



# A Parents Guide to Scouting at 1<sup>st</sup> Magill Scout Group

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Welcome to 1<sup>st</sup> Magill Scout Group. This information is to help you to know what lies ahead, what you may expect of us and what we will expect of you. If there is anything you are unsure about, please feel free to ask any of the Leaders.

## *What is Scouting?*

Scouting is a worldwide movement that has shaped the development of youth and adults for over 100 years. Scouts are in every part of our community, and Scouts is the biggest and most successful youth organisation in Australia.

The aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual development of young people so they may play a constructive role in society as responsible citizens and as members of their local and international communities. This aim is achieved through a strong and active program that inspires young people to do their best and to always be prepared.

## *Scouting Sections*

The Scout Movement consists of five sections:

- Joey Scouts for ages 6 - 8
- Cub Scouts for ages 7½ - 11
- Scouts for ages 10½ - 15
- Venturers for ages 14½ - 18
- Rovers for ages 18 - 26

1st Magill Scout Group has Joey Scout, Cub Scout and Scout sections.

## *Scouting is Fun!*

Scouting is definitely fun, and it also prepares young people for life in the adult world by teaching responsibility for their own actions and progress. These achievements lay a solid foundation for the success of our future Australian leaders. But don't tell the kids they're learning! They think they're just having fun!

No matter the age of the participant, Scouts provides fun and exciting programs that promote active learning. Whether the young boys and girls are canoeing,

camping, visiting museums or helping their local community, the activity is sure to teach them about themselves and the world around them.

## *Scouting is Adventurous!*

Each year, all sections of Scouts learn to share responsibilities and to live with each other through adventures set in the outdoors. Camping, abseiling, caving, horseback riding, fishing, rock climbing and diving are just a few of the exciting experiences that a Scout may have achieved in his or her time as a youth member.

## *Scouting is Challenging!*

Scouts challenge their minds as well as their bodies. Not everyone looks for the outdoor buzz all the time, so Scouts have challenging activities linked with the Internet and amateur radio, performance arts such as singing, dancing, and acting and awards linked to citizenship, community service and personal spiritual development.

## *Scouting is Commitment!*

Scouting makes a direct and positive impact on the community by teaching positive values and leadership skills to youth. Every year, Scouts and their leaders contribute thousands of volunteer hours to their local communities. Sharing time with the aged in the local community, helping with Clean Up Australia Day, Harmony Day and planting trees to help with the Murray Darling River Rescue are just a few examples of the commitment Scouts make to their communities.

## *What is a Scout Group?*

A Scout Group is the local area organisation that offers different levels of Scouting to various ages. A full Group consists of five Sections called a Joey Mob, a Cub Scout Pack, a Scout Troop, a Venturer Unit and a Rover Crew.

Each Mob, Pack, Troop or Unit is under the control of a person known as a Joey Scout, Cub Scout, Scout or Venturer Leader who is helped by Assistant Leaders,

and also Parent Helpers. The Group as a whole is managed and guided by a person known as the Group Leader.

## Joining

Before your child can participate in any Scout meetings you will need to complete an *Application for Youth Membership* form (Y1), this will give automatic insurance cover for your child whilst they are deciding if Scouting is for them. There is also a free trial period of three weeks, before paying the membership fees. This will give you and your child a chance to enjoy Scouting before you make a financial commitment.

After the initial three weeks, the Group Leader and Section Leaders would discuss a date for Investiture. On investiture the "Affiliation Fee" and the membership fee for the first term would be paid. The "Affiliation Fee" will be sent together with the Y1 to Scouts Headquarters, thereby registering your child as a member of the Scout Association.

## Uniform

The uniform is an important part of Scouting in that it provides a sense of recognition and belonging to the group. It also provides a way for Scouts to show their accomplishments through the various badges they have earned and can wear on the uniform.

The base uniform consist of a navy blue shirt with each youth section using different coloured shoulder/sleeve stripes:

- Joeys - Brown
- Cubs - Yellow
- Scouts - Green
- Venturers - Maroon
- Rovers - Red

For every section, the minimum required uniform items are:

- Shirt (in the colour as described above)
- SA State Scarf
- Leather Woggle

Also, for outdoor activities we require the use of a bucket hat or surf hat. "Cap" style hats are not recommended as they offer insufficient sun protection.

