

HOPE Claudy Craigbane Summer Camp – Trustees' Report 2024–2025

Overview

The HOPE Claudy Craigbane Summer Camp continued to grow and flourish during 2024–2025, reaching new milestones. All available spots were filled within minutes of registration opening on our Facebook page, highlighting the camp's popularity. A waiting list was created, and cancellations allowed us to accommodate all who wished to attend.

This year, HOPE Claudy Craigbane Summer Camp welcomed 56 volunteers and 120 campers. The week was filled with a variety of enriching activities:

Sports & Games: Gaelic football, rugby, dodgeball, penalty kick outs, volleyball, obstacle course, general sports.

Creative & Cultural: Ceili dancing, Zumba, choir, action songs, henna tattoos, paper dove making, rosary making, arts and crafts.

Social & Treats: Ice cream, BBQ, tuck shop, buns, and other treats.

Faith & Reflection: Mass, faith workshops, and guest speakers.

Special Excursions: Waterpark visit.

The behavior of campers was exemplary, reflecting the positive, structured environment provided by the camp.

Sponsorship and Support

This year, our volunteers and participants wore new jerseys generously sponsored by local businesses.

Venues

The camp took place across multiple locations, including Claudy Pastoral Centre, St Patrick's Church, St Patrick's & St Bridgets High School, Claudy GAC, and Craigbane GAC, providing ideal spaces for our wide range of activities.

HOPE Organising Committee

Our dedicated HOPE Organising Committee continued to drive the vision of the camp, ensuring smooth planning, coordination, and delivery of all activities.

Friends of HOPE

The local community's response to our Friends of HOPE banner and Facebook advertising was outstanding. This support is invaluable and deeply appreciated.

Fundraisers

Successful fundraisers, including bonus balls and coffee morning, helped fund the diverse activities and resources required to run a safe and enjoyable camp.

Inclusion

HOPE Camp continues to welcome children from every school in the area, across all socio-economic backgrounds. Entrance fees remain low to ensure accessibility. Volunteers represent a range of ages and backgrounds, and we proudly include children with special needs.

Volunteers

Volunteers remain the backbone of HOPE Camp. This year, campers were divided into teams led by experienced team leaders who managed registration and daily activities, enhancing the organization and flow of the camp.

Volunteer Training

Child protection and safeguarding training was provided by Briege O'Neill from the local safeguarding office as well as Child Protection Training. Volunteers were also briefed on their Code of Conduct Policy and all over 18s were vetted through Access NI.

Ciara served as the safeguarding officer, with Coastal Core present daily. All volunteers over 18 were vetted, and lanyards ensured easy identification. Our safeguarding procedures continue to be recognized as exemplary by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Going Forward

Looking ahead, we aim to implement a system for claiming Gift Aid. Each year, the HOPE Camp builds on past successes, improving planning, safeguarding, and the range of activities offered. We remain committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable experience for all participants.

Conclusion

The 2024–2025 HOPE Claudy Craigbane Summer Camp was a resounding success, thanks to the hard work of volunteers, the support of sponsors, and the enthusiasm of campers. We look forward to continuing growth and ensuring HOPE remains a beacon of community spirit and inclusivity.