



# THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NSW BRANCH - 1<sup>ST</sup> LANE COVE SCOUT GROUP



## Welcome

Welcome to 1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove Scout Group. We look forward to a long and happy association with you and your child. We have assembled the information on these pages for you so that you will know what lies ahead - what you may expect of us and what we will expect of you. We have tried to make this guide as comprehensive as possible, but if there is anything you are unsure about, please feel free to ask the Group Leader, or any of the Section Leaders.

### About Scouting

Scouting as a movement for boys was started by Lord Robert Baden-Powell after he returned from the epic siege of Mafeking in the early years of last century to find the youth of the British Isles playing games which were based on his handbook for army scouts. He was persuaded to rewrite the book, renamed 'Scouting for Boys', and the Scouting movement was begun. Later he used the jungle stories of Rudyard Kipling as a basis for the Wolf Cubs (now known as Cub Scouts) specially adapted for the needs and abilities of younger boys. Originally a 'boys only' organisation, the Scout Movement has progressively expanded its program to include girls. In 1990 the movement became of mixed membership through all sections.

These days the Scout Movement is by far the world's largest youth organisation and there are five sections - Joey Scouts for ages 6 to 8, Cub Scouts for ages 8 to 11, Scouts for ages 11 to 15, Venturers for ages 15 to 18 and Rover for ages 18 to 25. Scouting has spread right around the world and is currently active in over 216 countries with more than 32,000,000 members.

### The Top Five Reasons why your child should join Scouts:

1. All levels of scouting encourage learning through doing and offer a wide range of constructive and challenging activities channelling children's imagination and sense of adventure.
2. We don't wrap kids in cotton wool! They'll get wetter, hotter, colder, muddier and dirtier than they'll get at home or in school. Scouts learn to push their limits and help their friends, in a controlled and risk-managed environment
3. Your child will learn outdoor skills and become more independent and responsible as they progress. The award scheme encourages participation at own rate and provides recognition of individual achievements
4. Practical leadership and responsibility skills are encouraged such as planning and preparing for camps or expeditions, navigation and map reading skills, bushwalking, boating, climbing, abseiling, caving and other age-appropriate adventurous activities
5. Scouts can expand your child's horizons through making friends from another country, with opportunities to participate in student exchange programs, aid programs and national or international gatherings.

### What is a Scout Group?

A Scout Group is the local area organisation that offers different levels of Scouting for various ages. A full group consists of a Joey Mob, a Cub Pack, a Scout Troop, and a Venturer Unit. Each Mob, Pack, Troop or Unit is under the control of a person known as a Joey, Cub, Scout or Venturer Leader, helped by Assistant Leaders and in Joeys and Cubs by Parent Helpers. The Group, as a whole, is managed and guided by a person known as the Group Leader.

Here at 1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove we are a strong and growing Group consisting of a Cub Pack, a Scout Troop and a Venturer Unit which we operate as a District Unit with other Groups in our local Moocooboolah Scouting District. Our aim is to start a Joey Mob in the near future,

### Joining

Your child is welcome to join our Scout Group for a four to six week, no obligation try out period. Usually on the first night you will be asked to complete an Y1 form, which will provide coverage by the Scout Association insurance. For the first four to six weeks he or she will be a 'new chum'. After that time, your child will know whether or not he or she wants to join and we will invest your child into the Movement. Once your child is invested as a member, the registration form is forwarded to the Region Headquarters via our Group Leader. We will then issue you with an account for fees.

### Uniform

From the night he or she is invested, your child will be expected to wear full uniform unless advised otherwise. Uniforms are ordered online via <http://www.thescoutsshop.com.au/>. We will provide a Lane Cove Scarf (free) but you need to buy a shirt, hat and a "woggle". Stone colour shorts and long pants can be purchased from The Scout Shop, or similar may be bought from normal retailers.

For formal occasions, Group outings, travel to and from District, Region or State camps and events, full uniform is required. This includes hats and plain, dark coloured shoes, i.e. black or tan

1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove's Group Uniform Policy is available on the 1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove website.

### Financial

A Scout Group is entirely self-funded. The expenses of a Scout Group include 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). In the Joey section badges are worn on their hats. There is also the cost of the craft equipment etc. that is consumed in the normal program activities. The Group must also meet the cost of purchasing and maintaining camping equipment in first class, safe condition as well as paying for and maintaining the Scout Hall itself. Training leaders is another cost to be met and naturally we have electricity bills, insurance and the like to pay.

