



Scouts
NSW

Welcome to Scouting

A Guide for Parents and Caregivers

Welcome!

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Congratulations on joining your local Scout Group!

Your child is now part of a global youth movement which has more than 52 million members. Since 1907, more than 2 billion young people have benefited from the Scouting program worldwide. You will find many of these people in leadership positions across business, politics and helping out in your local community.

Scouts plays a unique role in society. We offer young people aged 5 to 25 the opportunity to gain real life skills outside the classroom or sports ground. These skills have proven benefits that give young people advantages in their careers and their lives.

We're open to everyone. We invite youth and adult members from all backgrounds and all locations in NSW. Our Scout Groups are run by local volunteers, who give their time freely to enable young people in their communities to enjoy outdoor (and indoor) adventures. The families who support Scouting help ensure we deliver the best possible experience for all those who participate.

This guide will introduce you to the world of Scouting. It will help you get to know us better and to understand how your child can make the most of their time in Scouts.

About Us

The Structure of Scouts

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

Your local Scout Group provides:

- Adult Leaders (volunteers who are screened, police-cleared, trained)
- The local delivery of the Scout Program
- A place to meet (Hall)
- Supplying activity equipment and gear.

Each Scout Group belongs to a geographical Region in NSW – from the border of Queensland through to Victoria, from the east coast to the South Australian border.

The Scouts NSW State Service Centre supports Scouting in areas such as child safety, risk management, operations, technology and property.

Our Values

Scouts is a values-based organisation underpinned by the Scout Promise and the Scout Law. 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 an undertaking to live by the Scout Law.

What is Scouting?

Scouting is the world's largest provider of non-formal education for young people. It empowers young people to develop new skills and responsible independence through the Scout Method, which involves learning by doing, learning in small teams, learning in the outdoors and as part of the local community.

Young people involved in Scouting learn at their own pace and progress through achievement areas that match their interests. As they proceed through the Sections of Scouting, young people become increasingly self-managing, with the support of their volunteer adult Leaders.

THE SCOUT PROMISE

The Scout Promise comes in two forms, and members choose which version they wish to make and best aligns with their beliefs.

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

On my honour,
I promise to do my best,

To do my duty to my God,
And to the King
of Australia,

To help other people,

And to live by the
Scout Law

THE SCOUT LAW

The Scout Law is a simple code for living.

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



Our Sections

Scouts can engage in the program as a youth member from the age of five until they turn 26. There are five age-based Sections in Scouting. These include:



Joey Scouts | DISCOVER THE ADVENTURE

Our youngest Scouts are children aged 5-8. They meet each week as a Joey Scout Unit and engage in activities based around creativity and imagination. Through their adventures, Joey Scouts are able to try new things, explore emerging interests and enjoy activities that they themselves have chosen to do. Joey Scouts can earn their Peak Award called the Joey Scout Challenge Award.



Cub Scouts | CREATE THE PATH

Cub Scouts are children 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 Scout called a Patrol Leader. Patrols and their Leaders meet to plan the program. This group is called the Unit Council. Cub Scouts can earn their Peak Award called the Grey Wolf Award.



Scouts | EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN

Scouts aged 11-14 are the original Section of Scouting. Scouts meet as a Scout Unit, which is composed of small teams called Patrols, led by an elected Patrol Leader. Patrol Leaders meet with their Leaders as the Unit Council, to plan their program and other aspects of the Unit. By now, youth members are increasingly taking over the running of their Section - planning their program, managing finance, and even dealing with any behaviour problems. Every three years Scouts from around Australia and beyond gather for a two-week camp called a Jamboree. Scouts can earn their Peak Award called the Australian Scout Award.



Venturer Scouts | LOOK WIDE

Venturer Scouts, aged 15-18, have a much larger say in their own activities. Venturer Scouts 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. Venturer Scouts can earn a Peak Award called the Queen's Scout Award.



Rover Scouts | BEYOND THE HORIZON

Rover Scouts are young adults, aged 18-25, who run their own program, finances, property, major events and much more. They have a strong annual program including motor sport and social events. Their major events are called Moots. The peak award in this Section is the Baden-Powell Scout Award.

