

# WELCOME TO SCOUTING

A Guide For Parents  
and Caregivers

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**Welcome!**





Congratulations on joining your local Scout Group!

Your child is now part of a global organisation which today has more than 50 million members.

Over the past 110 years more than two billion young people have benefited from the Scouting program.

In the ACT there are 32 Groups just like yours in our local community.

Our Scout Groups are run by local families who help make Scouting the best possible experience for their children.

In this Guide you'll find some details about how Scouting works. In particular, there are some suggestions on how parents and caregivers can help their children get the most from their time in Scouting.

Welcome to Scouting! We wish your family lots of fun, friendship, adventure, and safe times ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Goode". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Rick Goode  
Chief Commissioner





# The benefits of Scouting

Scouting provides a wealth of lifelong advantages for its participants. Studies have shown that through enjoying the opportunities that scouting has to offer, children develop:

## RESILIENCE

In 2018 the Resilient Youth Australia (RYA) surveyed more than 200,000 children throughout Australia. The results from our Youth Members showed participation in Scouting being key to developing above-average resilience – the strength to deal with the challenges of modern life. Read more about the results of this survey on page 18 of this Parent Guide.

## MENTAL HEALTH

The 2016 UK Childhood Study found that former Scouts are 18% less likely to suffer mood or anxiety disorders than non-Scouts, even decades later, as adults.

The study found programs like Scouting that support resilience, social mobility, 'soft' non-cognitive skills, self-reliance, collaboration, and activities in natural environments may help protect mental health in adulthood.

## LEADERSHIP

In Scouting, every young person gets continual opportunities to develop their skills in leadership. From leading a small group to making decisions that impact the whole unit, Scouting is literally developing Canberra's leaders of the future.

## IMPROVED ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

Scouting is linked with improved school results, especially at upper secondary levels. The research of Prof. John Hattie, of the University of Melbourne, shows that secondary students do better when they do an extra-curricular activity which is organised and structured, with regular programs, increasingly complex skill building, leadership by one or more competent adults, a social network, leadership opportunities, and age-appropriate goals and expectations.

## This sounds exactly like Scouting!

Increasingly Universities are recognizing the importance extra-curricular activities can have upon academic achievement. For example, the Australian National University (ANU) now requires school leavers to demonstrate their extra-curricular or service skills across three of seven defined skills sets (community engagement, inclusion and awareness of diversity, communication, leadership, personal responsibility, teamwork and creative and critical thinking). Participation in Scouting is the only activity that qualifies across all seven skill sets.

Scouts Australia also maintains its own nationally accredited Institute of Training (SAIT). Leveraging the learning received from participation in our Youth Program or Adult Training and Development, members of Scouting in Australia can use the SAIT to gain Vocational Education and Training (VET) outcomes including Units of Competency, Skill Sets and Qualifications. More information can be found at [training.scouts.com.au/Qualifications](http://training.scouts.com.au/Qualifications).





# What is Scouting?

Scouting is non-formal education.

Young people learn new skills and responsible independence through the Scout Method. Although our programs are continually updated to remain contemporary, the Scout Method has stood the test of time.

## Elements of the Scout Method include:

### Community involvement

- Scouts of all ages actively explore and learn about their commitment and responsibility to their community and the wider world.

### Learning by doing

- Young people learning through practical experiences, not theory.

### Nature and the Outdoors

- The outdoors is our main location for learning. This encourages a two-way relationship between the individual and the natural world.

### Learning in small teams

- Leadership and social skills are developed through teamwork, responsibility and a sense of belonging.

### Personal progression

- The learning journey focuses on challenging each individual to do their best through a range of experiences.

### The Scout Promise and Law

- These are a simple set of common values that underpin all Scouting activities and interactions.

### Symbolic Framework

- The symbolic framework is a structure of themes and symbols unique to scouting that links scouts with other scouts locally, nationally and internationally. The most important of these systems in the World Scout Emblem - a representation of which is worn as a badge by every scout in the world.

### Youth leading, and adults supporting

- As they progress through the Sections of Scouting, young people are encouraged to become increasingly self-managing. With help from their volunteer Adult Leaders, the Youth Members make decisions on real issues that impact and drive how they spend their time and develop their skills.

# Scout lingo

Scouting has its own language! Here are some terms you may hear:

## Scout Group

The Scout **Group** is made up of all the Sections in the local Group. A Group may have all five Sections (Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers) or just a Cub Scout Unit and a Scout Unit, or some other combination. Some Groups have multiple Joey Units, Cub Units Or Scout Units.

