



SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## **Epping Scout Group**

Halls: 6 Essex St, Epping 2121, NSW  
130 Boundary Rd, Nth Epping 2121, NSW  
Boatshed: 150 Bowden St, Meadowbank 2114, NSW  
Mail: PO Box 83, Epping, NSW 1710

Hello and welcome to Epping Scout Group,

Scouting commenced in 1907 in England by Lord Robert Baden-Powell when he organised a camp on Brownsea Island with 22 boys. Scouting is now a worldwide organisation and is active in 216 countries with about 31 million members. Currently only 6 countries do not have Scouts.

Scouts are separated into age-based Sections – Joey Scouts (6-8), Cub Scouts (8-11), Scouts (11-15), Venturer Scouts (15-18) and Rovers (18-25), with each Section taking more responsibility for their own activities as they progress. All Sections share a steady diet of self-respect, confidence, leadership, teamwork, creativity, environmental awareness and community involvement, and there are plenty of events and activities in which everyone can get involved together.

## **JOEY SCOUTS (Joeys)**

Joey Scouts spend time playing interactive and participation games. There are many craft activities to stretch their imagination. The emphasis is on fun and friendship and a gentle introduction to a world of challenges and adventures through Scouting. They learn to share and care for each other in a social environment.

Joey Scouts are encouraged to express themselves creatively, through games, stories and craft activities. Building monsters and spaceships from scrap items, growing plants from seedlings or singing songs together all develop a strong sense of belonging.

They wear a special scarf and t-shirt so everyone knows they are Joey Scouts. They meet for an hour a week. The Joey Scout Leader, who undertakes training, may be a parent of one of the Joey Scouts and will have an assistant leader to help out.

## **CUB SCOUTS (Cubs)**

Cub Scouts have a lot of fun doing a lot of interesting things! There are games to play, codes and skills to learn, places to see and new friends to meet.

Cub Scouts all help each other, and try to help other people too. Activities include basic navigation, first aid, self-expression and caring for the environment

Each week you'll get together with other boys and girls your age and be led into adventure! You'll wear your own Cub Scout uniform to show you're one of us. And you'll be able to collect special badges to put on your uniform to show your achievements.

## **SCOUTS**

Scouts are one of the best kept secrets for young people aged 11 - 15 and no wonder! It is the biggest and most successful youth organisation in Australia - not to mention the world - with



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thousands of boys and girls enjoying an almost unlimited range of activities. And there's always room for more!

As a Scout you'll receive expert instruction in a wide variety of outdoor skills, together with the all-important basic theory to make sure you don't get lost and can deal with life's emergencies. You'll go on camps with a few friends or join thousands of boys and girls for fun and adventure at a national Jamboree.

Your confidence will build and you'll learn how to make decisions and work as part of a team. In a small group called a Patrol, an older, more experienced Scout will be your Patrol Leader and help develop your skills. Weekly meetings are held to build up skill levels, play games and have fun and plan for weekend adventures. You'll quickly become familiar with equipment and the right way use it.

## **VENTURER SCOUTS (Venturers)**

Are you bored? Feel like doing something with your life? Don't know where to start? Try Venturer Scouts. It's a do-it-yourself mix of fun, adventure and personal challenge that will bring you together with other young people who feel the same way.

You may find yourself exploring wilderness Australia, camping above the snowline or diving on coral reefs. You could be abseiling into a limestone cave or climbing a sheer rock face. Perhaps you'll learn white water kayaking or ride your mountain bike on an expedition across real mountains.

## **ROVER SCOUTS (Rovers)**

Challenging outdoor activities such as bushwalking, canoeing, sailing, caving, ski-touring, canyoning, four-wheel driving, rock-climbing and scuba diving all form an important part of a Rover's calendar.

Social activities such as balls, bush dances, harbour cruises, nights out, car rallies and "Moots" (gatherings of Rovers on a local, national and sometimes international level) also feature on an active Rover's program.

A group of Rovers is known as a "Crew" and each Rover Crew is different, tailoring its activities to the requirements of its members. Crews vary in size from a handful of members to as many as fifty. Most crews meet weekly. The friends you make within this group will be for a lifetime!

A Crew's activities are planned and run by the Rovers themselves, and there is plenty of opportunity to develop personal abilities and learn new skills. A Rover may become involved in organising a simple weekend away for just a few people, a major event involving thousands of participants, or anything in between!

Rovers is open to all guys and girls aged 18 to 25 years. Anyone can become a Rover - there's no need to have any previous involvement with Scouting or any outdoor activities experience.

No other leisure time activity offers as much.



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## SAILING

The Epping Scout Group is very lucky to have a Boatshed located beside the Parramatta River in Meadowbank, adjacent to the Meadowbank Ferry Wharf. The building stores a collection of sailing boats and canoes that can be used by members of the Group. Sailing instruction is done most weekends during term 1 and term 4 for Scout age and older. There are also competitive regattas held throughout the year. There are sometimes weekend opportunities for the Cubs to go canoeing. If you are interested in sailing or being an instructor, talk to the Group Leader.

