North Connacht Youth Community Service Ltd.

NCYCS–Leitrim Youth Project
Established in 1989, the Leitrim Youth Project, has responsibility for initiating, developing and co-ordinating services for young people in Leitrim, responding to their social, educational and developmental needs.

Aim of the project
To empower young people and adults within their communities to take responsibility for the quality of their lives and work towards change for this severely disadvantaged rural county.

The main servisces provided for in this area are:

- Help in setting up youth clubs.
- Supporting, advising and assisting volunteers and young people.
- Providing training programmes for adult volunteers and young people.
- Supporting community groups to plan and run summer projects and special projects.
- Promoting participation in regional and national programmes and opportunities.
- Working with disadvantaged young people.
- Exchanges with youth groups in Northern Ireland, England and Europe.

Youth Clubs
Youth clubs are characterised by structured informal sessions with young people who become members of a club and have the opportunity to be with friends on a regular basis, and take part in a programme of recreational, social and educational activities.

Clubs offer a range of opportunities for young people, some of these are:

- The opportunity to meet together and develop human relationships.
- The opportunity for leisure, sport, recreation and creative activities.
- The opportunity to work with other young people towards a common goal or purpose.
- The opportunity to relate to and work in partnership with adults.
- The opportunity to develop their self-identity.
- The opportunity to try new experiences, explore the larger world outside home and school.
- The opportunity to meet young people from other cultures.
- The opportunity to learn leadership and decision making skills.
- The opportunity to develop hobbies and interests, develop latent talents and acquire new skills.
- Above all it is about having fun. Learning by doing is the real experience.

Arts and drama training workshops have been held for volunteers and summer project leaders. Inter club activities–sporting, quizzes and debates. Issue-based workshops are also on offer, such as drugs/alcohol awareness for young people and parents.

Other innovative projects implemented by NCYCS Leitrim Youth Project are:

- The Samba band.
- The Tain voyage - drama on a barge.
- Outdoor education programmes for young people "at risk".
- Nature awareness projects in partnership with residents' associations.
- Various arts, crafts, drama, dance and pottery projects.
- Cloone mural project.

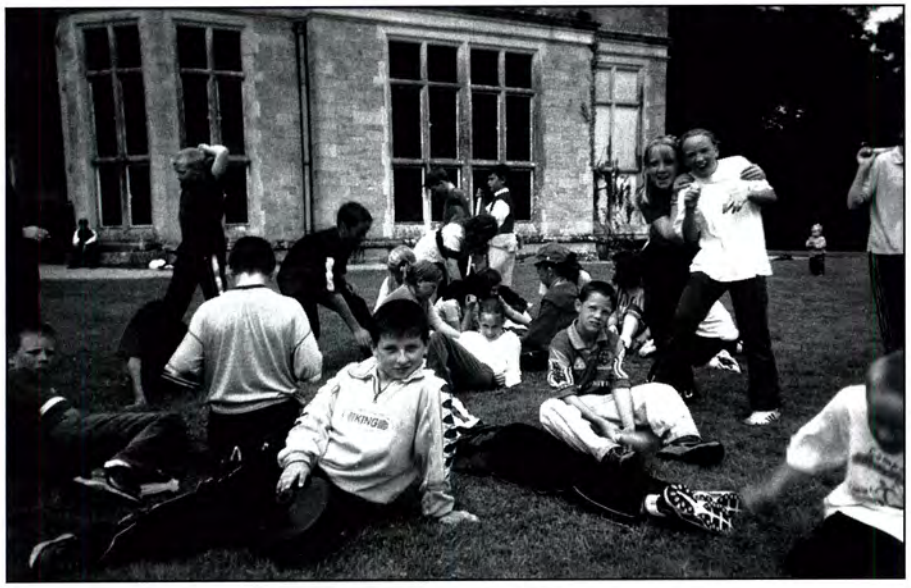
Summer projects are run to provide young people with a week of fun in their locality. Activities include: football, hurling, basketball, volleyball, unihoc, art, dance, drama, mime, samba, canoeing, orienteering and day trips.

These summer projects and clubs are run by very dedicated volunteers without whom they could not operate. The volunteers make a very valuable contribution to the development of the young people at this crucial time of adolescence, to their local area and to the Leitrim Youth Project of NCYCS.

Summer projects are funded by NCYCS, NWHB and Leitrim Partnership.

They are supported by NCYCS development worker Mary Taylor, based at the Enterprise Centre, Drumshanbo at 078-41721.

NCYCS Social and Educational Activities - Leitrim 2000



TOP LEFT: MOHILL – Some of the participants relaxing on Lough Rynn front lawn after a hectic day.

TOP RIGHT: The Táin Voyage – "Drama on a barge".

BOTTOM LEFT: Developing skills – and having fun – some of the participants in the Cloone Mural Project.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Townspark Residents Summer Project, Carrick.