

A Unit Code is a way of expressing how members of our Rover Scout Unit are going to act, what acceptable behaviour is, and how members will treat others and the space around them.

A Unit Code is about:

- How members of the Unit behave and respect each other
- Respecting our environment around us, including people, each other's property and the natural environment
- Supporting resilient behaviour and showing courage in challenging times

When creating your Unit Code, the Unit should also consider the Australian Scout Promise and Law and the Rover Scout symbolic framework "Beyond the Horizon".

Once it has been created by the whole Unit, all Rover Scouts and their advisers then agree to follow the Code. The Unit Code is in addition to the Adult Code of Conduct & Code of Ethics that all members of Scouts Australia over 18 year of age must abide by.

Your Unit should display the Rover Scout Unit Code in a creative way so it acts as a reminder to the members of the Unit. The Unit Code needs to be reviewed or rewritten annually by the whole Unit, to ensure it represents the current members.

The Rover Scout Unit may also have a supplementary Unit operational procedures document alongside the Unit Code which outlines how the Unit operates (such as how elections are held, additional Unit Council positions needed, forming of Project Patrols and finances of the Unit). When creating such documents, the Unit should consider already existing National and Branch policies and guidelines in this space, and remember to be inclusive to all members focusing on skill not status of a member.

## How to Develop Your Code

### Plan>

- Decide who will lead and how you're going to break up the task
- Consider how you will make the creation of the Unit Code fun and inclusive to all Unit members
- Decide if you will write the Unit Code with the whole Unit, or if the Unit Council will take the ideas generated and collate it into a final document (often easier for large Units).
- Come up with a plan if you think you're going to have some difficult discussions when drafting the Unit Code. Your Adviser/s may be able to help you.
- Remember to make the creation of the Unit Code fun and inclusive to all Unit members and challenge norms of behaviour of the Unit through this process

### Do>

- Have the whole Unit generate ideas for what could go into your Unit Code. It may be easier to do this in small groups if you have a large Unit.
- The Australian Scout Law in its extended form is a good starting point for ideas.
- It may also be helpful to group your thoughts into 'What We Do' and 'What We Don't Do'.
- Try not to single out individuals when making statements for the Unit Code. However, if there are behaviours in the Unit that are causing issues, the Unit Code is a great place for the whole Unit to set expectations about how everyone will behave.
- You can tailor this step to suit your own Unit, but make sure that everyone has the opportunity to provide input.

Remember that it is up to you how you present your Unit Code. Would pictures help? Do your Units operational procedures already have a helpful basis you could start from? Get the Unit to suggest some creative ways to display the Code.

## Review>

- The Unit Council then comes together to collate all of the teams' feedback. Don't forget, it's hard to follow a document that is too long or hard to remember!
- Make sure that your Unit Code covers the key areas of:
  - » respecting each other,
  - » building resilience against bullying and harassment,
  - » the environment, and
  - » possessions and property.
- Present the Unit Code back to the Unit and make sure everyone is happy with what is included.
- Have everyone, including the Advisers, agree to the Code
- Display your Unit Code up in your hall for everyone to see in a creative way!
- Make sure that when new people join your section that someone explains your Unit Code to them.
- Review your Unit Code annually to keep it up to date.

The Unit Council will monitor Unit member's behaviour and may need to discuss managing poor behaviour of individuals.

## How to link to Achievement Pathways

As Rover Scouts, the generation of the Unit Code or leading the development aspects will likely not be enough development for any individual member of the Unit, however coupling this component with research and action about treatment of peers and equality amongst young people could be a component within a Lead or Special Interest Area Project

## Stuck?

Check out these resources to start you off but remember to make your Unit Code your own!  
Refer to the Program Handbook for some more guidance or go to;

- Australian Scout Promise and Law resources
- Examples on Scouts Australia's websites
- Code of Conduct (in Policy and Rules)
- Scouts Australia Internal Compass resources