About Your Child's Scouting Experience

Scouting is a rewarding and welcoming experience, regardless of age, gender, or any previous experience in the global Scouting movement.

This section provides useful information about your child's Scouting experience, including the Scout Program, different activities they can expect to get involved in, their uniform and information about the cost of being involved in Scouts.

The Scout Program

What sets Scouting apart from other activities is our program. Scouts Australia has One Program for all Sections – Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts – where the skills learned in younger Sections are built on and progressed at each level.

A good program includes lots of different adventures, lots of time outdoors, and has significant input from the youth members themselves, as they pass from being a five-year-old Joey Scout through until they turn 25 years of age as a Rover Scout.

The **Achievement Pathway** is the personal progression framework we use to recognise personal development in the Scout Program. Each Section's Achievement Pathway is suited to the capabilities of youth members in that Section. More information about the Achievement Pathways can be found in our [Program Resources](#).

Our Leaders focus on guiding our youth members to achieve their Peak Award – the most significant level of achievement in Scouts. And while many strive for these Peak Awards, they are not for everyone. Some youth members are happy to enjoy camps, weeknight meetings and occasionally achieve badges!



What our young people learn at Scouts

Scouts is the best at delivering fun and diverse programs that develop skills for life! Experiential learning is part of just about everything we do, whether it applies to hard skills such as cooking a meal or rowing a boat, or soft skills such as accepting responsibility, communicating and working in teams.

There are so many different activities and learning experiences on offer at Scouts, don't be afraid to speak to your child's Leader about what your child can do, whether at a Group, Region or State level!



OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

- Canoeing, kayaking and sailing
- Hiking and camping
- Rock climbing, abseiling and canyoning
- Cycling
- Obstacle and ropes courses

CONFIDENCE AND LEADERSHIP

- Leadership camps
- Working as part of a Patrol
- Scholarship programs
- Representing Australia at international events

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

- Land care
- Environmental camps
- Conservation activities
- Clean-up campaigns

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE

- Fundraising for charities
- Being active in the local community
- Projects associated with the UN Sustainable Development Goals

CREATIVE SKILLS

- Performance (Gang Show)
- Production
- Video
- Photography and design
- Arts and literature
- STEM

