

# OUTDOOR EDUCATION IRELAND

The National Network of VEC Outdoor Education Centres



Department of  
Education  
and Science

## Outdoor Education Ireland....

*Outdoor Education Ireland is the national network for the 12 VEC Outdoor Education Centres. Supported by the Department of Education and Science, through our local Vocational Education Committee we provide an Outdoor Education service to schools, colleges & youth services in addition to a range of adventure sports and related courses for individual adults and youths.*

*Our courses, encompassing both Adventure and Environmental Education, are designed to ensure memorable learning experiences in an enjoyable environment. Our excellent range of adventurous activities provide an exciting forum to help your group learn & achieve together at a challenging level suited to their needs.*

*Each Outdoor Education Centre provides its own unique programmes with courses taking place in, on and around our wild and rugged landscapes and our superb marine environment.*

### **Why choose an OEI Centre?**

- *Educational programmes designed to meet the needs of your group*
- *Enthusiastic delivery focusing on positive personal development and enhancement of life skills*
- *Enjoyable and memorable experiences to last a lifetime*
- *Highly qualified and experienced staff*
- *Excellent safety record and highest operational standards*

*This brochure gives an overview of each Centre. Please visit the relevant websites or phone the Centres of your choice for more detailed information.*

*We look forward to meeting you at our OEI Centres.*



## Outdoor Education Ireland's Centres

Centre	County	Page
Achill OEC <a href="http://www.achilloutdoor.com">www.achilloutdoor.com</a>	Mayo	4
Baltinglass OEC <a href="http://www.baltinglassoec.com">www.baltinglassoec.com</a>	Wicklow	5
Birr OEC <a href="http://www.offalyvec.ie">www.offalyvec.ie</a>	Offaly	6
Burren OEC <a href="http://www.burrenoec.com">www.burrenoec.com</a>	Clare	7
Cappanalea OEC <a href="http://www.cappanalea.ie">www.cappanalea.ie</a>	Kerry	8
Gartan OEC <a href="http://www.gartan.com">www.gartan.com</a>	Donegal	9
Kinsale OEC <a href="http://www.kinsaleoutdoors.com">www.kinsaleoutdoors.com</a>	Cork	10
Kilfinane OEC <a href="http://www.kilfinaneoec.com">www.kilfinaneoec.com</a>	Limerick	11
Petersburg OEC <a href="http://www.petersburg.ie">www.petersburg.ie</a>	Galway	12
Fastnet Marine & OEC <a href="http://www.schullsailing.ie">www.schullsailing.ie</a>	West Cork	13
Shielbaggan OEC <a href="http://www.shielbagganoec.com">www.shielbagganoec.com</a>	Wexford	14
Tanagh OEC <a href="http://www.tanaghoutdooreducation.com">www.tanaghoutdooreducation.com</a>	Monaghan	15

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# ACHILL OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Cashel,  
Achill island,  
Co. Mayo  
Tel: 098 47253  
Fax: 098 47304  
Email: [info@achilloutdoor.com](mailto:info@achilloutdoor.com)  
Web: [www.achilloutdoor.com](http://www.achilloutdoor.com)



Achill OEC is administered by Co. Mayo VEC

The centre is located on Ireland's largest off shore Island connected to the main land by a bridge. It is surrounded by breath taking scenery and is within range of five blue flag beaches and four 600 metre mountains making Achill Ireland's premier destination for outdoor pursuits

## Facilities include:

- Dining room & common room with open fire
- Lecture room
- Accommodation for 55 in dormitory style 2 and 4 bedded rooms
- Drying room for clothing shoes etc.
- Large Indoor facility for Indoor games etc

## Programmes:

- *Multi - activity*
- *Geography/ecological studies*
- *Cultural/ foreign language school*
- *Education partnerships and exchanges*
- *President's award- bronze and silver*
- *Leadership awards in adventure sports*
- *Summer camps 7- 12 year olds*
- *Teenage camps 12 to 18 year olds*
- *First Aid Wilderness*
- *Personal development via the outdoors*



