



**Scouts**  
QUEENSLAND

# Nerang Scout Group

## Parent Handbook

[www.nerang.gcscouts.com.au](http://www.nerang.gcscouts.com.au)



Current as at 06 June 2023

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## Leader Contacts

### Group Leader

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## Executive Committee

### Group Chairperson

Position Vacant

### Group Secretary

Rachel Brass

### Group Treasurer

Michelle Adams                      0409 709 449                      252386@scoutsqld.com.au

### Fundraising Committee

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**Scouts Australia** — Website: <http://www.scouts.com.au/>

# Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for wanting to become a member of the Nerang Scout Group. Our Group started in 1960, on public lands on the motorway side of Railway Street, adjacent to the original Nerang Railway Station. The Group shifted to the corner of Hope Street and the Nerang Connection Road and used a small school building moved to the site from Springbrook for many years. The Group then moved to its current location in 1983. The original Den built on our current site was built by the Evans family using apprentices as part of their training. The Den burnt down in 1996 after vandals broke into the building and lit the gas bottles stored inside. The current building was completed in 1998. Despite these many changes of location and setbacks, we are always working towards providing the youth members of the local area an alternative outlet for fun and adventure.

Scouting is designed to provide your child with skills that will set them up for life, by building leadership and time management skills. Over their time with us, the Leaders are continually encouraging members to lead a team of their peers as their own skills increase. They are expected to push the boundaries of their own comfort zones and in time become our future leaders of tomorrow. Our guiding principle is to 'learn while doing' and to have a lot of fun along the way.

The Group is a fully voluntary organisation; the Leaders and those involved on the Group's Executive Committee do not get paid to attend the Section meetings and run the Group. We are all dedicated to making sure your children and yourselves are provided with the best leadership and mentoring through the training the Leaders need to attend. As much as your youth member grows within Scouting, so do the Leaders and those who form the Committee!

For those that are a part of Scouting, there are many opportunities to build new friendships that can last the test of time. Members are provided avenues to work with others via larger events such as Regional Camps, state-wide Cub Scout camps (Cuboree), and the Australian Scout Jamboree. The ability to interact and be part of a larger community encourages harmony and tolerance to all within the organisation, while unknowingly building a network of friends both here and overseas. It can open new opportunities to explore the world outside and travel to other countries.

As a supporting family member, we encourage you to meet with the other families and the Leaders. Our Group will only grow stronger through these interactions and continue to create a community family group.

We are all excited to welcome you into our Group.

Michelle "Keego" Tuskin

Group Leader

## What is Scouting?

Scouting is a world-wide movement that has shaped the development of youths and adults since 1908. It is open to both boys and girls, and to all faiths and religions. Scouts are in every part of our community; Scouts is the largest youth organisation in Australia and the world.

The **aim of Scouting** is to encourage the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens, and as a member of their local, national and international communities.

Scouting provides a series of fun and exciting adventures for active young people. Designed to build their confidence and ability. The completion of each set of requirements is marked by badges of progress from the Promise Challenge Award (Joey Scouts), The Grey Wolf Award in Cub Scouts, through the Australian Scout Award within Scouts, to the King's Scout Award (Venturers) and the Baden-Powell Award (Rovers).

Scouts Australia recognises that what we offer is as relevant as ever, and can help young people navigate their way through modern life. From as young as 5 years old, our members are introduced to our values at the first step in the Scouting journey – learning the Australian Scout Promise and the Australian Scout Law.

## The Australian Scout Promise

There are two versions of the Australian Scout Promise.

Individuals may select which version they wish to make.

On my honour, I promise  
To do my best,  
To be true to my spiritual beliefs,  
To contribute to my community and our world,  
To help other people,  
And to live by the Scout Law.

OR

On my Honour  
I promise that I will do my best  
To do my duty to my God, and  
To the Queen of Australia,  
To help other people,  
And to live by the Scout Law.

# The Australian Scout Law

Be Respectful

Be friendly

Care for others and the environment

Do What is Right

Be trustworthy, honest and fair

Use resources wisely

Believe in Myself

Learn from my experiences

Face challenges with courage

## 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 Australia leaders. Don't tell the kids they're learning; they think they're just having fun.

## 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 can achieve in their time as a youth member.

They are also provided opportunities to attend larger events, such as:

- Cuboree – a biennial Cub Scout Camp in QLD that runs for 5 to 6 days
- Australia Jamboree – a triennial Scout Camp that runs for 11 days and provides over 100 activities. Approximately 10,000 members attend these events.
- World Jamboree – a triennial Scout Camp in a host country attended to by over 23,000 members
- Australian Venture – a 2-week Venturer Scout camp similar to a Jamboree
- Rover Moot – for the older Scouts both in state and across Australia.