ACTIVITIES THAT MAY SURPRISE YOU

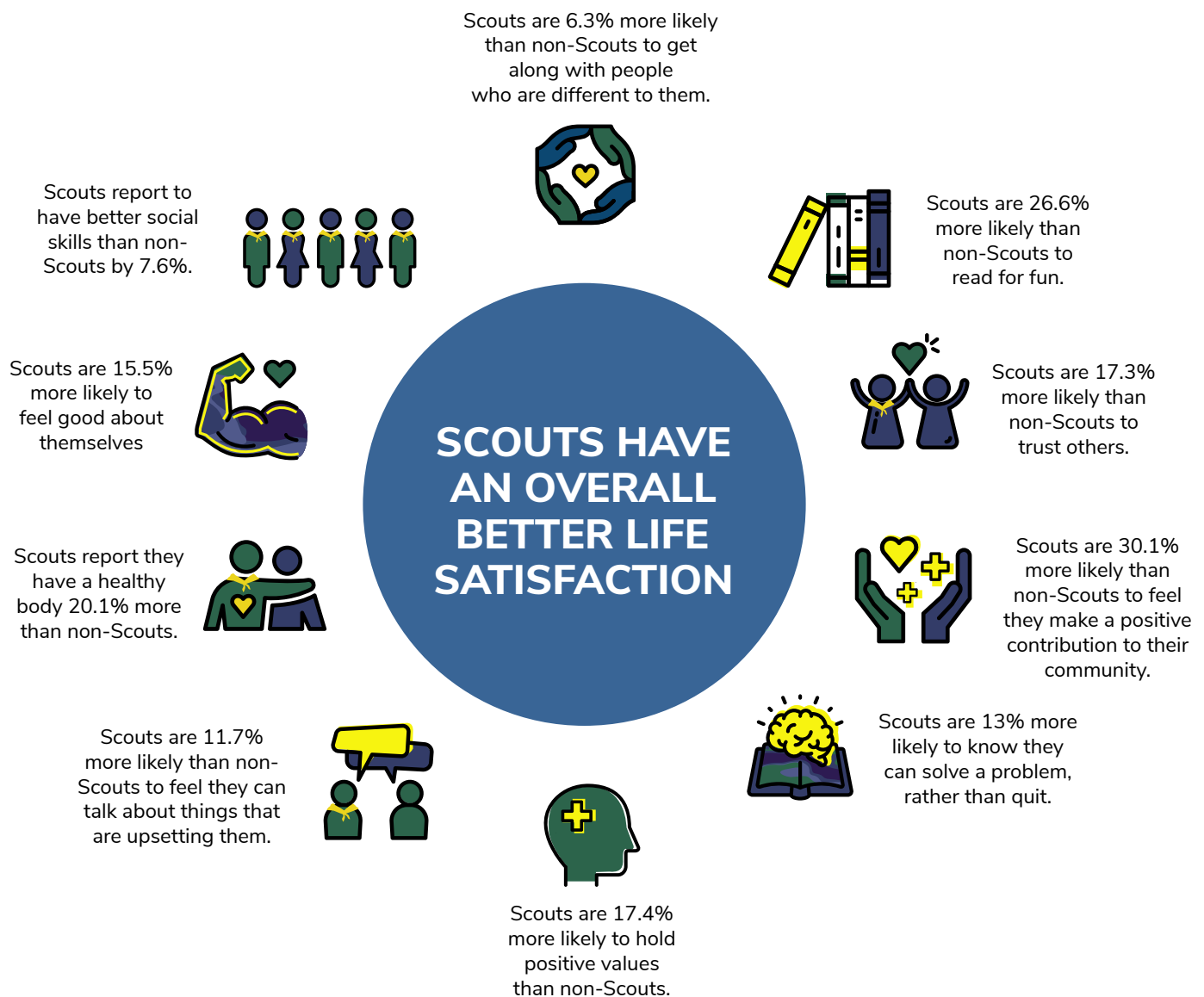
- Learn to fly a light aircraft
- Get your Pilot licence
- Get your boating licence
- Go four-wheel driving
- Learn to scuba dive

How Resilient are Scouts?

In 2019, we partnered with Resilient Youth Australia to conduct the Scouts Australia Resilience Survey to investigate the impact of Scouting on the resilience of our youth members.

A sample of current youth members aged 8-18 years old across Australia took part in the survey. Their results were benchmarked against the Australian norm dataset of 48,671 young people aged 8-18 years.

Through this survey, we have found that **Scouts have an overall better life satisfaction** than their non-Scouting peers, and that the longer they stay in Scouts, the more resilient they are likely to become.



Keeping our young people safe

Our young people are at the forefront of the Scouting movement, and their safety is an essential component of our program.

Our commitment to youth protection is summarised in our Safeguarding Commitment Statement, which can be found [here](#).

Uniform

The Scout uniform consists of a shirt, trousers and a scarf (which is held together by a woggle). The shirt and trousers are available through the NSW Scout Shop based in Port Kembla, or the National Scout Shop, while the scarf is usually supplied by the Scout Group your child joins.

Each Section in Scouting has a shirt with a different coloured sleeve. Joey Scouts have tan sleeves, Cub Scouts have yellow sleeves, Scouts have green sleeves, Venturer Scouts have maroon sleeves and Rover Scouts have red sleeves. Our formal uniform trousers are a stone or beige colour. The scarf is used to assist identify which Scout Group our members belong to. Each scarf often has a unique story behind its design.

Your child's Leader can answer any questions about our uniform.



The Cost of Scouting

Let's not beat around the bush – participating in Scouts isn't free. Just like other sports and activities, there is a cost associated with participating in Scouting. But when compared to other programs, the value Scouting provides our young people is unmatched.

