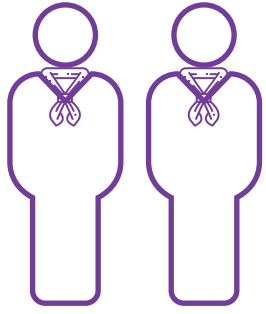


HOW WE SCOUT: A GUIDELINE FOR PARENTS

Scouting encourages learning and self-development, through a programme of small group activities in an outdoor setting, developing confident young adults and good citizens. We are a values-based movement, as outlined in the Scout Promise and Law. Scouting is also an inclusive environment, where we aim to welcome and develop everyone.

We challenge each member to 'do their best' and explore new and challenging tasks and adventures. As a parent, you play a vital role in supporting your child's Scouting journey.

The Scout Method



We use different methods to achieve these outcomes, depending on the age group. This moves from an adult-led programme for Meerkats (age 5-6), through increasing self-responsibility at Cubs (age 7 – 10), to a youth directed programme at Scouts (age 11 -18).

We use the Patrol System to run the Scout Troop, giving older Scouts leadership responsibilities. Understand that Patrol Leaders are leaders in training and may make mistakes sometimes. They need our encouragement and support.

Adult Volunteers



We rely entirely on our adult volunteers, who dedicate their time, skills, and energy to creating a positive and enriching Scouting environment for your children.

The term 'Scouter' includes all those uniformed volunteers involved in either the Meerkat, Cub or Scout programme, and also those who support the delivery of Scouting at a District, Regional or National level. Our volunteers are not paid employees, they give what they can for the benefit of our youth members.

Building supportive relationships

We encourage you to be a part of your child's Scouting journey, and also part of the Scouting community at your local Scout Group. To ensure a healthy and cooperative relationship, we ask you as a parent to consider the following:

Respect and Courtesy

- Treat all adult volunteers with respect, regardless of their role, age or experience level.
- Communicate in a courteous and constructive manner, whether in person, via email, or on social media.
- Show appreciation for the time and effort volunteers put into organising and leading Scouting activities.

Support and Collaboration

- Encourage your child to follow instructions and participate actively in Scouting activities.
- Work collaboratively with volunteers to support events, fundraisers, and activities when possible.
- Address any concerns or issues directly and privately with the appropriate Scouting leadership, following proper channels.

Behaviour and Expectations

- Refrain from disruptive behaviour during meetings, events, or camps.
- Avoid interfering with the volunteers' decisions regarding programme activities, safety, and discipline unless safety concerns require immediate intervention.
- Recognise that volunteers may have different leadership styles and approaches, but all act in the best interests of our youth.

Flexibility and Understanding

- Recognise that volunteers have other commitments and understand that they need flexibility with regards to their availability.
- Be understanding of any limitations or challenges that they may face.
- Understand and support them when they need to take breaks and time off.

Safety and Compliance

- Follow Scouting policies and procedures, including drop-off/pick-up times, required forms, and health/safety guidelines.
- Inform volunteers about any medical or special needs your child may have in a timely manner.
- Support and reinforce the values of Scouting at home, encouraging honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Conflict Resolution

- If you have a concern, address it calmly and through the appropriate channels within the SA Scouting organization.
- Avoid public criticism of volunteers; instead, seek solutions through respectful discussion.
- Remember that Scouting is a volunteer-led movement, and constructive feedback is more effective than complaints.

If everyone plays their part, we create and contribute to an effective, positive, and enjoyable Scouting Experience for all.