## Joey Scout Section

Our youngest Scouts are aged 5–8. They meet each week as a Joey Scout **Unit**. Every year they have a Territory wide weekend camp called a **Hoporee**.

Joeys can earn a peak award called the **Joey Scout Challenge Award**.

## Cub Scout Section

Cubs are aged 8–11. They meet as a Cub Scout **Unit**, where they operate in small teams called **Patrols**. Each Patrol is led by an older Cub called a **Patrol Leader (PL)**. PLs and their Leaders meet to plan their program. This group is called the **Unit Council**. Every three years more than 500 Cubs from Canberra and surrounding regions enjoy a huge three night camp called a **Cuboree**.

Cubs can earn a peak award called the **Grey Wolf Award**.

## Scout Section

Scouts, aged 11–14, are the original Section of Scouting. Scouts began at a trial camp in England in August 1907. Scouts meet as a **Scout Unit**, which is comprised of small teams called **Patrols**, led by an elected **Patrol Leader (PL)**. PLs meet with their Leaders as the **Unit Council**, to plan their program and other aspects of the Unit. From this age, youth members are increasingly involved in managing their Section — planning their program, managing finance, and even dealing with any behaviour problems. As always, the volunteer Leaders support them through this process. Every three years Scouts from around Australia and beyond gather for a ten-day camp called a **Jamboree**. Scouts can also attend **World Jamborees** where tens of thousands of Scouts from around the world gather.

Scouts can earn a peak award called the **Australian Scout Medallion**.

## Venturer Scout Section

Venturers, aged 14–18, have a much larger say in their own activities. Venturers meet as a **Venturer Unit**. Members of the Unit elect the **Unit Chair, Secretary, Treasurer** and other office bearers, who meet as the **Unit Council**, to plan their program and other aspects of the Unit.

Venturers have a national event called a **Venture** every three years. Many also go to the New Zealand Venture. Venturers can also attend **World Jamborees**.

Venturers can earn a peak award called the **Queen's Scout Award**.

## Rover Scout Section

Rovers are aged 18–26 and run their own program, finances, property, major events and much more. They have a strong annual program including community service projects, adventurous activities and social events. Their major events are called **Moots**.

The peak award in this Section is the **Baden-Powell Scout Award**.

## Leaders

Leaders are the adult volunteers who put many hours into Scouting each week - and in return get great satisfaction, friendships, skills, and experiences. Most Leaders are parents. All Leaders go through several stages of screening (which are renewed regularly), and do training programs, which must also be kept up to date. **Leaders of Youth** work directly with Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers, while **Leaders of Adults** provide support at the Group, Branch and National levels.

## Group Leader

This is the volunteer manager of the Scout Group. They have the primary responsibility for managing all Group affairs including youth membership, leader appointment and performance; activity approvals; and Group resources and funds.

## Adult Helper

An Adult Helper, usually a parent, helps out from time to time, at occasional meetings, weekends away or major Scouting events. Adult Helpers are screened before being allowed to work with young people and do basic online training. Adult Helpers don't wear Scout uniform.

## Group Support Committee

The Committee is generally comprised of parents who might meet monthly, while their children are at Cubs or Scouts. They support the Group and the Leaders by taking care of the hall, the **Q-store** and all the camping gear it stores, the finances, and many other important jobs to keep the Group running smoothly. These meetings can be quite social.

## Scouts ACT Branch Team

Scouts ACT is led by the Chief Commissioner and eight Assistant Chief Commissioners. There are also many senior volunteers with expertise in Adventurous Activities, Major Events, Risk and Safety, and many other aspects of Scouting.

## ACT Branch Office

The ACT Branch office in Garran is home to the professional staff and Branch Leadership Team. Our support staff assist with key functions including membership management, information technology, marketing, communications, child safety management, community development, training, and facilities management. For more about our Branch organisation, see the back cover.

## Camp Cottermouth

Camp Cottermouth is Scouts ACT's camping and accommodation centre, located on the Cotter Road. It is designed for group accommodation and camping, and has a mixture of built and campsite facilities. The main built accommodation is the Shakespeare Centre, an accommodation and conference facility. This centre also contains a full kitchen. Many school and other groups use the Centre when visiting Canberra. The Kangaroo Flat campground is designed for group camping and has a large number of sites over an extensive area. Facilities include an ablutions block, shade shelters, stage, cookout and classrooms. Scouts ACT holds a number of events and activities at Camp Cottermouth every year including Cottersfield, youth and leader training, archery, rock climbing and abseiling from our purpose facilities.

