

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Scouting activities should not endanger lives. Safe, adventurous activities require careful planning. An important element of this planning is the principle of "one-level-up review" by a responsible adult. The principle of "one-level-up review" requires that all Scouting activities be approved by a more "senior" adult as prescribed in the Schedule of Approvals. This procedure applies to all Scouting activities that take place away from the Group headquarters, with the exception of wide games, orienteering activities and sports events like swimming galas that take place within the vicinity of the Group headquarters.

The purpose of this review is to ensure that the planning of the activity has been thorough and has taken into account all foreseeable risk factors and potential hazards, that the activity is within the capability of the participants and that someone not taking part in the activity is aware of and approves of all the arrangements.

SCHEDULE OF APPROVALS

APPROVAL BY	HIKING	CAMPING	OTHER ²
Troop Scouter Group Scouter Troop Hike Advisor	Day hikes of A-grade ¹ within 30 km of the Group HQ	Patrol overnight camp within the District of no more than 1 night's duration	Day Patrol activities within 30 km of the Group HQ and within 1 hour of human habitation ³
DC District Hiking Advisor	Overnight hikes of A-grade ¹ within 30 km of the Group HQ	All Troop camps, and Patrol camps of more than 1 night's duration, within the Area	Day/overnight activities within 30 km of the Group HQ and within 1 hour of human habitation ³
Area Hike Advisor AAC Scout Programme	All hikes more than 30 km from the Group HQ All hikes of more than A-grade ¹	All camps outside the Area	All activities more than 30 km from Group HQ All activities more than 1 hour from human habitation ³

NOTES:

- ¹ "A-grade routes" are defined as those where no rock work is involved, (rock work implies the use of hands to assist in scrambling over rocks).
- ² **In addition to the above approvals, specialist activities eg SCUBA diving, canoeing etc should be approved by somebody appropriately qualified.**
- ³ "within 1 hour of human habitation" means that human habitation can be reached by members of the party within 1 hour, using the quickest means of travel that they will have readily available at their disposal whilst on the activity.

This approval may, and indeed should be, withdrawn on the day of the activity if the prevailing conditions merit this withdrawal.

The Troop Scouter retains at all times the responsibility for ensuring that conditions at the commencement of the activity are suitable for the activity to proceed and that each participant is properly prepared and equipped.

The leader of each activity must ensure that proper parent consent is obtained for each activity. Where the activity is boy-led, this fact must be emphasised and acknowledged in the consent form.

Every planned activity should provide for an alternative plan - PLAN B. This plan will entail the options for alternatives and escape routes in the event that the activity needs to be curtailed for any reason.

In addition, PLAN C must always be a real option in the minds of Scouters viz. the option to cancel the activity entirely.

The minimum recommended party size for any activity is FOUR.

These regulations and procedures should be read in conjunction with the Area Hiking regulations in the case of hikes.

Area Headquarters co-ordinate the bookings for all Area properties. Reservations for the use of Hawequas, Gilray, Appleton Camp and the Scout Mountain Club Hut must all be made at Area HQ, who will supply a permit on confirmation of the booking. This permit is in addition to, and not in place of, the "one-level-up" approval detailed above.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of someone being injured or hurt, the immediate action required is to protect the patient from further danger or injury, and First Aid applied as may be required. In the event of a member being injured to the extent that he is unable to continue to the destination, or if it could pose a risk for him to do so, then emergency procedure must be taken. At least one member of the party must stay with the patient, to look after him, and to help "bring in" any rescuers to their location. At least another two members of the party should be sent to the closest point from where help can be summoned. They must be provided with full details of who the victim is, what injuries are suspected, what action you have taken, the first aid given, a precise description of the location (preferably marked on a map if possible), contact number of his parents, details of other parents who may be affected by change in arrangements. This must be communicated to the contact person for the activity.

The contact person for the activity is required to activate the emergency procedure in the event of any of the following:

- on being notified of an accident or injury in the party.
- when a Scout party is more than two hours overdue at their destination.
- when there is reason to believe that a Scout party may be in danger or in trouble.

In activating the emergency procedure, the contact person must contact at least one of the following Commissioners. This should be selected in the order given, until contact is made with one of them.

- the Area Hiking Adviser
- the District Commissioner
- the Assistant Area Commissioner, Scout Programme
- the Area Commissioner
- any other Assistant Area Commissioner.

In addition to contacting one of the Area staff indicated above, the contact person must also immediately advise the District Commissioner of the details of the incident.

If anyone's life is endangered, then it is a legal requirement to notify the South African Police immediately.