There is never a dull moment and you can be assured your youth member will return bigger and better for their experiences.

# Youth Member Sections

## Joey Scouts (5 to 8 years)

Joey Scouts can start at age 5 and would normally progress to the Cub Scout Section at around 8 years of age. The linking process would start around seven years and six months, depending on their individual readiness socially and intellectually.

The objectives of the Joey Scout Section are to have fun while learning. A Joey Scout will develop their own identity, responsibility, personal expression, as well as learning to share, a sense of belonging and the understanding of their law and promise.

Joey Scouts learn by singing, dancing, storytelling, games, play acting, doing craft, mixing with others, as well as taking part in camps and outdoor activities. All of which will expand their understanding and acceptance of the Joey Scout Promise and their experiences in their theme of 'Helping Other People' (HOP).

The highest award a Joey Scout can achieve is their Promise Challenge Award.

**Nerang Scout Group's Joey Unit meets on Monday evenings from 5:30pm to 6:30pm**

## Cub Scouts (8 to 11 years)

Cub Scouts would start at around their 8th birthday and normally progress to the Scout Section at around 11 years of age. Cub Scouts are able to commence their linking process at around 10 years and six months, depending on their individual readiness socially and intellectually.

The main objective of the Cub Scout section is to cater for the taste and enthusiasm of the small child based on their natural developments tied together with a code of morals.

This is achieved by running a program that includes games, stories, playacting, craft, outdoor activities and badge work.

Cub Scouts has a boomerang badge system graded according to age. A favourite hobby or an exciting new one can also help the young person to gain many achievement badges.

The highest award a Cub Scout can achieve is the Grey Wolf Award.

**Nerang Scout Group's Cub Unit meets on Thursday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.**

## Scouts (11 to 15 years)

Scouts would start around their 11th birthday and normally progress to the Venturer Scout Section around 15 years. The linking process would start at about 14 years and six months, depending on their individual readiness, socially and intellectually.

At this age Scouting takes on a new and more adventurous role as the youth members now work in small groups called patrols. They will sleep in tents, build tables and chairs and any other equipment they require, plus create programs for Den nights to build skills. In reality, they have a taste of being self-sufficient, as well as developing their independence and self-awareness of their abilities.

As with all Sections of the Scouting movement, the objectives of the Scout Section are that all members will develop self-awareness, their own identity, individual personalities, a true sense of belonging and a complete understanding of their law and promise. By ensuring all these elements are covered, we know that all members of the Scouting movement will become responsible and caring young adults ready to take their part in society.

The highest award a Scout can achieve is their Australian Scout Award.

**Nerang Scout Group's Scout Unit meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.**

## Venturers

Venturer Scouts would start around their 15th birthday and progress to the Rover Scout Section after their 18th birthday. If still at school they may stay beyond their 18th birthday until the end of that year. Once 18, while still in Venturers, they are an adult and they would be required to meet all adult requirements including having a current Blue Card. Venturer Scouts are able to commence their linking process to the Rover Scout Section at any time after the age of 17 years and six months.

Venturers form a Unit to plan their exciting and challenging activities. Further opportunities to develop their leadership abilities are offered within this Section, as these young people work towards their Venturer and Endeavour Award and eventually their King's Scout Award.

**Nerang Scout Group does not currently offer Venturers; however, expressions of interest are always welcome, from both potential youth members and Leaders.**

## Rovers

Rover Scouts must have reached their 18 birthday and cannot stay in the Crew after their 26th birthday. This Section is for motivated young adults who want to lead an exciting and adventurous life. This Section is largely self-governing, and members have the opportunity to meet new friends, to live up to the Section Motto of 'Service' by helping other, and to stretch themselves to the limit.

The Baden-Powell (BP) Award is the highest award a Rover Scout can achieve.

# Adults in Scouting

## Section Leaders

Leaders are the backbone of our movement. If you are looking for an adventure and the chance to help young people build a solid and positive foundation for their futures than you should become a Leader.

Leaders provide opportunities, inspire teamwork and perfect their abilities.

**Why should I become a leader?** Leaders are crucial to the success of the Scouting Movement. As a Leader you will have access to a wide variety of resources, an opportunity to give back to the community, and the experience to educate Youth Members in the values and skills most important for being a good citizen.

As a Leader you will achieve satisfaction from helping Youth Members set and achieve their own goals, while being there to help them when they fail and encourage them to continue. However, you will find that your proudest achievement will be building a strong bond of trust and friendship with the Youth Members.

