



Star Award Recognition Programme 2026

Star Patrol and Star Troop Award





The **Star Award Recognition Programme** is a Patrol and Troop management and self-assessment tool used to recognise Troops and Patrols that meet the Aims of SCOUTS South Africa. It supports the effective use of the Patrol System, which is a key method that distinguishes Scouting from other youth organisations.

The **Star Awards** also assist Troop Scouters, District Commissioners (DCs), and Support Team Members (STMs) in identifying strengths and areas where additional support may be required across both Patrol and Troop operations.

Purpose and Outcomes

The purpose of the **Star Award** Recognition Programme is for the Patrol Leader and Troop Scouter to assess and review:

- ◆ the implementation of the Patrol System within the Patrol and Scout Troop;
- ◆ the methods used for the implementation of the Patrol System and Scout Programme;
- ◆ the implementation of the Scout Programme within the Troop and its Patrols;
- ◆ Understanding and application of **Star Award** requirements at Patrol and Troop level.

*The **Star Award Recognition Programme** is a key tool for ongoing monitoring, support, and development of SCOUTS South Africa's youth programme.*

Period of Review

The **Star Awards** assessment period runs annually from 1 January to 31 December.

Participation

Participation in the **Star Award** Recognition Programme is voluntary.

However, all Patrols and Troops are encouraged to participate as a self-assessment process to measure progress and achievement against minimum standards.

Regular engagement between Troop Scouters, DCs, and STMs - through personal visits or online discussions - supports Troops in meeting these standards.

Eligibility

All Patrols and Scout Troops active at the start of the assessment year are automatically eligible to participate in the *Star Patrol* and *Star Troop Award* Recognition Programme.

Newly established Patrols or Scouts Troops that are established during the year of assessment may also submit a **Star Award** assessment and will be eligible for recognition, provided all criteria are met.

Guidelines

- ★ SCOUTS South Africa recognises the Star Award as a key tool for monitoring and supporting ongoing programme development.
- ★ Every Patrol and Scout Troop should complete an annual Star Award assessment
- ★ The Patrol Leader conducts a self-assessment of Patrol performance in consultation with the Patrol during a Patrol-in-Council to monitor their progress against minimum Patrol standards, and reviews outcomes with the Troop Scouter.
- ★ The Troop Scouter completes the Troop assessment in consultation with the Court of Honour to evaluate Troop performance and progress against minimum Troop standards.
- ★ The **Star Award** assessment sheet must be used as a working document for ongoing discussions between Patrol Leaders (PL), Troop Scouters (TS), District Commissioners (DC), and/or Support Team Members (STM) to assess and monitor Patrol / Troop standards.
- ★ The comment section on the **Star Award** assessment sheet must record key successes, gaps, and areas for improvement to guide discussion and follow-up by the District Commissioner or Support Team Member with Patrol Leaders and Troop Scouters.
- ★ The District Commissioner or Support Team Member (or delegate) must conduct at least TWO Star Award reviews per year, in consultation with the Troop Scouter, during scheduled visits or online engagements. Where possible, the same reviewer should conduct both reviews.
- ★ Final Star Patrol and Star Troop assessments must be ratified by the District Commissioner or Support Team Member as well as the Regional Team Coordinator: Scout Programme prior to submission to SCOUTS South Africa for **Star Award** recognition.
- ★ Participation Certificates are awarded to all Patrols and Troops that submit completed assessments. Recognition may include Participation, Bronze, Silver, or Gold Awards, depending on criteria achieved.
- ★ All members of a Patrol awarded a Gold Star Patrol Award will receive a Star Patrol badge for wear on the left epaulette of their scout uniform.
- ★ Troops achieving a Gold Star Troop Award will receive a Gold Star badge for display on the Troop flag.
- ★ If a Troop is reluctant to participate in the Star Award Programme, the matter should be investigated by the DC and/or STM, with feedback provided to the RTC: Scout Programme and Chair: National Scout Programme.

★ Gold Award - Mandatory Criteria

The Star Patrol and Star Troop Gold Award is a distinguished recognition, awarded to Patrols and Scout Troops that demonstrate exceptional excellence across all areas of the **Star Award Recognition Programme**.

