



1st Magill Scout Group

<http://magill.myscoutgroup.org>

Scout hall: Woodforde Road, MAGILL SA 5072

Postal: 27 Rostrevor Avenue, ROSTREVOR SA 5073

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5 July 2011

Dear 1st Magill Scout Group Parents,

Magill Scout Group is as popular as ever but whilst this is good news, it does present a serious issue with regards to running sizable groups of joeys, cubs and scouts. Currently, there are only two scout leaders per group and this has significant consequences:

1. There is no cover for illness/holidays and, as has happened only recently, this can leave a single leader looking after a large group of our children, when they are ill and should be home in bed.
2. Puts enormous responsibility on the leaders to manage ever increasing groups of children. This can impact on the quality of activity, requires leaders have to have eyes in the backs of their heads and reduces the ability of leaders spending any 1 on 1 time with cubs/scouts to discuss badge work.
3. The ratio of leaders to children is below that recommended by Scouts SA.

We must remember that leaders are parents just like us and are unpaid volunteers! Magill Scouts is a community based organisation which relies on parent involvement to function properly (be it through leaders or just helpers). Many parents do help out on some nights, and thank you to those that do, but we need to be a bit more organised to ensure things run smoothly. Ultimately, if we do not provide more support to our leaders the worse case scenario could be:

- Limits may have to be put of group sizes and a waiting list set up
- Sessions may be cancelled at short notice
- Leaders may quit!

A recent meeting was held with leaders, committee members and parents to discuss this issue and identify possible solutions. Parents agreed that we can all do more to help and the following suggestions were adopted as being good ideas:

1. Introduce a parent helper roster for all parents, requesting assistance at one session a term;
2. Have a 'parent night' once a term where parents can present and interact on their work/hobby for either a whole or half a session;
3. Draw up a list of 'emergency contacts' of parents who would be willing to step in at very short notice if a leader was unable to attend at the last minute.
4. Require parents to sign their children in/out of the Scout Hall for safety purposes.

To get things started, could you please complete the following short questionnaire. This will also ensure that we have your up to date contact details. Please return this questionnaire ASAP, preferably no later than the first week after term (i.e. end of July). Feel free to e-mail your details (magill@sa.scouts.com.au) if easier.

With your help, we can hopefully have things in place early next term. Thanks in advance.

Marco Hess
Group Leader
1st Magill Scout Group

1st Magill Scout Group – Family Details update (July 2011)

Member name(s)	_____	Joey/Cub/Scout
	_____	Joey/Cub/Scout
	_____	Joey/Cub/Scout
Parent/Guardian name(s)		
Address		
Home phone		
Mobile phone		
Work phone		
Email address		
Occupation		
Skills/hobbies		
Would consider participating in a parent night	Yes / Maybe / No	Yes / Maybe / No
Willing to be an 'emergency contact'	Yes / No	Yes / No
Able to assist on the parent roster	Yes / No Joey/Cubs/Scouts/Any	Yes / No Joey/Cubs/Scouts/Any
Becoming a leader?	Tell me more/ Maybe later/ Not for me	Tell me more/ Maybe later/ Not for me
Comments on proposals for: - Parent helper roster - Parent night - Signing in/out		

Please return ASAP, either by hand, by post (27 Rostrevor Avenue, Rostrevor SA 5073) or by e-mail (magill@sa.scouts.com.au).