For Cubs, Scouts and Venturers, we also recommend the Stone coloured Zip-Off Pants and the navy woven Scout Belt.

## Record Books

All youth members from Cubs onwards are required to have a Record Book used to keep a record of their ongoing Award Achievements. The book is also an instruction tool for how to achieve the Awards.

## Handbooks

There are a number of very informative and useful handbooks produced for each section of the Scout Movement also available from the Scout Outdoor Centre in the **Scouting Publications** section.

Of these, "*My Adventure Into Cub Scouts*" is a resource for new Cub Scouts.

For Scouts the "*Field Book for Australian Scouting*" is good reference for anybody who loves outdoor adventure and covers adventurous activities such as bush walking and hiking, abseiling, boating, flying, snow activities; preparation and equipment for outdoor adventure; navigation; knots; construction; outdoor emergencies, and weather and catering for the outdoors.

## Purchase of Uniforms & Handbooks

Uniforms, record books and handbooks can be purchased from **Scout Shop** section of the:

**Scout Outdoor Centre**  
**192 Rundle Street**  
**Adelaide**

or can also be purchased online through:

<http://www.soc.com.au/>

Click the **Scout Shop** link on the left side of the page. For uniforms look for **Scout Uniform**, and then for the section that your child is in:

**Joey Scout Uniform**  
**Cub Scout Uniform**  
**Scout Uniform**

Record books and handbooks can be found in the **Scouting Publications** section, where you need to look for:

**Stationery and Resources - Cub Scouts**  
**Stationery and Resources - Scouts**

## Membership Costs

A Scout Group is entirely self-funded. The expenses of a Scout Group are various. A somewhat major cost is the purchasing of badges, certificates etc., (badges are presented as soon as they are earned and there is no call for parents to purchase their child's badges).

### **1<sup>st</sup> Magill Scout Group**

In the Joey section there are only a limited number of badges to earn. However, this apparent saving is absorbed by the cost of the craft equipment and materials that are consumed in the normal programme activities.

The Group must also meet the cost of maintaining the Scout Hall itself and we have the normal water, electricity and insurance bills to pay. Then there is also the initial and ongoing cost of training leaders and the supply of their uniforms.

Fees consist of \$45 for the "Affiliation Fee" and \$50 per term per child (or \$45 and \$40 per term for each subsequent child of the same family). There is also an annual cleaning fee of \$20 per family. The affiliation fee, the first term fee and the cleaning fee are due upon joining and at the start of term 1. Other term fees are due at the beginning of each term. This is a total of \$265 or \$205 for the full year.

Parents that commit themselves to becoming a leader or are serving on the Group Parent Committee for the year enjoy reduced fees for their children of \$145 or \$125 respectively for the full year.

### **Payments**

Fee payments can be in cash, cheque or by bank transfer:

Bank: **Bank SA**  
 Account: **528 013 640**  
 BSB: **105-141**  
 Account Name: **Scouts Association of Australia - SA**  
 Branch Name: **Branch - First Magill Scout Group**

Please list the first and last name of the child that you are paying the fee for as part of the transfer details and forward a copy of the payment receipt by email to [groupleader@myscoutgroup.org](mailto:groupleader@myscoutgroup.org)

### **Fund Raising**

The membership fees do not cover all the expenses of the Group. To supplement this, the Group runs a limited number of fund raising activities during the year. We count on your support for these fund raising activities.

### **Other Expenses**

The affiliation and membership fees cover the cost of your child participating in the weekly activities and the general operating expenses of the group. Naturally with Scouting being fundamentally an outdoors-based programme, from time to time there are additional special activities like sleepovers, mob, pack or troop holidays, camps, hikes etc., that can either a day

activity or be spread over 2 to 3 days, which your child will no doubt want to attend.

The cost of these activities is an extra expense to yourself. However you can be sure that we carefully aim to keep the price of such activities to a minimum.

Our aim is that each section has at least one overnight activity each term. Cost of these activities varies between Joey, Cub and Scouts sections and also with the travel distance. We suggest you allow approx. \$50 to \$70 per term for such overnight activities.

### **A Community Affair**

Scouting is a community affair. Scout Groups are formed and maintained by the community because parents believe in the benefits and teachings that Scouting has to offer and want to make it available to their children. And rightly so!