Achieving the Gold Award requires a strong commitment to the values of Scouting and consistent application of the core standards that enable an effective Patrol-based Troop.

This includes the successful implementation of the Patrol System, achievement in Scoutcraft and Interest Badges, progression in Advancement, a vibrant and active outdoor programme (including camping and hiking), and meaningful participation in District, Regional, and National initiatives such as the annual SCOUTS SA National Challenge.

To be recognised as a Star Patrol or Star Troop Gold Award recipient, and *to be considered among the highest performing Patrols and Troops in SCOUTS South Africa*, a Troop must meet 13 to 15 Star Award disciplines, including all mandatory Gold criteria.

★ Gold Award

★ Star Patrol Gold Award:

★ **Attendance:** Average of 65% attendance of the Patrol at Patrol and Troop meetings and activities during the period of review.

★ **Community Service:** Project uploaded to Scouts for SDGs platform.

In addition, **THREE** of the following advancement criteria must be met:

★ **Patrol Leader Advancement:** PL has First Class (or higher) OR has the Discoverer AND has at least three Theme badges.

★ **Assistant Patrol Leader Advancement:** APL has the Discoverer (or higher) OR has the Traveller AND has at least three Discoverer Theme badges.

★ **Patrol Members 3 & 4 Advancement:** Patrol Members 3 & 4 both have the Traveller (or higher) OR have both earned three Theme badges.

★ **National Challenge:** 50% of Scouts in the Patrol successfully participated in and completed the annual National Challenge.

★ Star Troop Gold Award:

★ **Star Patrol Award:** Completion of a Star Patrol assessment by ALL Patrols in the Troop AND 50% or more of Patrols achieved a Bronze (or higher) Star Patrol Award.

★ **Troop Records:** All Adult Volunteers in the Scout Troop have profiles registered on Scouts.Digital.

In addition, **THREE** of the following advancement criteria must be met:

★ **Operation First Class:** The required number of Scouts in the Troop who have achieved the First Class Advancement Level (or higher).

★ **Scoutcraft / Interest Badges:** 65% of Scouts gained at least one Scoutcraft badge or Interest badge during the period of review.

★ **Advancement:** 50% of Scouts advanced during the period of review to a new level; Membership, Traveller, Discoverer, First Class, or Springbok

★ **National Challenge:** 50% of Scouts in the Troop successfully participated in and completed the annual National Challenge

In both the Star Patrol and Star Troop assessments the expectation is that Patrols and Troops achieve at least a Silver Award, indicating sound performance in meeting minimum standards. Bronze reflects areas for improvement, while Gold represents outstanding performance and a strong commitment to Scouting principles, outdoor adventure, and active participation in the wider Scouting community.

We encourage all Patrols and Scout Troops to **GO for Gold!!** ★

Star Award Recognition Programme Timetable

Action To Be Taken	Responsible Person	Due Date
Planning and Goal Setting		
The Court of Honour, with the Troop Scouter, reviews the previous year's Star Award performance, sets goals for the year, and plans accordingly.	PLs / TS	January
Initial Self-Assessment and Planning		
Patrol Leaders and the Troop Scouter complete the first Star Award self-assessment to identify gaps and plan actions to achieve the year's goals. Results are recorded on the assessment sheet where applicable.	PLs / TS	April / May
Action-Planning Support		
The DC or STM engages with the Troop (in person or online) to review the self-assessment, clarify requirements, and provide guidance and support to achieve minimum standards and set goals.	DC / STM PLs / TS	May / June
Ongoing Troop-Level Monitoring		
Troop Scouter and Patrol Leaders review progress and Star Award requirements regularly at Court of Honour meetings.	TS / PLs	July / August / September
Ongoing District-Level Support		
DCs and STMs engage with Troop Scouters to review progress and provide support at District Scouters' Council and other forums.	DC / STM / TS	July / August / September

Action To Be Taken	Responsible Person	Due Date
Final Star Award Self-Assessment		
Patrol Leaders and the Troop Scouter complete a second self-assessment to review progress and confirm achievement of set goals. Results are recorded on the assessment sheet where applicable.	PLs / TS	October / November
Final Review and Ratification		
The DC or STM consults with the Troop, reviews the self-assessment with the Troop Scouter, and ratifies the final results with supporting comments on the assessment sheet.	DC / STM / TS	October / November
Future Planning and Programme Review		
The RTC Scout Programme, together with the Chair: National Scout Programme, reviews the Star Award standards and makes any necessary updates for the following year.	RTC / Chair: NSP	December / January