Please have a look at the Scout NSW and Scouts Australia website for a much more information about Youth members.

<http://www.nsw.scouts.com.au> and <http://www.scouts.com.au/>

## Our leaders

All our volunteer leaders are fully trained through Scouts Australia and have all undergone relevant Police checks and Working with Children checks.

We are always looking for new leaders and the training courses are conducted online with one camp that you are required to attend. The children benefit greatly when we have more leaders as we are able to participate in more excursions such as bushwalks and hikes. If you are interested in becoming a leader, please talk to your child's section leader or contact the Group Leader at [group@eppingscouts.com.au](mailto:group@eppingscouts.com.au) for further information.

## Youth Leadership

When Robert Baden-Powell started Scouting, he encouraged leadership from an early age. Based on this approach, the Cubs and Scouts are divided up into groups known as Patrols.

- Sections are organised into patrols, each with a Patrol Leader and an Assistant Patrol Leader. The PLs and APLs are given the responsibility of looking after the others in their patrol and to help them with their badgework while improving their own skills and personal development.

## Uniform

Uniforms are available online from <http://www.scoutshop.com.au>. Each section has its own shirt which is differentiated by the shoulder colour. The Epping scarf and badges are presented to each youth member as part of their investiture into the group (usually after about 4 - 6 weeks of regular attendance and when all registration forms and fee payment has been received). The badges are sewn on to the shirts – refer to this [link](#) for the correct positioning of the badges. Full uniform is worn on all outings unless advised otherwise by the Leaders.

### Parents to Provide

Section shirt with colour specific shoulder band

### Epping Scout Group to provide

Scarf



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Beige pants/shorts or stone coloured pants/shorts.  
Shoes

Woggle  
Investiture Badges

## What Do I Need to Bring Each Week?

When going on outings the above items plus the following should be included in your day pack.

1. Roll on sun block
2. Roll on insect repellent
3. Water bottle

## Child Safety and Protection

Legislation has been introduced into NSW in 2018 that requires any adult attending or participating in a youth activity must hold a current Working with Children Check (WWCC). As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019, Scouts NSW requires that an Application for Adult Helper (A2) form be submitted as a part of this process for those attending an overnight activity (whether “you” are staying overnight or not), and also for select District, Region or other activities. To facilitate compliance with this, we will require all parents to apply for a WWCC to ensure that there are no delays in completion and submission of the Adult Helper form if required. Please refer to the [New Member](#) section of our website for more information.

## NSW Government Rebates

### Active Kids Rebate

In 2018, the Government introduced an annual \$100 rebate that can be applied to your Scout’s fees. It will be run over 4 years. There are many youth organisations that support this initiative, but the rebate can be applied once per year. Your fee invoice will provide more details about this rebate.

In 2019, the Government announced there would be a 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100 Active Kids Rebate. The first rebate which you apply to Scouts can only be put toward the Scout Association’s fees (\$50 per quarter plus \$35 Joining fee). If the first rebate that you apply to Scouts is after the 1<sup>st</sup> July you may not be able to receive the full \$100 due to this fee structure. The 2<sup>nd</sup> rebate in the one year that is applied to Scouts can also be put toward Scout Association fees.

### Creative Kids Rebate

There is a \$100 Creative Kids rebate which, if applied to the Scouts, can only be put toward Gang Show expenses. More details about Gang Show can be found in the Definitions section.



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## **Parents Committee**

The committee meets once a month on the second Monday of each month at 7.15 pm. It is run in accordance with the Scouts Australia guidelines and it is greatly appreciated if one member from each family is able to attend these meetings. There is a generous fee reduction incentive offered to all parents who take on a committee position or become a leader. Talk to the Group Leader to find out how you can support your Scout Group and its members.

## **Fundraising**

As with everything nowadays, we need to fundraise! In order to reduce the amount of time taken out of people's busy lives, we try and restrict our fundraising activities to once per term. In years where there are larger Scouting events, such as Jamboree, the Scout parents will do additional fundraising to offset the costs. Our biggest fundraising events for the year are the Mother's Day flowers in May and the Fertiliser Drive at the end of August. Those who coordinate the major fundraising events attract a reduction in your child's fees. The Group is also allocated dates to run Bunnings BBQ throughout the year. If you have ideas for future fundraising events, please come along to the next Committee meeting or talk with your section leader.

## **Time commitment from each family**

We ask each family to volunteer a few hours for each of our fundraising activities, but obviously, we understand that not everyone is able to be at every fundraising event. The dates for fundraising events are on the calendar dates page of the Epping Scouts website.