## Online Systems and Databases (Zoho)

Like schools, Scout Groups need to collect information about your child and their carers (names, contact information, date of birth, and some health details). For some scouting activities, parents and carers must give written permission for youth members to participate. Because our core business is adventure, not administration, Scouts ACT uses Zoho which are on-line, mobile-friendly, smart forms that keep administration simple, fast and efficient for everyone. In parallel with emerging smart platforms, email is our core communication tool. Your Group Leader will add you to one or more email lists that they and your child's Scout Leaders use to organise activities. Please stay tuned to emails from your Scout Group to be kept up to-date with your child's Scout Program.









# What is the program?

A good program includes a range of different adventures, lots of time spent in the outdoors, and has significant input from the youth members themselves.

Scouts is not all about badges or awards. The development of the award scheme begins with the Program - a program that supports the development of young people, supported by the award scheme. While many strive for these peak awards, they're not for everyone. Some youth members are happy to enjoy camps, weeknight meetings and occasionally achieve badges.

In 2020 the program has been updated to one Program for all Sections — Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers — where the skills learned in younger Sections are built on at each level. However you can join at anytime in any section and progress from that point on. Details on the new program can be found at [scouts.com.au/what-we-do/youth-program/](https://scouts.com.au/what-we-do/youth-program/)

# What is the uniform?

Scout uniform for all sections consists of a shirt and scarf. The scarf is usually held together by a woggle, which is often a piece of leather. The scarf and woggle is usually supplied by your Group. (Every Scout Group is proud of its own colours.) The shirt is different for each section and is available from The Scout Shop ([scoutshop.com.au](https://scoutshop.com.au)) from \$36.95 for the Joey shirt to \$51.95 for a Rover's. Uniforms can also be bought at Tentworld in Fyshwick (40 Gladstone Street) for Joey, Cub and Scout polo shirts (\$36.95), button up shirts (\$46.95). Venturer shirts for \$46.95 and Youth Fleece Jackets for \$49.95.

Some Groups will also provide a Group shirt for use on camps and other activities.

(Note: All prices are subject to change).

# What is the cost?

Every Scout Group charges an annual (or term-by-term) fee which covers the Branch fee payable to Scouts ACT, and a Group fee to cover costs such as rates, power, equipment, insurance, Leader training, and more.

The amount varies from Group to Group depending on local factors such as how much fundraising the Group does and other financial pressures (e.g. hall maintenance). Annual fees in the ACT range from \$450 to \$550.

There is also the cost of activities such as camps. These are kept as low as possible because the cost can be shared across the scouts, and Leaders are unpaid volunteers.

Major events held every few years (like Cuboree and Jamboree) cost more because of the scale of the program, entertainment and transport costs, but most Groups work together to lower the individual cost through fundraising.

Financial issues should not be a barrier to any child being a Scout. If you have any concerns, please speak with your Group Leader to discuss payment options and support



## The Scout Law

### BE RESPECTFUL

- Be friendly and considerate
- Care for others and the environment

### DO WHAT IS RIGHT

- Be trustworthy, honest and fair
- Use resources wisely

### BELIEVE IN MYSELF

- Learn from my experiences
- Face challenges with courage

# Values

## Scouting is a values-based organisation.

The Scout Promise and the Scout Law illustrate the importance that Scouting places on maintaining its values. Every member of Scouting in the world makes the Scout Promise when they first join Scouting, and at major milestones in their Scouting journey. This includes a commitment to live by the Scout Law.

The **Scout Law** is a simple code for living.

The **Scout Promise** comes in two forms, and members choose which version they wish to make.