Star Award Recognition Programme Submission		
Submission of completed Star Award assessment sheets to the Regional Team Coordinator (RTC).	DC or STM / RTC	10th December
Review of submissions, compilation of Regional summary spreadsheet, and recording of results for strategic planning.	RTC	10th to 23rd December
Submission of consolidated Regional spreadsheets, with comments, to the Chair: National Scout Programme.	RTC / Chair: NSP	23rd December
Submission of final approved spreadsheets to the SSA National Office for processing.	Chair: NSP	5th January
Issuing of Star Patrol and Star Troop certificates in time for Regional Founder's Day events. Star badges to follow thereafter.	SSA	5th February

Final Review

The final Star Patrol and Star Troop review (October/November) must first be completed as a self-assessment by the Patrol Leader and Troop Scouter.

The District Commissioner (DC) or Support Team Member (STM) then uses this session to verify understanding of requirements, confirm supporting evidence, and ensure that minimum Patrol and Troop standards are being met.

Feedback must be provided to the Troop Scouter at the conclusion of the review discussion by the DC or STM conducting the review.

We recognise that key Troop activities, including major year-end camps, take place in December. Troops and Patrols may record on the Star Patrol and Star Troop assessments activities that occur in December, provided that approved permits, consent forms, and plans are in place and the activity takes place as intended. These entries may be confirmed or amended if circumstances change.

SCOUTS South Africa Support at Patrol and Troop Level

- ★ A Support Team Member (STM) must attend an action-planning and review meeting with each Scout Troop, preferably in person or online if necessary. The Court of Honour and Troop Scouter must be present.
- ★ If an STM is unavailable, a District Commissioner or other designated District/Regional team member may fulfil this role to ensure every Troop receives support.
- ★ The mid-year action-planning meeting (May/June) uses the Star Award self-assessment as a framework to set goals, identify priorities, and determine support required from the District/Region.
- ★ The final review meeting (October/November) is used to ratify the completed Star Award assessment and confirm submission of all Patrol and Troop returns by the required deadline.
- ★ Following the initial and final reviews, each District should compile an action plan identifying support needs for Troops. This plan should guide District priorities and be reviewed regularly at District Scouters' Councils and District Team meetings to ensure implementation.
- ★ The overall objective is to continuously improve programme quality and support all Patrols and Troops to achieve **Star Award** recognition, with the long-term aim of all Troops reaching Gold level performance.

Purpose of the Star Awards Action-Planning Meeting / Review

- ★ To review the progress of all Patrol's towards achieving a Star Patrol Award.
- ★ To review the Troop's goals, successes, and vision for the coming year.
- ★ To review the Troop's progress towards achieving a Star Troop Award.
- ★ To identify any areas of improvement - leadership, programme, and membership.
- ★ To determine specific actions needed by the Patrol/Troop to make needed improvements.
- ★ To highlight any areas of support needed by the Patrol/Troop.
- ★ To determine any specific actions needed by District/Region to assist with Troop improvements and determine who will follow up on those actions.
- ★ To schedule any necessary follow-up to monitor progress.

Review Process: Timing, Arrangements, and Preparation

When to Conduct Review and Feedback Meetings

Following the Support Team Member or District Commissioner visit for the initial action-planning review:

- ★ A formal review should be conducted annually, ideally prior to the final assessment period and before planning for the following year, to assess strengths, identify areas for improvement, and determine support requirements.
- ★ Additional reviews may be conducted as needed where challenges or concerns are identified.

How to Arrange the Review

- ★ The STM/DC must agree the date, time, and venue with the Troop Scouter during the initial Troop visit.
- ★ A follow-up meeting should then be arranged with the Troop Scouter and Patrol Leaders present.
- ★ Where possible, the meeting should be held at the Troop meeting place.
- ★ The Patrol Leaders and Troop Scouter must complete the Star Patrol and Star Troop self-assessment tools prior to the meeting.
- ★ The Troop Scouter must be informed that the discussion will focus on the self-assessment outcomes and how District/Regional support can assist Troop development.