All programmes can be tailored to suit your groups own requirements

## Activities include:

- |                        |                         |                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • <i>Surfing</i>       | • <i>Rock Climbing</i>  | • <i>Windsurfing</i>   | • <i>First Aid Wilderness</i> |
| • <i>Camping</i>       | • <i>Canoeing</i>       | • <i>Orienteering</i>  | • <i>Kayaking</i>             |
| • <i>Archery</i>       | • <i>Dinghy sailing</i> | • <i>Power boating</i> | • <i>Traditional sailing</i>  |
| • <i>Team building</i> | • <i>Hill walking</i>   |                        |                               |

# BALTINGLASS OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Baltinglass OEC  
Weaver Square  
Baltinglass  
Co. Wicklow  
Tel: 059 6481002/6481747  
Fax: 059 6482128  
Email: [info@baltinglassoec.com](mailto:info@baltinglassoec.com)  
Web: [www.baltinglassoec.com](http://www.baltinglassoec.com)



Co. Wicklow Vocational Education Committee's Outdoor Education Centre is located in West Wicklow only 36 miles from Dublin City Centre. The Centre provides a wide variety of Outdoor Education Programmes which caters for the needs of:

- *Post Primary and Primary School Outdoor Education Curricula*
- *Youth Reach programmes*
- *School Completion Programmes*
- *Youth Service Outdoor Education Modules*
- *Primary School Tours*

Programmes vary from one-day multi activity courses to five day residential stays. Programmes can be tailored to suit specific needs.

## Programmes include some of the following activities:

- *Kayaking*
- *Canoeing*
- *Hill Walking*
- *Orienteering*
- *Archery*
- *Camp Craft*
- *Team Building*
- *Initiative Exercises*
- *High Ropes*

For more information  
please log on to [www.baltinglassoec.com](http://www.baltinglassoec.com)



# BIRR OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Roscrea Rd.  
Birr  
Co. Offaly  
Tel: 057 9120029  
Fax: 057 9121090  
Email: birroec@eircom.net  
Web: www.offalyvec.ie



Birr OEC is administered by Co. Offaly VEC

Birr Outdoor Education Centre is located in the midland heritage town of Birr in Co. Offaly. Set in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, the centre offers a range of energetic activities and adventure sports including: -

- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Gorge Walking
- Raft Building
- Orienteering
- Abseiling
- Rock Climbing
- Archery
- Team Building Games
- Obstacle Course
- Indoor Rock Climbing
- Ropes Course
- Hillwalking



The above activities are all provided at a basic level by experienced and qualified staff. The activities are utilised to introduce and stimulate new experiences and provide problem solving challenges. We also provide courses in a residential or non residential capacity. These include:

- Outdoor Education for schools and youth groups
- Adventure Summer Camps
- Skills Training in various adventure sports
- Team Building/Management Training
- Language/Recreation Holidays
- Adult and Continuing Education Courses
- Field Studies



# BURREN OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Burren OEC  
Turlough, Bell Harbour, Co. Clare  
Tel: 065 7078066  
Fax: 065 7078195  
Email: burroec@eircom.net  
Web: www.burrenoec.com



Burren OEC is administered by Co. Clare VEC

At the Burren OEC we provide quality Outdoor Education programmes to people of all ages, especially those involved in various education schemes.