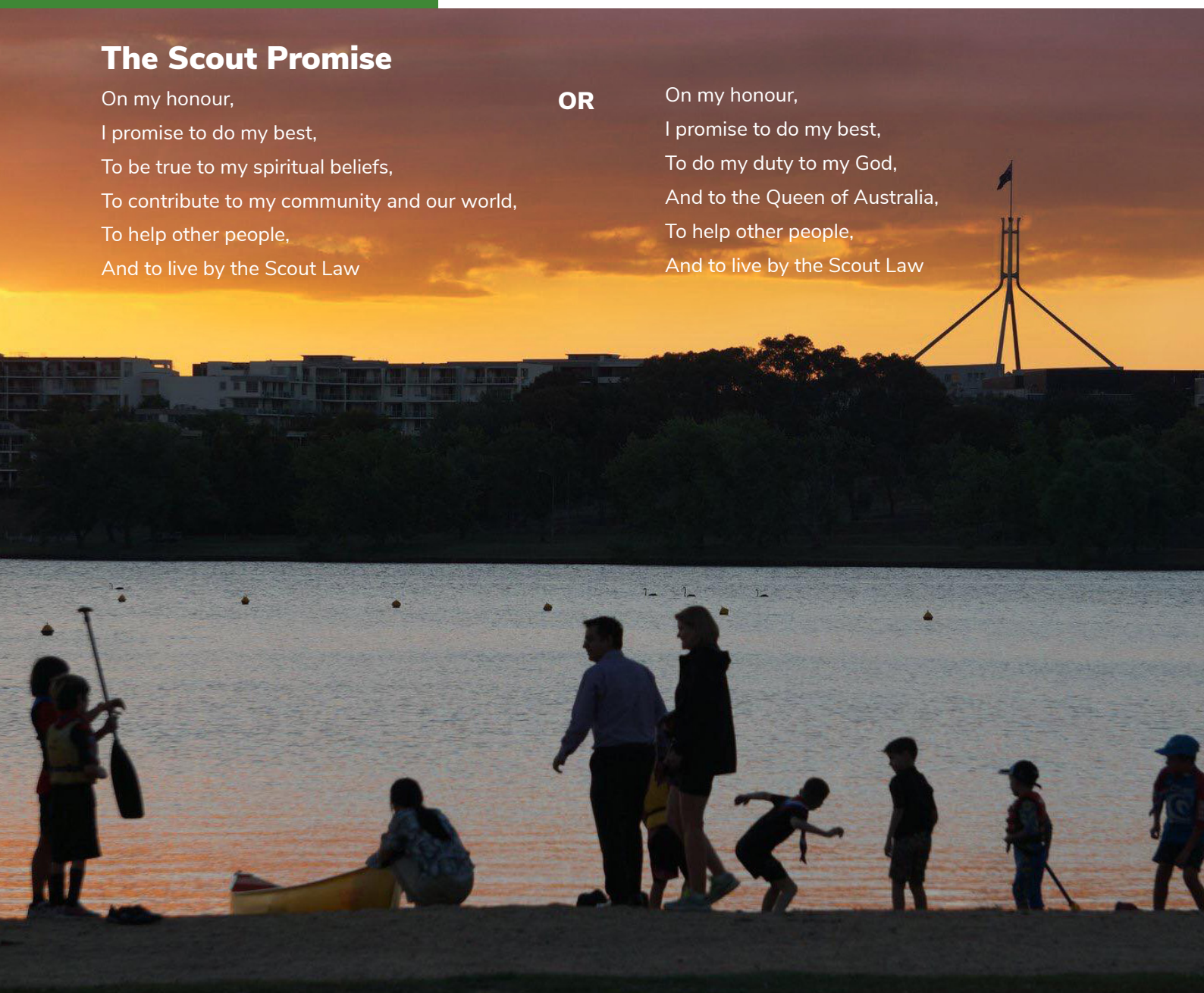
That is, the version which best aligns with their beliefs. Both versions include a pledge to 'help other people', as helping others is a fundamental value of Scouting.

## The Scout Promise

On my honour,  
I promise to do my best,  
To be true to my spiritual beliefs,  
To contribute to my community and our world,  
To help other people,  
And to live by the Scout Law

OR

On my honour,  
I promise to do my best,  
To do my duty to my God,  
And to the Queen of Australia,  
To help other people,  
And to live by the Scout Law





## How we treat each other in Scouting

All uniformed members of Scouting make the Scout Promise and strive to live up to the Scout Law. It's a code for life, and each of us is consistently reminded to try to do our best.

This also applies to how we treat each other.

And that's the same for all of us — Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, Leaders, Adult Helpers, office-bearers, Fellowship, other supporters and parents.

