

# Information sheet for Parents Introduction to Scouting



Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

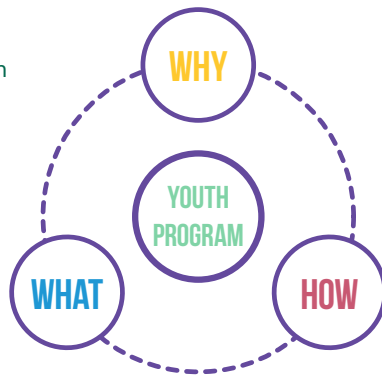
## Introduction to the Scout Movement

Congratulations on joining one of the largest and longest running youth movements in the world! We have 40 million members globally, and it just keeps growing!

## What is Scouting all about?

**The Purpose of the Scout Movement is to contribute to the education of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.**

Scouting's program for 21st Century Australian young people places your child at the centre of the program where personal development occurs in challenging, fun, adventurous, and inclusive ways.



Scouting is about seeking and gathering information; it is about a process of learning; acquiring skills and knowledge. The Scouting experience is complementary to formal education, contributing to the **physical, intellectual, emotional, social** and **spiritual** development of young people.

A Scouting youth member will learn some basic knowledge about Scouting and their age-group's Section when they join, with the support of their Scouting peers and adult Leaders.



The youth program is organised around five age-based Sections. This helps cater to the changing developmental needs of children and young people, promotes personal progression, ensures young people are at the centre of their Scouting journey, and builds a supportive environment.

As your child grows and progresses through Scouting, it is the support from peers that is often a key contributor to a successful transition from one Section to the next. As such, each Section functions with a peer mentoring system. This helps facilitate transition to the next Section, even before

the youth member is ready to move. As Scouts get older, they will become more independent and able to work with youth members from across other age sections.

All activities in Scouting are implemented using **The Scout Method**, a framework consisting of eight equally important elements. Whether it is through **community involvement; nature and the outdoors; learning-by-doing; the patrol system; youth leading, adults supporting; personal progression, symbolic framework** or **the Promise and Law**, young people are empowered to set goals and collaborate to achieve them.



### Community Involvement

Active exploration of an individual's commitment and responsibility to their community and wider world.



### Learning by Doing

Learning through practical experiences and activities.



### Nature and the Outdoors

The outdoors is the primary setting for learning and encourages a two-way relationship between the individual and the natural world.



### Patrol System

A way to develop interpersonal and leadership skills through teamwork, responsibility and belonging.



### Personal Progression

A learning journey focused on challenging the individual to do their best through a range of experiences.



### Promise and Law

Scouting values and ideals that underpin all activities and interactions.



### Symbolic Framework

A unifying structure of themes and symbols that facilitates that awareness and development of an individual's personal journey.



### Youth Leading, Adults Supporting

A youth movement, guided by adults, where youth are increasingly self-managing.

Your child will make the Australian Scout Promise and pledge to live by the Australian Scout Law when they join the Movement. These represent the values for the Scout Movement, values that all Scouting members around the world commit to living by.

Individually, and collectively, all members agree to live their lives guided by the values expressed through the Promise and Law. Whilst each National Scout Organisation may have a unique Promise and Law, all must be inspired by the original created by Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting. They are a commitment to the Principles of Scouting, which include duty to self, duty to others and duty to god.

Scouting is a community – a community of youth and adults working in partnership for the improvement of themselves as individuals, as well as society more broadly. It is an international community, comprised of members from over 160 countries around the world. Each National Scout Organization functions differently, adapting to suit the needs of the society they operate within.

Through the Scout program, young people are provided with a range of opportunities, locally, nationally and globally.

**Plan>Do>Review>** is a tool used in the Scout Program to engage youth members in developing and running an active program in which everyone can individually develop and enjoy.



By being involved in a process like Plan>Do>Review>, young people learn the values of working together to achieve a common goal, listening to others' opinions, achieving consensus, sharing knowledge and skills, and celebrating achievements together. Involving our youth members in planning their program helps youth and adults to learn to work together, and to develop skills like creative problem solving, leadership, collaboration, and communication skills. It promotes a dynamic and democratic experience in the Scout youth program.

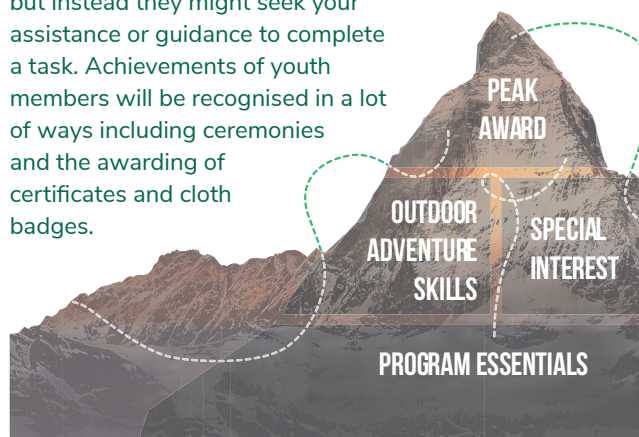
Across all sections, youth members in the Scout Movement work in small teams, we call these 'Patrols'. It is recognised that through Patrols, many of Scouting's learning-by-doing experiences are encountered with peers. Working in Patrols provides opportunities to develop soft skills including leadership, teamwork and communication as well as building a sense of responsibility and belonging.



The Scout program offers one continuous learning journey, with each Section representing another adventure. The Personal Progression Framework provides a structure for the experience of individuals within this. It represents the elements of the journey that all youth participating in the program will experience, as well as challenging those who wish to gain even more personally from their Scouting experience.

On any journey, not everyone wants or needs to reach the summit, and that's ok! The Achievement Pathways has been designed to offer many paths. There are many interesting routes to choose from.

As a parent or guardian, you might need to support your young person in discovery and exploration and managing their time. This does not mean you do the work for them, but instead they might seek your assistance or guidance to complete a task. Achievements of youth members will be recognised in a lot of ways including ceremonies and the awarding of certificates and cloth badges.



Scouting is a movement that can take you many places, and is not just for the young person. Your family will also have the opportunity to become a part of the Scouting community. This is not necessarily about you taking on a specific role, but about the new friendships that you, as a parent or guardian, might make through your young person's involvement in the Movement. As a parent or guardian of a young person in the Scout Movement, you might be asked to assist in Group events and fundraising initiatives. This forms part of the life of the Scout Group. Once again, we welcome your family to the Scout Movement.

For additional information please talk to the Group Leader and section Leader at your local group or have a look at the Scouts Australia website [www.scouts.com.au](http://www.scouts.com.au) for more information about National Scouting and Branches within Scouts Australia

Thank you for taking the initial steps for your child to become a member. Let the Adventure begin!