When your child attends a camp, parents will be asked to help unpack the gear at the Scout Hall. It is expected that an adult member from each family is available for this. For Joeys, a parent must be in attendance at all times while on camp.

## **Membership Fees**

Membership fees are invoiced annually at the end of January and cover your child's membership with Scouts Australia until the end of March the next year. Payments can be made in instalments through the year if this better suits your financial situation. A significant proportion of these fees cover the insurance cost for your child and that payment goes directly to Scouts Australia. The remainder goes toward purchasing and maintaining equipment and the training of leaders. You will be advised by email when fees are due.

In 2020, the fees are \$428 for 12 months. This is reduced on a pro-rata basis for those who join after June. There is also a one-off joining fee of \$70 for new members and a \$60 Fundraising levy per family. The \$60 will be credited toward the next year's fees for the families who have participated in 3 or more Group fundraising events throughout the year.



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## E1 Forms (Activity Notification Form)

E1 forms are permission forms and need to be completed for each person who is attending the activity, including parents. If your youth member does not have a completed and signed E1 form, they will NOT be permitted to attend the excursion, camp or event. Your leader will email these forms or otherwise make them available prior to the event for you to print and complete. The “E1” forms are a legal requirement for all activities and must be completed in full and returned by the due date. We have converted to Operoo (previously known as CareMonkey) to manage the completion, approval and storage of future event notifications and medical details.

### DEFINITIONS

**BOATSHED** – Epping Scout Group is very fortunate to have a boatshed located on the Parramatta River, just by the Meadowbank ferry wharf. Youth members can join in on Sunday afternoons in Terms 1 and 4 for sailing and canoeing, but this is dependent on the availability of our qualified instructors.

**CUBOREE** – A Cubs size version of Jamboree, also held every three years for Cubs and leaders. This is a 5 day event and is a great experience for the younger youth members.

**DRAGONSKIN** – A Venturer’s version of the Scout’s ScoutHike, held annually over the Easter long weekend. Venturers enjoy hiking to different activity bases and meet lots of new friends while participating in organised evening activities. This is very popular for the Venturers.

**FAMILY CAMP** - A camp that the whole can family attend. Family Camp is usually held in February and gives families the opportunity to camp for the weekend and make use of the Group’s sailing boats and canoes.

**GANG SHOW** – All Scouts, Venturers and Rovers have the opportunity to showcase their talent in singing, dancing and acting at this variety show extravaganza. Auditions take place around Nov/Dec and rehearsals start in February. The show is staged over the first week of the July school holidays. To be eligible, you must have turned 11 by the first performance in July.

**GROUP CAMP** – A Camp that is attended by youth members from all sections. Some parental assistance is required and, for Joeys, a parent must accompany their child.

**GRANNY SMITH PARADE** – The Eastwood community come out for the annual parade through the streets of Eastwood on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in October. The Epping Group will usually enter one (sometimes 2) of the larger sailing boats that is filled with Joeys and Cubs. Approximately 100 Scouts and Girl Guides march along the parade route (like sheep) promoting Scouting to be alive and flourishing in the Eastwood/Epping area.

**JAMBOREE** - A massive 12 day camping megathon for all Scouts from across Australia and internationally. This event caters for around 12,000 youth members and leaders and is held every three years in January.



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**JOTA/ JOTI** – Held in mid-October (Jamboree of the Air/ Jamboree of the Internet). There are opportunities to talk with other Scouts and Girl Guides from around the country and the world and to sometimes camp overnight

**SCOUT HIKE** – Held over the first weekend in May for the Scouts, they hike for two days in patrols in a State Forest in the Southern Highlands while doing a variety of Scouting activities and checking in at various check points along the way. The Scouts are responsible for setting up their own camps, organising and preparing their own food and looking out for each other along the way.

**SCOUT'S DISTRICT CAMP** – Held over the June long weekend, this is a once a year camp where the Scouts mix with the other Scouts from our local District. The primary focus of these camps is FUN! To introduce the older Cubs to camping, they are invited to join the Scouts for the last 2 days and camp overnight.

**SIRIUS CUP** – Held on then second weekend in March, this is attended by about 700 – 800 Cubs, Scouts and Venturers from all over Sydney and is held at Balmoral Beach with camping on the adjacent sports field. The kids participate in swimming, canoeing, fishing and much, much more.

**OTHER CAMPS** – Youth members at Epping will have the opportunity to attend many more varied and exciting camps held over the course of the year.

Further information for all activities will be provided by email closer to the date of each event. All activities require an "E1" form or Operoo e-form to be completed and returned along with any payment required.

All fundraising dates will be discussed and finalised at the next committee meeting and sent out shortly thereafter.

If you have any questions or need further information on any of the above, please do not hesitate to talk to your section leaders.

We look forward to welcoming you to our group.

Cheers,

The Epping Group Committee