



## An Introduction to the Fiannaíocht System

### Introduction

As macaoimh leaders, the Fiannaíocht system is something that we use every week in our meetings and on hikes. However despite its widespread use in many parts of the country there is little in terms of support to leaders available. It is a topic that is often missed at macaoimh leader training courses.

These fact sheets should give a good introduction to the Fiannaíocht system and indeed the stories behind the clann and leader names have been specially re-written by Ann Connell for macaoimh sections.

### Terminology

<i>English System</i>	<i>Fiannaíocht System</i>
Cub Scout	Macaoimh
Cub Pack	Macaoimh Cath/Gasra
Six / Patrol	Clann
Sixer	Rí
Secondar	Áire
Senior Sixer	Ard Rí
Leader / Akela	Fionn
Cub Hall / Den	Macaoimh Dún *

\* Normally a Macaoimh Dún is also given a name such as Tara for example.

### Macaoimh Dúns

Part of the Fiannaíocht System involves naming your hall or den. Where possible each Cath in the Region should use a different name. Names are derived from places used in celtic mythology and the following are some common names for halls:

Tara	Cashel
Déise	Eamha Macha
Crúachán	Almú

### Clanns

A number of years ago – macaoimh badges were finally introduced to replace the colour patches. Clann names are taken from characters in celtic mythology and the most common clann names are listed below:

Brian (Boru)	Caoilte
Conor (Mac Nessa)	Cormac (Mac Airt)
Cúchulainn	Ferdia
Diarmuid	Lir
(Naomh) Padraig	Talún Órga
Meave	Round Tower

If you are unsure as to which badge relates to which clann name, the staff in the Scout Shop are very helpful and will advise you. Some clann badges relate to more than one name such as Conor & Cormac, so you may want to consult them before deciding a name for a new clann

### Leaders Names

The section leader is normally called Fionn and there are a number of different names available for his/her assistants:

Oisín	Maeve
Ferdia	Niamh
Diarmuid	Deirdre
Oscar	Niall

### Badge Work System

The badge work system is the same as published in the book "The Cub Scout Discovery Trail". The Investiture, Arrow Badges & Merit Badges fit in very well with the Fiannaíocht System.



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### **Introduction Series of Stories**

By Ann O'Connell

Long ago before history books recorded the great events of ancient times, children gathered to hear fireside tales of bold and heroic adventures. These tales have been retold generation after generation. Nobody remembers where or when the stories first brought thrill and excitement to the minds of children. No one can tell us whether or not they grew from seeds of fact or fantasy. It is this mystery that spells the difference between a simple story and the stuff of legends.

Legends are an important part of a country's traditions. Every culture has its own set of legends, its own heroes and heroines and Irish legends are undoubtedly among the best. We are particularly fortunate in this country to have two distinct legendary groups - the Fianna and the Red Branch Knights. Fionn, Oisín, Diarmuid and Gráinne are members of the Fiannaíocht family while CúChulainn, Maeve, Connor Mac Neasa and Deirdre hail from the Red Branch or Rúraíocht tradition.

The input of Christianity added yet another dimension to ancient Irish legend. The mythical characters of old were blessed by the caring hands of St. Patrick and his contemporaries, thus showing that old Celtic customs could thrive hand in hand with the new Christian ones.

As Macaoimh Leaders we try to inspire in children a love and respect of our cultures and traditions and one of the best ways we can do this is through the age-old art of story-telling. Purity, strength and honesty was the motto that inspired Fionn's warriors with our help, that motto can once again touch the hearts of Irish children.

### **The Fianna Motto**

"Glaine ár gcroí, Neart ár ngéag  
Is beart de réir ár mbriathar."

"Purity in our Hearts, Strength in our limbs  
And Respect for all mankind"

### **The Story of Setanta (M-003)**

Adapted from the traditional Red Branch Knight tale of how the young warrior Setanta became Cúchulainn.

### **Brian Boru -High King of Ireland (M-004)**

Inspired by historical accounts of the deeds of Brian Boru.

### **The Story of Talún Órga (M-005)**

An original story inspired by the rich environment we have inherited from our forefathers.

### **The Pirate Queen of Ireland (M-006)**

Inspired by historic Aral accounts of the life of Grace O'Malley

### **The Story Cormac MacAirt (M-007)**

Based on the traditional Fiannaíocht story

### **The First Round Tower (M-008)**

An original story inspired by the era of Saints and Scholars in Ireland.

Each Clann should know the story behind the name of their clann. These stories can be told to all macaoimh as they are all based on the Fiannaíocht system and often have references to other names in them.

### **Further Stories**

Other stories relating to clann names, leader name and macaoimh Dún names will be added at a later date.



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