**We all have rights and we all have responsibilities. These include:**

RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES
To be respected	We listen to each other, speak calmly, and consider all views.
To trust and be trusted	We are honest in our relationships and discussions.
To learn	We understand that mistakes are part of learning. We celebrate each other's achievement.
To be supported	Everyone helps each other in Scouting. We are all responsible for ensuring that others are OK.
To have fun	We have fun in Scouting and we make sure it does not impact negatively on others.
To be safe	We are kind to others and we ensure everyone is treated with respect.

# We're playing on the same team

## Scouting is a friendly and welcoming organisation.

All youth are welcome to join.

Participation is not restricted to those with existing skills and ability. All participants get opportunities at leadership and the chance to develop their skills. Every Youth Member can earn [badges/awards] — our peak awards like the Promise Challenge, Grey Wolf, and others — working individually or in groups to achieve their goals.

Parents are also very welcome to participate. In fact, they are integral to the success of the local Scout Group and your child's Scouting experience.

## Parents and Leaders, and others who lead the local Scout Group, are on the same team.

Many parents are leaders and adult helpers. Many young people who have been scouts also become leaders. Some people who are just interested in giving back to their community through volunteering become leaders. We are all on the same team, working together to give young people new, exciting and challenging adventures to help them become better leaders in the community.

Unlike many other activities where tempers can get heated, this is never OK in Scouting. It is never OK for adults of children to raise their voices at others in scouting. No matter what the issue, we sort them out as friends with respect and honesty; acknowledging we are all on the same team and share the same goals for our young people.

We also want our interactions to set a good example for young people.





# How to contact Leaders

Sometimes parents and caregivers have questions or concerns.

**The first point of contact is the Leader of your child's Section — the Joey Scout Leader, Cub Scout Leader, Scout Leader or Venturer Leader.**

Our volunteer Leaders are committed — like you — to your child enjoying and benefiting from their time in Scouting.

Please be aware that meeting nights are busy — sometimes it is difficult to have a detailed conversation during or immediately after the meeting. It may be easier to send an email, give them a call, or even offer to catch up for a coffee!

Of course, if there is a safety issue, you should inform your child's Leader immediately.

**If you need more information or your child's Section Leader is unable to help, the next contact is the Group Leader of your Scout Group.**

Your Group Leader is the most senior local Scouting volunteer, responsible for all the youth members and Leaders in all Sections of your Group.

If that doesn't work out — or the Group Leader is unavailable — you are welcome to contact our Branch Office on 6282 5211 and we can put you in touch with the relevant Branch Commissioner or Assistant Chief Commissioner.

If you believe there is a breach of Child Safety, please report any incident of unacceptable behaviour to our Child Protection Team immediately on 02 6183 5023 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week), or email us at [protection@scoutsact.com.au](mailto:protection@scoutsact.com.au)



## How Scouts communicates with you

**Australian Scout Magazine** — Published 10 times per year, emailed to all families

**Be Informed** — Our ScoutsACT newsletter, sent to 3500 members, Leaders, Rovers and office-bearers



Facebook - scoutsact

# Help your children get the most from Scouting

There are many ways parents can help their children get the most from their time in Scouting.

## These include:

- Reading the Award Scheme book or online resources for your child's Section so you can support and encourage them to gain badges. Act as a supervisor for badgework tasks that your child chooses to do at home.
- Encouraging your child to participate in activities like camps, adventurous activities, Branch activities and National events, which form a significant component of the Award Scheme.
- Helping out with transport. Driving a carload of kids to or from a camp can be an entertaining insight.
- Helping with fundraising to keep the cost of Scouting down.

## Your Scout Group is like the local franchise of the worldwide Scout organisation.

### Scouts ACT provides:

- basic program - badgework
- major events like Hoporee, Cuboree, Jamboree.
- adventurous activities including abseiling, canoeing, sailing, and many more.
- Program resources (publications, apps).
- campsites (including ski lodges).
- Leader training (for adults).
- insurance marketing.
- fundraising support.
- communications.
- legal support.

### Your local Scout Group provides:

- Adult Leaders (volunteers who are screened, police-cleared, trained).
- the local program.
- support like the hall, gear for camping and other activities, finance and resources.

## Who is responsible for the local Scout Group? We are. The local community.

Now that your child has joined Scouting, you are a part of the broader Scouting family. Welcome! We encourage you to become involved in activities and programs. There are very few organisations where parents are able to participate fully in activities alongside their children but Scouting is one of them.