## Participation on our programmes offers you opportunities

- *to explore the unique Burren landscape*
- *to experience an array of adventure activities*
- *to learn and develop new skills*
- *to develop and improve life skills*
- *to increase environmental awareness.*

## At the Burren OEC programmes include :

- *Burren Challenge programmes for Transition Year*
- *Field Study programmes for Leaving and Junior Cert. geography and ecology*
- *Outdoor Education programmes for Leaving Cert. Applied*
- *Adventure programmes for youth groups*
- *Team Building*

## Activities include

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • <i>Caving</i>          | • <i>Rock climbing</i> |
| • <i>Kayaking</i>        | • <i>Orienteering</i>  |
| • <i>Hill walking</i>    | • <i>Body Boarding</i> |
| • <i>Team Challenges</i> |                        |





# CAPPANALEA OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Oulagh West  
Caragh Lake  
Co. Kerry  
Tel: +353 669769244  
Fax: +353 669769266  
Email: [info@cappanalea.ie](mailto:info@cappanalea.ie)  
Web: [www.cappanalea.ie](http://www.cappanalea.ie)



Cappanalea OEC is administered by Kerry Education Service formerly the VEC in Kerry.

Cappanalea O.E.C. offers a variety of Outdoor Education courses focusing on aspects of personal development by introducing students to outdoor and wilderness experiences and facilitating their involvement in adventurous activities. These activities range from field studies to the more physical demanding outdoor sports:-

- **Canoeing**
- **Leadership Training**
- **Orienteering**
- **Sailing**
- **Hillwalking**
- **Windsurfing**
- **Team Building**
- **Rock Climbing**

Courses are run at either introductory or at more advanced levels of proficiency. So whether you are young or not so young, whether you are fit or not quite so fit, whether you are by yourself or with a group.....Cappanalea is the place for you.

## Mission

Cappanalea OEC mission is to provide a balanced, broadly based and proactive Outdoor Education Service of the highest quality, in which the resources available are deployed as to sensitively maximise the use of the outdoor as a means of:

- **Furthering formal education**
- **Enhancing personal/interpersonal development & Physical well being (Healthy Lifestyle)**
- **Promoting outdoor sporting skills and recreational activities (Sports for All)**
- **Developing a greater environmental awareness**
- **Promoting excellence in sport**





# GARTAN OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Church Hill  
Letterkenny  
Co Donegal  
Tel: 074 9137032  
Fax: 074 9137254  
Email: [office@gartan.com](mailto:office@gartan.com)  
Web: [www.gartan.com](http://www.gartan.com)



Gartan OEC is administered by Co. Donegal VEC

Gartan Outdoor Education Centre is superbly located on the shore of Gartan Lough and only 10 miles from Letterkenny. The Centre is set on its own 87 acre Estate with beautiful views across the lake to the Derryveagh Mountains and Glenveagh. The sensitively renovated and extended buildings, once the stables and outhouses of the old Lough Veagh House, provide first class facilities and accommodation for all course participants and visitors. Our new and very cosy wood and stone built 'Boathouse' with woodchip heating system is ideal for small conferences and non residential bookings.

Gartan also runs a Sailing and Windsurfing School, based at Downings on the north Donegal coast.

**Let us know what your objectives are, and we'll design a course with you to suit your needs.**

Our courses include: Adventure Education, Environmental and Earth Education, including Leaving and Junior Certificate syllabus programmes; Personal development through adventure education, expedition work and life coaching technique; Skills development and leadership award courses to relevant National Governing Body award syllabus; Gáisce award training and expeditions; Team building and Management Development; Donegal Walking Week and similar special events including FitWalk clinics.

Our adventure sport programmes include land, sea and inland waterway activity, allowing a very wide range of possibilities for every student or visitor. Our equipment is of the best, and our staff team is second to none.

Gartan operates a full recycling system, assisted by students. This includes composting of waste cooked food.



# KILFINANE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Kilfinane,  
Co. Limerick  
Tel: 063 91161/91059  
Fax: 063 91201  
Email: [info@kilfinaneoeec.com](mailto:info@kilfinaneoeec.com)  
Web: [www.kilfinaneoeec.com](http://www.kilfinaneoeec.com)



Kilfinane OEC is administered by County Limerick VEC.