There are three main 'costs' associated with Scouting:

Joining Fee and Membership Fees: Each member who joins Scouts NSW pays a one-off joining fee of \$60. In addition, they also pay a yearly State Membership Fee, which for the 2024 Scout Calendar Year (1 January - 31 December) is \$280. The State Membership Fee is set by Scouts NSW each year and covers the cost of essential services and behind-the-scenes operations at a Region and State level to ensure members can enjoy Scouting now and into the future. It also covers the cost of public liability and personal accident insurance for members participating in Scouting activities.

Group Fees: Separate from the State Membership Fee is a local Group Fee charged by your Scout Group. The Group fee covers costs such as rates, power, equipment, insurance, Leader training, and more. If you have any questions about the Group fee, please speak with your child's Leader.

Activities and Camp Fees: There is also the cost of activities such as camps and day excursions. These are kept as low as possible. Major events held every few years (like a National Jamboree) cost more because of the scale of the program, infrastructure and entertainment, but most Groups work together to lower the individual cost through fundraising.

If you have any questions about the cost of participating in Scouting, please speak with your child's Leader.

Active Kids Rebate

Active Kids is a NSW Government program which helps families across the state meet the cost of getting their kids into sport, active lifestyle and recreation programs, like Scouts. Parents and caregivers can claim Active Kids vouchers to offset the cost of their child's fees. To learn more about redeeming the Active Kids vouchers, click [here](#).

Any questions about Active Kids? Email our Member Services team on memberservices@nsw.scouts.com.au.



Support Available

Financial issues should not be a barrier to any child being a Scout. If you are in need of financial assistance to cover the cost of Scouting, we encourage you to apply for our Family Support Fund. More information about the Family Support Fund can be found on the Scouts NSW website [here](#). If your family has a refugee background, you can apply for support through the Scouts for Refugee Fund. More information about this can be found on the Scouts NSW website [here](#).



About You

As a parent/guardian, you play a key role in supporting your child through their Scouting journey.

This section provides a few tips and tricks on helping your child get the most out of Scouts, communicating effectively with their Leaders and even getting involved in Scouts yourself!

How to help your child get the most out of their time at Scouts

Oftentimes your child will have their own ideas about what they want to do in Scouts. Other times you'll find yourself giving them a helping hand and guiding them through the journey.

There are many ways you can help your child get the most out of their Scouting experience. Below are a few ideas to help get you started:

- Sit in on a few meetings. This is a great way to observe what your child does at Scouts and understand how the Group works.
- Communicate proactively with your child's Leader and let them know what your child is interested in. Leaders are always looking for activity ideas so giving them an insight into your child's interests can help them better support your child.
- Read the [Achievement Pathways resources](#) or log into Scouts Terrain so you can support and encourage your child to gain badges and progress through the personal progression framework and achievement pathway.
- Encourage your child to participate in activities like camps, adventurous activities, District activities, and State and National events. These are fantastic opportunities for your child to engage in a broader experience of Scouting.
- Speak with your child's Leader about opportunities available outside the Scout Group, or even outside the Region. The Scouting calendar is full of events and activities, so there's a good chance there are existing opportunities available.
- Help out with transport. Driving a carload of fellow Scouts to or from a camp can be an entertaining insight into Scouting!
- Refer a friend. Scouts is always better when you have some other friends with you.
- Consider becoming a Leader. Apart from the quality time you'll be able to spend with your child, think about the training and skill recognition Scouts is able to provide you as an adult. It could assist you with a professionally recognised Diploma in Leadership or more.



Communicating with Leaders

Our volunteer Leaders are committed to ensuring your child enjoys and benefits from their time in Scouting.

Your first point of contact for any questions about Scouts is the Leader of your child's Section – that is, the Joey Scout Leader, Cub Scout Leader, Scout Leader or Venturer Scout Leader.

Meeting nights are often busy so it can be difficult to have a detailed conversation with the Leader during or immediately after the meeting. You may like to give them a call or even offer to catch up for a coffee!

If you still need 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 Scout Group.