Parents and guardians sometimes wish to attend ongoing activity evenings (more than the occasional visit every couple of months) or an overnight activity. Just like our volunteer Leaders, to help us ensure young people's safety, all adults need to get a Working with Vulnerable People Card (WWVP), with Scouts ACT listed as the organisation you are working with. There is no cost to obtaining a WWVP card to assist as a volunteer and this can be done through Access Canberra.

## Other ways that parents help their local Scout Group include:

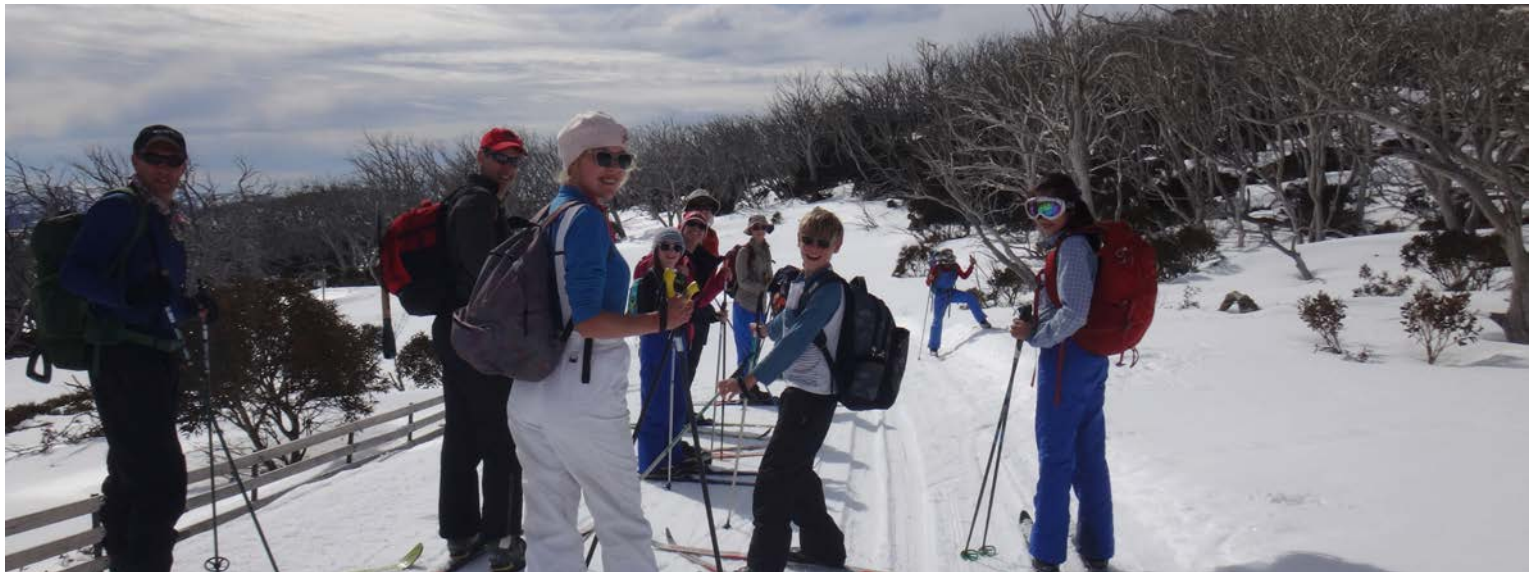
- volunteering as Leaders
- volunteering as Adult Helpers (screened, less training, not uniformed)
- enjoying helping out on weekend activities
- volunteering on the Group Support Committee (usually meets monthly)
- helping with occasional fundraising, maintenance etc.

**When parents help their Scout Group, the Leaders are free to focus on delivering great programs to the Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers.**

**If you want Scouting to be a great experience for your children, please help your Group be a great Group.**

For Leaders to give the best care for your child, it is important that you inform them of any learning conditions or medical issues. If your child is on medication please also ensure that this is recorded on their Activity Consent forms and is sent with your child to Scouts.





# How resilient are Scouts?

In 2018 Scouts Victoria participated in the National Youth Resilience Survey run by Resilient Youth Australia. More than 200,000 children throughout Australia have already taken part in this study.

We were particularly interested in the results for children who have been in Scouting for some time, to see whether long-term membership of Scouting has made a positive contribution to their development.

All Scouts Victoria members aged 8 to 18 were invited to take part in the survey (the sample who responded is therefore self-selected).