Why Only the STM/DC and Troop Scouter Attend

- ★ A smaller group enables focused review of programme delivery, Troop needs, and practical support actions.
- ★ It encourages open and constructive dialogue between the Troop and the District.
- ★ Once priorities and support needs are identified, additional stakeholders can be engaged where required to implement improvements.

Preparation Prior to the Review

The STM/DC should review available Troop and District records, including:

- ★ Previous **Star Award** achievements.
- ★ Scouts.Digital records.
- ★ Outdoor programme participation.
- ★ Scout advancement progress reports.
- ★ Leadership Training status.
- ★ Child Protection/ Safe from Harm training compliance.
- ★ Participation in District, Regional and/or National events.
- ★ Troop and Patrol attendance registers.
- ★ *Patrol Leaders to complete the Patrol self-assessment tool.*
- ★ *Troop Scouter to complete the Troop self-assessment tool.*

Star Award Self-assessment tools are used to identify areas for improvement and highlight where support is required from the STM/DC to assist the Patrol and Troop in achieving their goals.

Guidelines for Completing the Star Award Assessment Sheets

The Star Award assessment sheets are available in both PDF and user-friendly Excel formats. The Excel version is strongly recommended as it contains pre-populated data and automatically calculates required values, reducing manual calculations.

When completing the Excel assessment sheet, first enter the Patrol/Troop details, review date, and names of participating Scouts/Scouters in rows 6–13.

Key input data includes the number of Patrols and Scouts in the Troop, which is used to calculate minimum requirements for percentage-based criteria in the following sections:

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ Row 48: National Challenge (50%)

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ Row 26: Star Patrol Achievement (50%)
- ★ Row 30: Operation First Class (Troop-size dependent)
- ★ Row 32: Scoutcraft/Interest Badges (65%)
- ★ Row 34: Advancement (50%)
- ★ Row 42: National Challenge (50%)
- ★ Row 44: Troop Records (Scouters on SD vs Scouters in the Troop)

While minimum requirements are calculated as percentages, input must be the *actual number of Scouts achieved* (not percentages). Required thresholds are automatically calculated in columns I and J using the information in rows 6–13.

The Comments column should be used to record observations, supporting evidence, activity details (what/when/where), permit numbers where applicable and actions to be taken to improve. This provides both verification of activities and a useful action plan for improvement.

The Excel file also includes a Retention Calculation sheet to assist in determining the percentage of Scouts retained since the previous year's census.

The PDF version may be used where required, but all calculations must be completed manually.

Deadline and Late Submissions

Timely submission of Star Award assessments is essential to ensure processing, certificate production, and presentation at Founder's Day events.

- ★ Final submission deadline to the Regional Team Coordinator (RTC) is **10 December 2026**
- ★ Late submissions will not be accepted after **23 December 2026**
- ★ Regional consolidated returns must be submitted to National by RTCs by **23 December 2026**
- ★ Late submissions to the Chair: National Scout Programme will not be accepted after **5 January 2026**

Audit

An audit process will be conducted for all Gold Award recipients to confirm compliance with mandatory criteria and adherence to SCOUTS South Africa guidelines.

Audits verify the accuracy and authenticity of submitted documentation, including activity records, participation evidence, and supporting requirements. This process ensures the integrity of the Star Award Recognition Programme and confirms that Gold Award recipients have genuinely met the required standards for recognition.



Star Patrol

*“ The Patrol System is not one method in which Scouting can be carried out.
It is the only method.” ~ Robert Baden-Powell*

Creating Teams that Achieve – The Patrol System

The Patrol is the foundation of Scouting and the key to a successful Troop. Through the Patrol System, Scouts work in small teams where each member takes responsibility, develops leadership skills, and contributes to the success of the Patrol. Led by the Patrol Leader, Patrols plan, participate, and grow together through shared experiences and challenges.

The Star Patrol Award recognises Patrols that effectively apply the Patrol System and consistently meet the required standards across all areas of the Scout programme.

The Star Patrol Award supports the Patrol System by helping Patrol Leaders assess and improve their Patrol’s performance.