**What Can I Do as an Adult Leader?** As a Scouting Sectional Leader, you'll be responsible for altering your Sections Development Program to suit the particular needs of your group. You'll be able to turn your ideas that evolve from your brainstorming sessions with other Leaders into reality and spend an exciting day trying them out in person before approving them. We encourage our Leaders to explore their creativity and work together while developing their programs and leading their youth.

As a Leader you can gain formal leadership qualifications, develop programs, work with like-minded individuals, and teach young people life lessons through offering them the experiences of a lifetime.

All adults involved in the Group are volunteers. If you wish to become a Leader, please speak with our Group Leader, who will provide further information and the relevant paperwork. All training is provided at no cost to the Leaders, with no previous Scouting experience required! All adult members of Scouts must hold a current Blue Card.

## Adult Helpers

Adult Helpers are non-uniformed adults who **regularly** assist in the delivery of the Youth Program in the youth sections. Adult Helpers are only involved in Youth Member activities under the guidance of a trained Leader holding a Certificate of Adult Leadership (CAL).

Regularly is defined as more than once a month, or are regularly helping and supporting overnight activities such as sleep-overs, pack holidays, hikes and camps. Adult Helpers are required to hold a Blue Card, and complete National e-Learning Child Safe Scouting and WHS for Scouting modules.

## Youth Program Supporters

A Youth Program Supporter is defined as a person who provides services to the Group, including assistance in Section Meetings but **not on a regular basis**; motor vehicle transport for Youth Members or for equipment to attend events away from the Scout den; cooking and similar support services at overnight or full day Scout activities. A Youth Program Supporter is not a Member of the Movement, however must hold a valid Blue Card and within six months complete National e-Learning Child Safe Scouting and WHS for Scouting modules.

## National e-Learning

**Child Safe Scouting:** In this module you will learn about Child Safe Scouting and:

- ★ Know how our values and attitudes can impact on acknowledging child abuse and/or neglect
- ★ Understand how child abuse is often discounted
- ★ Appreciate your role as a trusted, non-threatening adult
- ★ Be aware of the importance of maintaining a child focus
- ★ Understand your responsibility to report, including suspicion of abuse.

*Module Time: 1 hour 15 minutes.*

**WHS for Scouting:** Although the WHS legislation is all encompassing, it was mostly written with only commercial workplaces in mind. Working with Safework Australia, Scouts has developed a clear framework that interprets the law in the context of Scouting. This module explains WHS in the context for Scouting.

*Module Time: 45 minutes.*

## Group Support Committee

Every Scout Group requires a support system, and this is achieved by the Group Support Committee. This Committee is made up of parents and/or guardians of the youth members, and supporters of the Group. The Committee assists the Group Leader to provide the resources for the delivery of the Scout Program by the Section Leaders.

The Group's Executive Committee comprises the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary.

Other roles within the Committee can include Quartermaster, Fundraising Coordinator and Grants Officer.



## Assistance from Parents and/or Guardians

There are many ways that a parent and/or guardian can assist with the smooth operation of our Group:

**Transport:** Occasionally transporting our youth members to camps / activities.

**Cleaning & Maintenance of the Den:** It is important that our Den is kept clean at all times. All Scout Dens require ongoing maintenance. If you have a specific skill, and would like to contribute, please speak with our Group leader.

**Assisting on Meeting Nights:** See Youth Program Supporter section on page 10.

**Fundraising:** A Scout Group is entirely self-funded. The expenses of a Group are various, with groups receiving no ongoing funding from Scouts Queensland, governments or councils. Regular fundraising activities help to maintain a low fee structure for our parents, as well as providing for larger items including camping equipment and den maintenance.

**Staying in Touch:** To ensure that you are provided with timely information about our programs and events, we use a variety of methods to make contact, including via email, written notes, or social media. Please advise our Group when you change contact details.

## Camps and Outdoor Activities

All Sections take part in regular camps, with a large part of their programs consisting of outdoor activities. The length of each camp may vary. In the Joey Scout Section, they will have either a one-night sleepover or a two-night camp. The Cub Scout Section camps usually run for a similar duration, but they may have longer camps if desired. Scouts, Venturers and Rovers may have camps from 2 nights up to 10 nights.

Camps are designed to reinforce what has been taught at Section meetings. Scouts, Ventures and Rovers are more likely to camp on a regular basis. These camps tend to be self-managed with minimal supervision. It is where our youth members learn to work with each other and set routines. The Leaders tend to more mentors than teachers.

The costs associated with camping or outdoor activities will be dependent on the length of camp, the type of activities on offer, travel distance etc.