Some of the areas where Scouting's Youth Members out-performed the State average are shown here.

The results also indicated some areas where Scouts were below the State average. This makes the overall result even more powerful, as some Scouts have overcome disadvantage to become strong members of their school, Scout Group, and the wider community.

Although this was a Victorian Branch survey, the outcomes are applicable across Australia, including in the ACT.

## Joey Scouts

### Ages 5-7

We surveyed children who had completed the Joey Scout program.

Compared to Victorian children of the same age...

**Joey Scouts are more resilient.**

70%

56%



**Joey Scouts feel more empowered.**

74%

53%



**Joey Scouts have positive mental health.**

87%

74%



**Joey Scouts feel safer and more secure in their community.**

83%

62%



**Joey Scouts feel they can overcome their difficulties.**

87%

66%



**Joey Scouts have a clearer understanding of boundaries and expectations.**

87%

66%



## Cub Scouts

### Ages 8-10

We surveyed children who had completed the Cub Scout program.

Compared to Victorian children of the same age...

**Cub Scouts are more resilient.**

66%

60%



**Cub Scouts feel happier.**

95%

84%



**Cub Scouts feel more supported by adults.**

82%

62%



**Cub Scouts feel safer and more secure in their community.**

76%

66%



**Cub Scouts are less likely to lose sleep through worry.**

84%

70%



**Cub Scouts are less likely to use their phone late at night.**

93%

68%



**Cub Scouts have a clearer understanding of boundaries and expectations.**

83%

69%



<p><b>Empowerment</b> <b>Belonging</b> <b>Boundaries &amp; Expectations</b> <b>Adult Support</b></p> <p>Measured by the Developmental Assets Profile (DAP)</p>	<p><b>Hope</b> <b>Healthy Mind &amp; Healthy Body</b></p> <p>Measured by the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ12) and the Children's Hope Scale (CHS)</p>	<p><b>Educational Engagement</b> <b>Social Skills</b> <b>Positive Identity</b> <b>Positive Values</b></p> <p>Measured by the Developmental Assets Profile (DAP)</p>
<b>SAFE</b>	<b>HEALTHY</b>	<b>FULFILLING</b>

## Scouts

### Ages 11–14

We surveyed children who had completed the Scout program.

Compared to Victorian children of the same age...

**Scouts are more resilient.**

53%

49%



**Scouts are more engaged in their education.**

67%

39%



**Scouts are more likely to have support from adults other than their parents.**

81%

65%



**Scouts are helping to make their community a better place.**

67%

38%



**Scouts are more likely to be given useful roles and responsibilities.**

79%

57%



**Scouts are less likely to be bullied at school.**

77%

67%



## Venturers

### Ages 15–17

We surveyed teenagers who had completed the Venturer program.

Compared to other Victorian teenagers...

**Venturers are more resilient.**

49%

31%



**Venturers have a greater sense of belonging at school.**

58%

42%



**Venturers contribute to making their community better.**

60%

37%



**Venturers have positive mental health.**

66%

54%



**Venturers have stronger social skills.**

60%

36%



**Venturers have better decision-making skills.**

50%

28%



## Plus

Scouts of all ages reported more highly on

- I am trustworthy.
- I forgive people who are mean to me.
- I eat breakfast at home during an average school week.
- I get at least eight hours of sleep most nights.

Scouts of all ages are also significantly less likely to use alcohol or tobacco.

# Our commitment to child protection

Scouts ACT is a Child Safe organisation. We take a zero-tolerance approach to any form of abuse or neglect. We celebrate and value diversity amongst our members, regardless of their gender, sexuality, race, religion, or ability.

Scouts ACT is dedicated to making Scouting a safe place for young people.

Here are some of the things that we do to make our organisation safe for children:

Every adult member (every registered member over the age of 18) must hold a Working with Vulnerable People Card (WWVP) which includes a national police check. This includes our volunteer Leaders, Adult Helpers, Rover Scouts, staff and key office bearers.

In addition, all potential Leaders and Adult Helpers, when applying for membership, must provide three referees who can comment on their suitability as a leader. An appointment committee carefully scrutinises these reports.

Our Adult Members must also uphold our Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct and our Child Safe Scouting Commitment. Any breach can result in a termination of membership. Our adult members must review and reaffirm their commitment to these codes every 12 months through annual Adult Review and Development Plans.