The Patrol is the core unit in all Troop activities.

Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, emphasised the importance of this structure: *The formation of Scouts into Patrols of six to eight, each under its own leader, is the key to a good Troop. The Patrol System leads each Scout to take responsibility for the success of their Patrol.*

The Star Patrol Award is one of the requirements for the [Patrol Leadership Scout Interest Badge](#); so in addition to assisting the Patrol Leader in assessing the standards of his or her Patrol, the Star Patrol Award is also an opportunity to earn the interest badge.

Mandatory for Star Troop Participation

Participation by ALL Patrols is mandatory for entry into the Star Troop Award.

Mandatory for Star Patrol Gold Award ★

To achieve the Star Patrol Gold Award, Patrols must meet the following key criteria, demonstrating strong participation, progression, and meaningful contribution to the community and the wider Scout programme:

★ **3.** 65% Patrol Attendance

★ **14.** Community Service Project uploaded to Scouts for SDGs platform

★ Achievement of any **THREE** of the following

★ **6.** Patrol Leader Advancement

★ **8.** Assistant Patrol Leader Advancement

★ **10.** Patrol Members Level 3 & 4 Advancement

★ **15.** National Challenge Participation

1. Number of Scouts

Patrol size depends on the Troop's enrolment and needs, with an ideal Patrol size of eight Scouts. Patrols with fewer than eight Scouts are encouraged to recruit.

- ★ A minimum of six (6) invested Scouts is required for the Patrol to qualify.
- ★ Only invested Scouts (those who have made the Scout Promise) may be counted toward this requirement.
- ★ Recruits are encouraged but may not be included in the total number until invested.
- ★ The total number of invested Scouts must be recorded in the attendance register.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Total number of invested Scouts in the Patrol.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Scouts in the Patrol in row 13.**
(This will automatically update in row 20)

2. Patrol Responsibilities

A Patrol is a small team where Scouts learn, share responsibility, and develop leadership. Giving each Scout a defined role builds accountability, confidence, and teamwork.

- ★ Each Scout must hold a meaningful, functional Patrol role (e.g. Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Scribe, Treasurer, Quartermaster, Logbook Keeper).
- ★ Roles must be appropriate to the Patrol's size and needs and may not be duplicated unnecessarily or be artificial i.e. 'made-up' roles without a clear purpose.
- ★ Every Patrol member must be able to explain their role and responsibilities.
- ★ Evidence must show that each role has been actively performed during the review period. e.g. entries in logbook, equipment records, finances tracked, meeting notes etc.
- ★ During the assessment, at least two Scouts (excluding the Patrol Leader) must demonstrate understanding of their role and give an example of how they fulfilled it.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Every Patrol Member has a specific role and responsibility.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter Yes or No** – either they do, or they don't.

3. Attendance*

Accurate attendance records ensure active participation and support effective programme delivery and badge advancement.

- ★ A minimum average of 65% Patrol attendance at Patrol and Troop meetings and activities is required for the review period.
- ★ A Patrol attendance register must be maintained and kept up to date (electronically, hardcopy, or in a Patrol Logbook).
- ★ Attendance percentage must be calculated from the register.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Average attendance of the Patrol at Patrol and Troop meetings and activities.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter the average percentage (%) of attendance of the Patrol.**

Note: To qualify for several Star Patrol Award requirements,

a ***Minimum Patrol Attendance** at all Patrol activities must be:

- **4 Scouts in a Patrol of 6**
- **5 Scouts in a Patrol of 7**

- **6 Scouts in a Patrol of 8**

4. Patrol in Council

Patrol in Council (PiC) meetings are where the Patrol plans, makes decisions, and works together as a team.

- ★ The Patrol must hold a minimum of four (4) PiC meetings during the review period.
- ★ Meetings must be led by the Patrol Leader, with a *minimum number of the Patrol in attendance.
- ★ Minutes must be recorded and kept (electronically, in a file, or in a Patrol Logbook).

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **The Patrol has held regular Patrol in Council meetings.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of PiC meetings held.**

5. Patrol Corners

A Patrol Corner (or Den) provides a dedicated space for the Patrol to meet, plan, and develop its identity.