# Fees

## Scouts Queensland Annual Registration / Membership Fees

Scouts Queensland charge each member a registration fee per year (01 April to 31 March of the following year). This fee covers all association memberships, insurances and e-learning. The fee structure for the following 12 months is usually published in December of each year. The current fee structure is published on the Parent Information page of our Group website.

**Please note the different fees for new members and existing members.**

## Nerang Scout Group Term Fees

Our Group charges a Term Fee of **\$80.00 per member per term**. This is paid whether your youth member attends every meeting night or not. The Group uses these fees to pay for Group related expenses, including Section badges and consumables, electricity, water and rates, leader training, insurance and den & equipment purchases and maintenance.

Our Group Treasurer will issue an invoice for each member at the commencement of each Term. Parents and/or guardians are requested to make prompt payment, using the invoice number as reference. Our Group prefers that all fees are paid via electronic funds transfer. The Group's bank account details are provided on each invoice.

**Any member experiencing financial hardship is requested to speak with either our Group Leader or Group Treasurer.**

**All correspondence will be treated in the strictest of confidence.**

# Meeting Nights

On meeting nights, please ensure your child arrives at least 10 minutes prior to the Opening Parade and that you sign them in. When arriving, please use the lower carpark, as children may be playing on the field at the rear of the Den. Please pick up your child from inside the Den; feel free to come inside if the meeting is still in progress, and watch the Closing Parade. Don't forget to sign your child out!

Please read all notes sent home with your child as these will contain information on upcoming camps and activities.

We do ask that parents don't interrupt Leaders during a Section meeting night; if you need to speak with a Leader, please do so before Opening Parade.

# Scouting Traditions

## The Scout Salute

The Scout Salute may be used by all members of the Scout Association whether they are in uniform or not. The Salute is used during ceremonies and as a token of respect when in uniform at the raising and lowering of our national Flag and when the national Anthem is being played.

The Salute consists of 3 fingers, with each representing an aspect of the 3 tenets of being a member of the Scout Association:

- Duty to God
- Duty to Self
- Duty to Others

## The Left Hand Shake

Lord Robert Baden-Powell introduced a special handshake, for use throughout the Scouting movement as a sign of friendship and trust.

The handshake came into existence when during the Zulu wars (around the 1880's), Lord Robert Baden-Powell serving on the lines walked up to a Zulu Chief and presented his hand in friendship. The Zulu Chief, not sure whether this was a trick, took a leap of faith and dropped his shield (in his left hand), while still holding his spear in the right. The Zulu Chief struck out his left hand, and it was at this point where the handshake came from. As a sign of respect, and the fact that the Zulu Chief had the courage to put down his shield, showed trust between Lord Baden-Powell and the Chief.

The handshake is still used today all over the world. Whenever a member of the Scout movement meets another fellows Scout, they will always extend their left hand in friendship.

## Jungle Book Names

The Cub Scout Section runs their program on the Jungle Book story, with their Leaders taking on names from the book. The book provides a canon or rules and works towards survival while tending to nature. The laws of the Jungle are a guide that can be well bound for future endeavours.



# Uniforms

Scouts in Australia wear a navy-blue shirt, with different coloured shoulders for each Section; Joeys Scouts are tan, Cub Scouts yellow, Scouts are green, Venturers are maroon, with Rovers in red. Leaders have a plain navy-blue shirt with shoulder badges to identify their Section.

All Queensland members wear the maroon scarf. The scarf is held together at the front by a woggle; and whilst a State woggle exists, many members make or choose their own, often a souvenir from a special Scouting event. The scarf must have at least 7 rolls with the Queensland emblem clearly visible under the collar. The easiest method to roll a scarf is on a flat surface.

Sandstone is the official colour of pants, shorts or skirts, and are to be worn for Branch or national events, although navy blue, grey or black may be worn for Group activities. School style shorts are the most appropriate for our youth members.

Uniform items:

- Section specific shirt
- Scout belt
- Scarf and woggle
- Shoes – fully enclosed shoes are to be worn at all times, unless participating in an activity that requires specific footwear

Parents and/or guardians are required to purchase a shirt, scarf, woggle and the OAS book (the section book is optional) prior to their youth member being invested.

These items are available from The Scout Shop: <https://scoutshop.com.au/>.

There are no log-in requirements when purchasing these items. Our Group will supply all shirt badges.

## Youth Member Rules

- Do not speak when someone else is speaking
- No running unless participating in a game
- Listen to your Leaders and Patrol Leaders, and follow their instructions
- Do not touch other persons or their property
- Do not talk on Parade unless spoken to
- Talk to each other respectfully
- Take pride in your uniform
- Show respect for your Den, our equipment and the surrounding areas
- Cooperate with others