All Adult Members must complete training, including training in Child Safe practices, so they know what to do if a young person discloses abuse, harm or neglect, and how to adequately support the child or young person. Child Safe training has to be renewed every three years. Reports of child abuse, harm or neglect are taken seriously, dealt with promptly, and reported to relevant authorities.

Other aspects of Child Safe Scouting include:

- 'Two-deep adult leadership' — At least two adults must be present when working with young people. In some cases, more are required.
- 'Within sight, out of hearing' — Adults must avoid being alone with a child. When a one-on-one conversation is necessary this should be in sight, but out of hearing.

We have clear rules about adult to child supervision ratios for our younger members, privacy and sleeping arrangements for all and a ban on alcohol consumption by leaders at activities.

We are completely transparent with families about the supervision, location and details of all our activities. We also have nationally accredited standards and training for all adventurous activities.

We empower our young people through our philosophy of Youth Leading and Adult Supporting. Youth Members are active participants in decision-making in Scouting. This encourages them to have confidence that they will be heard.

The safety of our members is our highest priority. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure our young people are safe.

## How to report

**Anyone can report any incident of unacceptable behaviour to our Child Protection Team immediately on 02 6183 5023 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or email us at [protection@scoutsact.com.au](mailto:protection@scoutsact.com.au)**

The safety of our members is our highest priority. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure this.

To find out more about how we create a Child Safe organisation, visit the Child Safe Scouting page on our website, [www.scoutsact.com.au/child-safety.html](http://www.scoutsact.com.au/child-safety.html)

**Child Protection Team**

**Phone 24 hours  
02 6183 5023**

**[protection@scoutsact.com.au](mailto:protection@scoutsact.com.au)**



## Unacceptable behaviours

It is important that the young people in our care are safe, and that they feel safe.

It is also important that adults are safe.

The following behaviours are unacceptable by Adults in Scouting.

- Any form of physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, cultural, racial or religious abuse.
- Entering an area where children are changing or showering, or entering youth members' tents or sleeping areas on camp when young people are in bed (without a valid reason, such as an emergency).
- Transporting an individual youth member alone (unless their own child, or in an emergency).
- Communicating one-on-one with youth members outside of Scouts through text messaging or via social media.
- Developing special relationships, including one-on-one catch up sessions for missed Scouting activities.
- Distributing inappropriate materials via any channel.
- Engaging in discussions with young people that are not age-appropriate.
- Encouraging the use or consumption of alcohol, smoking, or use of illicit substances by youth members.
- Being under the influence of alcohol or illicit substances while undertaking duties as an Adult in Scouting.
- Behaving towards a youth member in a manner that makes them uncomfortable.
- Breaching the Scouts Australia Code of Conduct. Adults in Scouting also commit to our Code of Ethics.

Anyone can report any incident of unacceptable behaviour to our Child Protection Team immediately on 02 6183 5023 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Or email us at [protection@scoutsact.com.au](mailto:protection@scoutsact.com.au)



## Code of Conduct

**This Code of Conduct is a personal commitment.**

Its purpose is to protect all members of Scouting.

It applies to all members over the age of 18, regardless of location and role, when engaging with young people and adults in any form.

This includes face to face contact and using technology such as online formats.

Parents and guardians who wish to actively participate in Scouting activities must also follow this Code.

I will set an example that I would wish others to follow.  
Therefore, I will:

- recognise at all times that my words and actions are an example to other members of the Movement.
- act at all times in accordance with the Promise and Law, Code of Ethics and this Code of Conduct, thereby setting a suitable example for all.

- not use the Movement to promote my own beliefs, behaviours and practices where these are not compatible with Scouting Principles.
- adhere to the Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy and provide a safe environment for youth members participating in the Scout Program, their parents or guardians and visitors.
- report any conduct seen or heard that does not comply with this Code of Conduct to the appropriate Scouting person.





**Scouts**  
ACT

**GET IN TOUCH!**

[www.scoutsact.com.au](http://www.scoutsact.com.au)

Scouts ACT  
89 Kitchener Street  
GARRAN ACT 2605

1800 SCOUTS/1800 726 887  
or (02) 6282 5211

Emergencies: 0418 667 066  
(only for emergencies)

Child protection: 02 6183 5023  
(to report any concerns 24/7)

Our Parent Guide is updated from time to time.  
New versions will be on our website at

[www.scoutsact.com.au/parentguide](http://www.scoutsact.com.au/parentguide)