### Lane Cove Fees – 2014

The Scout Association has set a one off joining Fee of \$30 plus an annual affiliation fee which includes Insurance and Administration. This is included in the 1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove Scout Group fees: for the year 2014 will be \$285 per member. The fee is payable on receipt of invoice, which will be sent to you in March. Fees may be paid by direct debit, Pay Pal, cheque or cash. Payment by instalment will also be accepted.

Pro Rata fees apply for new members joining during the year. A rebate is given for the second and subsequent children of the same family. We recognise the contributions of our hard-working leaders by not charging fees for children of parents that commit themselves to 1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove Scout Group as a leader.

We also have a policy for any parents suffering from financial hardship (either temporary or long term) who may apply confidentially to the Group Leader to reduce or spread fee payments. As well as the general Group running costs, there is the cost of providing new equipment and resources such as tents, canoes, ropes, cooking gear, games, equipment etc., as well as improving our building resources. The purchase of these capital items is the subject of fundraising.

Naturally as Scouting is fundamentally an outdoors-based program, there will be pack holidays, camps, hikes etc., for 2 or 3 days, which your child will no doubt want to attend. The cost of these activities is an extra expense to yourself but you can be sure that we carefully aim to keep the price of such activities to a minimum. *(These may be subsidised in certain circumstances)*

## 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.

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, check the requirements so your child is well prepared. 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.

## Handbooks

There are very informative and useful introductory handbooks produced for each section of the Scout Movement, we will provide one of these to each new youth member. The Group will also provide Record Books for the badge award scheme for each section. The badge award scheme is fundamental to all levels of scouting, and every youth member is encouraged to complete age appropriate tests. Half of these involve core outdoor and safety skills, community involvement, personal development, with optional achievement and special interest badges available to suit every child's interests and hobbies.

## Expectations and Parent Involvement:

Since ours is a voluntary organisation, we rely heavily on help from parents. It is rewarding for both your child and your family. 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 program. We have an active program of weekend camps, and we expect people to do their share in helping pack, unpack and help with transport.

### 2. Assisting with the running of meeting nights

This particularly applies to the Joey and Cub sections. There are occasions when the 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 one or two parents are rostered to assist with each meeting. Excursions require a greater adult/child ratio.

### 3. Joining the Parent Committee

This is not a very onerous task. It really only involves a monthly meeting and helping to manage and maintain the resources of our Group, as well as coordinating social or fundraising activities. It is expected that every family will be represented on the committee during their child's Joey-Cub-Scout-Venturer career. Don't leave it until your child is almost ready to leave. Our current Committee Chair is Bill Gibson (0419 414 873). Please contact him (evening is best)

### 4. Becoming a uniformed leader

Leadership is not for everyone, but if it interests you, please speak to the Group Leader. He will tell you that leaders get just as much fun out of it as the kids. The reward for the leaders, especially parents, is to see their children grow while doing something worthwhile for the community.

Remember, there is no such thing as a professional Scout Leader. Most Leaders are also parents like you, but the Scout Association provides wonderful training that turns laymen into leaders - and without leaders we wouldn't have a Scout Group for your child to join!

## Fundraising

Our group is totally run by volunteers. Our annual fees do not cover all our costs, and we also try to raise extra funds to assist member in attending our “summit” events such as Cuboree and, Jamboree. We ask all families to assist with at least one or two of our fundraising events; the major events are

- our Fertilizer Drive (all families are asked to deliver leaflets during the July holidays and we need lots of people for the delivery day in August)
- Christmas Tree selling
- Blackman Park Sausage Sizzles during the football season. and
- Other events such as the sausage sizzle at the opening of the Cameraygal Festival

## 1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove Website

You have probably found our web site at <http://www.lanecovescouts.com/> . This is a great way of providing you with easy access to programs, forms and other resources. We are continually looking at better ways to use modern technologies to improve our communications. The site has current and past programs for each term, as well as stories on past activities, and it gives a flavour of what we do!

## A Community Affair

1<sup>st</sup> Lane Cove is an active and successful Scout Group, because the local community has made it that way. 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 may take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens.

We attend Citizenship ceremonies, Australia and Anzac Days, and assist in the Red Shield Appeal and other community based activities.

This is a formula that has survived for 106 years! (and in Lane Cove since 1932) The principles of Scouting are proven to be just as relevant today as they were when Scouting began in 1907.

Our 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 police checks, and we give freely of our time and effort for the youth members. 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 believe likewise.

Your Group Leader

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