August 2006.
- Schools and youth groups can submit applications for places that have not been allocated in the initial phase. Please contact centre directly for details of available vacancies after this date.

PRIORITY GROUPS

In determining allocation of residential places the following groups will be given priority:

- SELB schools and youth groups registered with the SELB Youth Service.
- Those that directly target work with marginalised young people in schools and youth groups, particularly those in Section 75 groupings.

Consideration will also be given to the size of group, programme requirements, type of work and to groups that have not used the facilities previously.

PROCEDURE FOR PAYMENTS

Initial Deposit

- £10 per paying person Shannaghmore and Killowen Residential
- £5 per paying person Binnian
- £2 per paying person Camping, Day Groups and Environmental Studies Day Groups

The relevant deposit must accompany the booking form unless an LMS or journal transfer for the deposit has been previously agreed with the centre. Cheques or postal orders must be made payable to the SELB. A receipt for the deposit will be sent out with the confirmation of booking, which must be completed and returned at least eight weeks prior to the residential. An invoice will be issued for the balance of the residential or day group costs, which must be paid prior to, during or immediately following the residential.

FREE TEACHER/LEADER PLACES

Free teacher/leader place allocated as below:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 9 – 16 young people | 1 free leader place |
| 17 – 24 young people | 2 free leader places |
| 25 – 32 young people | 3 free leader places |

CANCELLATIONS AND REDUCTION IN GROUP NUMBERS

If a group cancels totally or reduces numbers prior to eight weeks before the residential, the deposit on the number not attending will be returned.

If a group cancels totally or reduces numbers four to eight weeks before the residential, the group will be charged 50% of the course fee for the number not attending. The remainder of the course fee will be returned, if it has already been paid.

If the group cancels totally or reduces numbers later than four weeks before the residential, the group will be charged the full course fee for the number not attending.

A refund may be approved if a principal/leader-in-charge submits a Non-Attendance Form confirming the absence or premature departure of individuals due to sickness or family circumstances.

Leaders are advised to collect deposits and the full fee from their groups early enough to guard against the risk of the financial penalties for falling numbers.

COURSES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Applicants for individual courses must pay the full course fee in advance by the advertised date. Cancellation penalties will apply as above.

INCREASES TO COURSE FEES

Prices are reviewed each April and usually increased each September by an amount agreed by the SELB.