- ★ The Patrol must have a clearly defined Patrol Corner at the Troop meeting place – a permanent or allocated space.
- ★ Where a permanent space is not possible, a portable Patrol Box in a designated area is acceptable.
- ★ The Patrol Corner/Box must be identified with Patrol insignia and include basic Patrol equipment (e.g. ropes, equipment).

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **The Patrol has a defined area for a Patrol Corner at the Troop meeting place.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter Yes or No** – either the Patrol has or does not have their own Patrol Corner/Patrol Box.

6. Patrol Leader Advancement

Baden Powell had this to say about the importance of becoming a First Class Scout:

“a boy does not really get the full value of Scout training until he is a first class scout.”

A Patrol Leader should lead by example, demonstrating strong Scout skills, knowledge, and progression.

- ★ The Patrol Leader must hold First Class advancement level (or higher),
- ★ **OR** Have the Discoverer advancement level and at least three First Class Theme badges,
- ★ As recorded on Scouts.Digital.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **PL meets the advancement requirement.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter Yes or No** – PL achieved or not.

7. Patrol Leader Training

Effective leadership requires training to develop the skills and confidence needed to lead a Patrol.

- ★ The Patrol Leader must have completed a recognised Leadership Training Course (e.g. LDC, PLTC, PLTU),

- ★ **OR** Completed the Leadership requirements in the Personal Development Theme for their current advancement level.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ ***PL has completed a Leadership Training Course OR advancement Leadership requirements.***
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter Yes or No** – PL achieved or not.

8. Assistant Patrol Leader Advancement

The Assistant Patrol Leader should demonstrate progression in skills, knowledge, and leadership.

- ★ The Assistant Patrol Leader must hold the Discoverer advancement level (or higher),
- ★ **OR** Have the Traveller advancement level and at least three Discoverer Theme badges,
- ★ As recorded on Scouts.Digital.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ ***APL meets the advancement requirement.***
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter Yes or No** – APL achieved or not.

9. Assistant Patrol Leader Training

The Assistant Patrol Leader supports the Patrol Leader and develops the skills needed to lead the Patrol.

- ◆ The APL must have completed a recognised Leadership Training Course (e.g. LDC, PLTC, PLTU).
- ◆ **OR** Completed the Leadership requirements in the Personal Development Theme for their current advancement level.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ ***APL has completed a Leadership Training Course OR advancement Leadership requirements.***
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter Yes or No** – APL achieved or not.

10. Patrol Members 3 & 4 Advancement

Advancement supports the progressive development of Scouts through skills, knowledge, and personal growth.

- ★ Patrol Members 3 & 4 must both hold the Traveller Award (or higher),
- ★ **OR** Have each earned at least three Traveller Theme badges,
- ★ As recorded on Scouts.Digital.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ ***Patrol Members 3 & 4 meet advancement requirement.***
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter Yes or No** – Patrol Members 3 & 4 achieved or not.

11. Patrol Activities

Patrol Activities provide opportunities for Scouts to plan, lead, and participate in activities independently, strengthening teamwork and leadership.

This is also an opportunity for Scouts to earn their [Patrol Activities Scoutcraft Badge](#).

- ★ Number of Patrol Activities held during the review period (excluding hikes, camps, and Troop meeting activities).
- ★ A minimum of two (2) Patrol Activities is required, with the Patrol Leader in charge and a *minimum number of the Patrol in attendance.
- ★ A Patrol Activity is defined as a Patrol-led activity, planned and carried out by the Patrol as a unit, with evidence of the Patrol Method in action.
- ★ Activities should be independent of adult involvement and promote learning, fun, and teamwork.
- ★ All activities must be recorded with supporting evidence, including:
 - Copy of the permit (where required)
 - Photographic evidence and/or social media posts of the activity showing Scouts actively participating.
 - Social media posts must clearly identify the Patrol, activity, and date.
 - Records kept electronically, in a Patrol Logbook, or as a hardcopy file.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Number of Patrol Activities held**
(Not Patrol hikes or camps or Troop meeting activities)
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Patrol Activities held**
- ★ Comments/Action: **Activity Permit number(s) must be captured.**

12. Patrol Hikes

Hiking is a key part of the outdoor adventure in Scouting, developing self-reliance, teamwork, and leadership through shared challenges in the outdoors.