If that doesn't work out – or if the Group Leader is unavailable – you are welcome to contact our Scouts NSW State Service Centre on 02 9735 9000 and we can put you in touch with your Region Commissioner, the senior Scouting volunteer who coordinates all the Scout Groups in your local area.

Note:

This process doesn't apply if you believe someone is in danger or if there is a breach of child safety. In this case, you should get the attention of your child's Leader immediately. Anyone can log child safety concerns by using the [online youth protection form](#), calling 02 9735 9000 or emailing youthprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au.



Get Involved

There are very few organisations where parents and caregivers can participate fully in activities alongside their children - Scouting is one of them.

Parents are integral to the success of the local Scout Group. Many parents are Leaders and Adult Helpers. Most Leaders are parents. Parents can even be “out on the field” playing beside their kids - attending Cuboree, Unit camps etc.

Now that your child has joined Scouting, you too are a part of the broader Scouting family and we encourage you to get involved.

There are so many different opportunities to participate in Scouting as an adult. These include:

- Volunteering as a **Leader**
- Volunteering as an **Adult Helper** (screened, less training, not uniformed)
- Helping out on weekend activities
- Volunteering as part of the Group Committee (usually meets monthly)
- Volunteering for duties such as Scout Hall setup or clean up, helping with DIY jobs or gardening
- Raising funds for the Scout Group, through fundraising events and activities or grant seeking

When parents help their Scout Group, the Leaders are free to focus on delivering a great program to our young people. If you want Scouting to be a great experience for your children, please help your Scout Group be a great Group. Speak to your child's Leader to find out how you can play your part.





Scout Talk

LEADERS

Leaders are adult volunteers who put hours into Scouting each week - and in return get great satisfaction, friendships, skills and experiences. All Leaders go through several stages of screening (which are renewed regularly), and complete training, which must also be kept up to date. Leaders of Youth work directly with our youth members, while Leaders of Adults provide support at all levels of the organisation.

ADULT HELPERS

Adult Helpers help 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 a Scout uniform.

SCOUT GROUP

The Scout Group is made up of all the Sections in the local Group. A Group may have all five Sections (Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts) or just a Cub Scout Unit and a Scout Unit, or some other combination.

GROUP LEADER

Each Group is managed by a volunteer called the Group Leader.

GROUP SUPPORT COMMITTEE

The Committee is generally composed of parents who meet monthly while their children are at Scouts. They support the Group and the Leaders by taking care of the Hall, equipment, finances, and many other important jobs to keep the Group running smoothly.

DISTRICT

A Scout District is a set of Scout Groups, usually as prescribed by the Local Government Area. Each District is managed by a volunteer District Commissioner.

REGION

A Scout Region is a group of Scout Districts. In New South Wales there are 10 Regions.

STATE TEAM

Scouts NSW State Team is led by the Chief Commissioner, with two Deputy Chief Commissioners (DCCs). There are also many senior volunteers with expertise in Adventurous Activities, Major Events, Risk and Safety, and many other aspects of Scouting.



Useful Links

Scouts NSW website:

<https://www.scoutsnsw.com.au/>

Program Resources:

<https://pr.scouts.com.au/>

NSW Scout Shop:

<https://www.sctscouts.org.au/shop/>

National Scout Shop:

<https://scoutshop.com.au/>

Active Kids:

<https://www.scoutsnsw.com.au/info-for-parents/active-kids-voucher/>

Family Support Fund:

<https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/familysupportfund/>

Scouts for Refugees Fund:

<https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/about/scoutsforrefugees/>

Achievement Pathways Resources:

<https://pr.scouts.com.au/achievement-pathways/>

Youth Protection Form (Log It Form):

<https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/youthprotection/log-it/>

Get Involved as an Adult in Scouting:

<https://www.scoutsnsw.com.au/info-for-volunteers/>





Scouts
NSW



Contact Us



1800 SCOUTS (1800 726 887)
or 02 9735 9000



info@nsw.scouts.com.au



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linkedin.com/company/scoutsnsw/