At Kilfinane OEC you will find a warm welcome, professional & qualified instructors, excellent food & comfortable modern accommodation. We provide quality Outdoor Education Courses for Schools, Youth & Adult Groups and a range of Adventure Sports courses open to Individual Adults and Children. Activities at Kilfinane OEC are operated to the highest safety standards and in accordance with National Governing Body Guidelines

## At Kilfinane OEC you can.....

- *Experience a range of exciting and challenging outdoor sports*
- *Learn and develop new skills – whitewater kayaking, night navigation, camping & lots more !!*
- *Develop life skills, group skills & teamwork through innovative Outdoor Programmes*
- *Increase your awareness and understanding of the natural environment*
- *Mountain Biking*
- *Kayaking*
- *Canoeing*
- *Riverwalk*
- *Indoor Rockwall*
- *Rockclimbing*
- *Abseiling*
- *Hillwalking*
- *Orienteering*
- *Campcraft*
- *Team challenges*



# KINSALE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

St John's Hill  
Kinsale,  
Co.Cork  
Tel: 021 477 2896  
Fax: 021 477 3088  
Email: koec@indigo.ie  
Web: www.kinsaleoutdoors.com



Kinsale OEC is administered by Co. Cork VEC

Kinsale provides the perfect operating location for outdoor activities in Ireland. With our close proximity to water, rock, surf & rivers adventure is only minutes away. All that's left for you to do is pick a course and join us at the centre where you can learn, have fun and feel the adventure in the safe hands of our qualified experienced instructors.

## Activities include:

- Sailing
- Kayaking
- Sea Kayaking
- Archery
- Rock Climbing
- Abseil
- Body Boarding
- Canoeing
- Team Challenge
- Multi Activity
- Orienteering

## Certified Courses include:

- Sailing
- Yachtmaster
- Instructor Courses
- Kayaking
- Powerboat
- Day Skipper
- VHF
- 1st Aid

## School Programmes include:

- Gaisce
- Youth Reach
- School Tours Primary & Post Primary
- JCSP
- School Completion Prog
- Leaving Cert Applied
- Transition Year Prog

*Something for everyone !!!*



# PETERSBURG OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Clonbur,  
Co. Galway,  
Ireland.  
Tel: 094 9546483  
Fax: 094 9546705  
Email: [info@petersburg.ie](mailto:info@petersburg.ie)  
Web: [www.petersburg.ie](http://www.petersburg.ie)



Petersburg OEC is administered by Co. Galway VEC

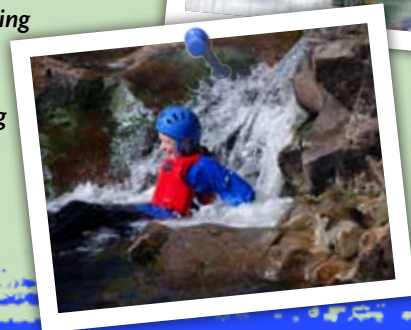
Petersburg OEC is located on the southern shore of Lough Mask in Clonbur Co. Galway. It is surrounded by mountains and forests which makes it an ideal location for adventure sports and outdoor activities. Accommodation can be provided for 90 people in a mixture of accommodation styles along with quality home cooked food.

## At Petersburg OEC you can:

*Rock climb - Canoe - Orienteer - Kayak - Abseil - Gorge walk - Hillwalks - Sailing - Cave and Windsurf. In addition you can Raft-build - complete the Obstacle course and the Petersburg Challenge.*

## The following programmes can also be provided:

- *Peak Experience Programme – a series of team challenges while completing a journey in the natural environment suitable for TY/LCA groups.*
- *Gaisce expeditions*
- *Field studies in geography and ecology*
- *Challenging 3 day expeditions with camping and bivouacking to challenge even the toughest. This has been used by groups focusing on preventing the abuse of drugs.*
- *Skills programmes in kayaking, canoeing, hill walking and power boating*





# SHIELBAGGAN OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Ramsgrange  
New Ross  
Co. Wexford  
Tel: 051 389550  
Fax: 051 389552  
Email: [info@shielbaggan.com](mailto:info@shielbaggan.com)  
Web: [www.shielbagganoec.com](http://www.shielbagganoec.com)



Shielbaggan OEC is administered by Co. Wexford VEC.