This is also an opportunity for Scouts to earn their [Hiking Scoutcraft Badge](#) and [Hike Leader Scout Interest Badge](#).

- ★ A minimum of one Patrol hike is required, with the Patrol Leader in charge with a *minimum number of the Patrol in attendance.
- ★ A Patrol Hike is defined as a standing Patrol hiking independently, under the leadership of the Patrol Leader, and operating as a self-sufficient unit.
- ★ The hike must be planned and led by the Patrol, with evidence of the Patrol Method in action.
- ★ Patrol hikes conducted as part of a Troop activity do NOT qualify.
- ★ Patrol participation in a District or Regional event may only qualify if:
 - The Patrol is either a standing Patrol or made up of at least two-thirds of the standing Patrol, and
 - The Patrol hikes and operates independently as a self-sufficient unit.
- ★ All hikes must be recorded with supporting evidence, including:
 - Copy of the activity permit (where required).
 - Photographic evidence and/or social media posts of the Patrol hiking and activities showing Scouts actively participating.
 - Social media posts must clearly identify the Patrol, activity, and date.
 - Records kept electronically, in a Patrol Logbook, or as a hardcopy file.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Number of Patrol day hikes (minimum two hours), overnight hikes (or longer).**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Patrol day/overnight hikes held.**
- ★ Comments/Action: **Activity Permit number(s) must be captured.**

13. Patrol Camping

Patrol camping provides Scouts with the opportunity to experience true Patrol independence, teamwork, and leadership in the outdoors and is an ideal way to develop the Patrol to work as a team under the Leadership of the Patrol Leader, without the need for any adult help or supervision.

This is also an opportunity for Scouts to earn their [Camping Scoutcraft Badge](#) and [Camp Quartermaster Scout Interest Badge](#).

- ★ A minimum of one overnight (or longer) Patrol camp is required, with the Patrol Leader in charge with a *minimum number of the Patrol in attendance.
- ★ A Patrol Camp is defined as a standing Patrol of six to eight Scouts camping independently, under the leadership of the Patrol Leader, and operating as a self-sufficient unit (including tents, cooking equipment, and programme).
- ★ The camp programme must be planned and run by the Patrol, with evidence of the Patrol Method in action.
- ★ Patrol camps held within a Troop Camp do NOT qualify.
- ★ Patrol participation in a District or Regional event may only qualify if:
 - The Patrol is either a standing Patrol or is made up of a minimum of two thirds of the standing Patrol.
 - The Patrol camps and operates independently as a self-sufficient unit.
- ★ All Patrol camps must be recorded with supporting evidence, including:
 - Copy of the activity permit (where required)
 - Photographic evidence and/or social media posts of the Patrol camping and activities showing Scouts actively participating
 - Social media posts must clearly identify the Patrol, activity, and date.
 - Records kept electronically, in a Patrol Logbook, or as a hardcopy file

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Number of overnight (or longer) Patrol Camps held.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of overnight camps held.**
- ★ Comments/Action: **Activity Permit number(s) must be captured.**

Note: *The ideal scenario for the Star Patrol Award qualification is that a Patrol organises a Patrol Camp themselves, independently of any other Troop, District or Regional event.*

If the Patrol exceeds two overnight camps, then the extra ones may be credited to Outdoor Activities or Patrol Activities.


14. Patrol Community Service

Community service is central to Scouting and develops responsibility, citizenship, and a commitment to making a positive difference through meaningful service to others.

- ★ A Patrol Community Service Project is defined as a Patrol-led initiative, planned and carried out by the Patrol, with evidence of the Patrol Method in action.
- ★ A Springbok Community Service project may be counted if it meets the above criteria.
- ★ The project must be meaningful, sustained where appropriate, and beneficial to the community.