Throughout all sections of the movement, the Aim is to encourage the physical, mental, social and spiritual development of young people so that they make take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens.

We achieve this through:

- Voluntary membership of a uniformed group, which, guided by adults, is increasingly self-governing in its successive age groups.
- Commitment to a code of living expressed in the Promise and Law.
- The provision of a wide range of attractive, constructive and challenging activities, including opportunities for adventure and exploration both indoors and outdoors.
- The provision of opportunities for leadership and responsibility.
- Learning by doing.
- Encouragement of activity in small groups.
- An award scheme, which encourages participation in the full range of activities and provides recognition of individual achievements.

It is a formula that has survived over 100 years! The principles of Scouting are proven to be just as relevant today as they were when Scouting began in 1907.

### **Parent Involvement**

The most important aspect of parent involvement is the encouragement you give to your child. The boys and girls who get the most out of Scouting are those who put the most into it. All children have times when they need a gentle push, and certainly times when they need some help. This is where you come in.

If your child wants to do some test-passing or earn a badge, please go through the requirements and check that he or she has the knowledge needed and that all aspects of the test are covered. If your child hasn't done anything for a while, you may need to offer some extra encouragement to get started. The pride on their faces when they come to the front of the parade to receive their badges makes the effort well worthwhile.

Scouting is a voluntary organisation, and we do rely heavily on parent support.

The support given will depend on the individual circumstances of each family. Areas in which regular help is needed are:

### 1. Transport

Occasionally transporting the children to various activities included in our programme.

### 2. Cleaning & Maintenance of the Hall

It is important that the place in which our children gather be maintained in a clean hygienic fashion.

### 3. Assisting on Meeting Nights

This particularly applies to the Joey and Cub sections. There are occasions when the Cub Leaders can do with an extra pair of hands, eyes and ears. If we call for a little extra help, it is good to know that there are parents willing to assist.

In the Joey section parents play a vital role in maintaining an effective adult/child ratio. It is usual that two parents are on a roster to assist with each meeting.

### 4. Joining the Parent Support Group

This is not a very onerous task - it really only involves a quarterly meeting and helping to manage and maintain the resources of our Group as well as the occasional social activity. It is expected that every family will be represented on the committee for at least one term (normally two years) during their child's Joey-Cub-Scout career. Don't leave it until your child is almost ready to leave!

### 5. Becoming a Uniformed Leader

Leadership is not for everyone, but if it interests you, please speak to any one of the leaders. They will tell you that they get just as much fun out of it as the kids, and a very real sense of achievement and of doing something worthwhile for the community. Experience is not required. Remember,

there is no such thing as a professional Scout Leader. Most Leaders used to be just a Mum or Dad like you, but the Scout Association provides an "accredited" training program that turns laymen into leaders - and without volunteer leaders we wouldn't have a Scout Group for your child to join!

### Your Expectations

Now, what's in it for you and your child? You can reasonably expect that your son or daughter will be in the hands of capable and caring leaders who have a commitment to providing a stimulating and interesting program designed to assist children to develop into self-reliant and responsible members of the community.

Scouting was started by Robert Baden-Powell to cater for children's sense of adventure and love of independence and to channel these characteristics into appropriate activities, which will equip them for later life.

Leaders take the task of fulfilling the aims of Scouting very seriously. We undertake to take every reasonable care of your child when you entrust him or her to us, and to do our best in partnership with you, to help your child to develop to his or her full potential.

We have all undertaken thorough training, and we give freely of our time and efforts to enable us to do this. We would not do it unless we were convinced of the value of Scouting in the lives of our children.

We hope that after your child has been with us for a short time, you will be likewise convinced.

### Staying In Touch

To ensure that you are provided with timely information about our programs and events we extensively use email (and SMS) as a way to stay in touch and to inform you of important notifications and upcoming events.

So please be sure to update us on your contact details when they have changed.

Information on upcoming events, latest notifications and news, term programs and activity location maps can also be found and downloaded from our website:

<http://magill.myscoutgroup.org>.

### The 1<sup>st</sup> Magill Scout Group

<b>Joey Mob</b>	Tuesdays 6:15pm to 7:15pm
<b>Cub Pack</b>	Tuesdays 7:15pm to 8.30pm
<b>Scout Troop</b>	Mondays 7pm to 9.00pm
<b>Group Leader</b>	Marco Hess tel. 8165 3780