Shielbaggan Outdoor Education has been providing outdoor education for over 25 years and is situated at the base of the Hook peninsula.

The centre provides Outdoor Education through adventure sport, on land and sea, primarily for young people but also for adults. Our location is amongst some of the best beaches in Ireland and the favourable weather in the “Sunny South East” makes Shielbaggan the ideal location to bring a group to come and improve your skills.

At Shielbaggan we are proud to provide quality outdoor programmes for a diverse range of clients. If you are bringing a group to us then we can tailor your course to suit your needs. If you are coming as an individual then we provide a number of multi-activity programmes as well as specialist courses. If you have any queries just pick up the phone or send an e-mail and we will be happy to help.

## Activities Include:

- *Kayaking*
- *Canoeing*
- *Coasteering*
- *Rock Climbing*
- *Abseiling*
- *Surfing*
- *Walking*
- *Orienteering*
- *Team Challenges*
- *Archery*
- *Environmental Education*



# TANAGH OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Dartrey,  
Rockcorry,  
Via Cootehill PO,  
Co. Monaghan  
Tel: 049 5552988 Fax: 049 5556004  
Email: [tanaghoec@eircom.net](mailto:tanaghoec@eircom.net)  
Web: [www.tanaghoutdooreducation.com](http://www.tanaghoutdooreducation.com)



Tanagh OEC is administered by Co. Monaghan VEC

Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre is located in a region of overwhelming beauty. The magic of this region lies in its gentle rolling hills, lakes, meandering rivers through enchanting forests and ever changing vistas. The Centre provides a range of water-based and land-based adventure activities for all.

## Activities include:

open canoeing • kayaking • raft building • archery • electronic orienteering • assault course • indoor climbing wall • field studies • guided walking/heritage/wildlife trails • hill walking • mudslide • brown bog team tasks • ariel slide • night hikes • banana boating • mountain biking

**Our range of activities are used to create a diverse range of day & residential outdoor pursuit programmes including:**

- *National School Tours*
- *Transition Year Programmes*
- *Field studies in geography and ecology to meet curriculum requirements*
- *Adventure Summer Camps*
- *Family & Friends Adventure Days*
- *Corporate Team Building*
- *GAISCE Training & Expeditions*
- *First Aid Courses*
- *Skills based courses and "Learn to" packages*
- *Eco Canoe Trail*
- *Leave No Trace Workshops*



# FASTNET MARINE & OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

Colla Road,  
Schull,  
Co. Cork  
Tel: 028 28515  
Email: [info@schullsailing.ie](mailto:info@schullsailing.ie)  
Web: [www.schullsailing.ie](http://www.schullsailing.ie)



The Fastnet Marine and Outdoor Education Centre is located on the Mizen Peninsula in Schull Harbour in the South West of Ireland. Schull is a charming village with shops, pubs and restaurants, which is surrounded by beautiful countryside, golden beaches and a bay full of islands to explore!

The sheltered waters of Roaringwater Bay are an ideal place to learn how to sail or train to be an Olympian.

Come and enjoy the beauty of West Cork while developing your sailing skills

## Courses & Activities

- *Sailing Courses*
- *Powerboat Instruction*
- *Keelboat Courses*
- *Kayaking & Windsurfing*
- *Schools/Transition Year*
- *Professional Development*
- *Post Leaving Certificate Courses*
- *Fun Sailing Trips*



# [www.oei.ie](http://www.oei.ie)

## **OUTDOOR EDUCATION IRELAND**

"A fully-trained and professional team of dedicated staff to make your Outdoor Education experiences go beyond your expectations"



## **OUTDOOR EDUCATION IRELAND**

**The National Network of VEC Outdoor Education Centres**