- ★ A minimum of twenty five (25) Scout-hours is required, with the Patrol Leader in charge with a *minimum number of the Patrol in attendance.
- ★ All Patrol Community Service must be recorded with supporting evidence, including:
 - Copy of the permit (where required)
 - Photographic evidence and/or social media posts of the Community Service project showing Scouts actively participating
 - Social media posts must clearly identify the Patrol, activity, and date.
 - Records kept electronically, in a Patrol Logbook, or as a hardcopy file
- ★ All service must be recorded and verified via the Scouts for SDGs platform.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Number of Scout-hours the Patrol participates in a Community Service Project.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Scout-hours worked on the project.**
- ★ Comments/Action: **Activity Permit number(s) and Scouts for SDGs Link must be captured**
- ★  *A link to the uploaded project on the Scouts for SDGs platform is mandatory for Star Patrol Gold Award qualification*

15. National Challenge

The National Challenge encourages Scouts to take meaningful action and build awareness of sustainability and community issues and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- ★ A formal National Challenge Troop entry must be fully completed and submitted by the closing date for Patrol participation to qualify.
 Note: *Participation will be verified by official entries received.*
- ★ A minimum of 50% of Scouts in the Patrol must successfully complete the National Challenge.
- ★ Participation may not be claimed by completing only selected activities – successful completion of all National Challenge activities is required.
- ★ Only Scouts included in a valid National Challenge Troop entry submitted may be counted.

Star Patrol Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Percentage of Scouts that participated in and successfully completed the annual National Challenge.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Scouts (not %) who completed the National Challenge** – this must tally with the number of Scouts on the submitted entry.

Scoutcraft / Scout Interest Badge Opportunities

There are several opportunities for Scouts to complete Scoutcraft and/or Scout Interest Badges whilst participating in the activities for the Star Patrol Award:

- ★ [Recruiter Badge](#)
- ★ [Camping Scoutcraft Badge](#) and [Camp Quartermaster Scout Interest Badge](#).
- ★ [Hiking Scoutcraft Badge](#) and [Hike Leader Scout Interest Badge](#)
- ★ [Patrol Activities Scoutcraft Badge](#)

★ CTRL & Click to follow the link to the badge requirements.



Star Troop

“ The Scoutmaster guides the boy in the spirit of an older brother... It is his business to see that the Patrol Leaders are trained and capable of carrying on the work.”
~ Robert Baden-Powell

*Please take the reference to boys in this quote in the context when this was written by Baden Powell – prior to girls being members of the Scout Movement; *Nowadays the word ‘boys’ refers to girls as well and ‘Scoutmaster’ is now called a Troop Scouter.*

The Troop in Action – Empowering the Patrol System

BP emphasised the importance of leadership and responsibility within the Troop. The Star Troop Award recognises Scout Troops that deliver a balanced, active, and high-quality Scout programme through the effective application of the Patrol System. It reflects the Troop’s ability to support youth leadership, maintain strong Patrols, and provide meaningful opportunities for growth, adventure, and achievement.

The Star Troop requirements measure key areas of Troop performance, ensuring that minimum standards are met while encouraging continuous improvement and progression across all aspects of Scouting.

Mandatory for Star Troop Participation

As the Patrol System is the foundation of a Scout Troop, **participation by ALL Patrols is mandatory for entry into the Star Troop Award**. ALL Patrols in the Troop must complete and submit a Star Patrol Award assessment for the Troop to qualify for participation in the Star Troop Award, regardless of the award level achieved by each Patrol.

Mandatory for Star Troop Gold Award★

To achieve the Gold Star Troop Award, the Troop must demonstrate strong implementation of the Patrol System and overall programme excellence by meeting the following key criteria:

★ **4. Star Patrol Award**

★ Achievement of any **THREE** of the following

★ **6. Operation First Class**

★ **7. Scoutcraft/Interest Badges**

★ **8. Scout Advancement**

★ **12. National Challenge Participation**

1. Number of Scouts

A Scout Troop must maintain sufficient membership and have a viable number of Scouts to sustain active Patrols and programme delivery to operate effectively using the Patrol System.

Troop size depends on enrolment and capacity, with an ideal Troop size of 20–30 Scouts. Troops with fewer Scouts are encouraged to recruit.

- ★ A minimum of twelve (12) invested Scouts is required for the Troop to qualify - two Patrols of six Scouts each.
- ★ Only invested Scouts (those who have made the Scout Promise) may be counted toward this requirement.
- ★ Recruits are encouraged but may not be included in the total number until invested.
- ★ The total number of invested Scouts must be recorded in the attendance register as at the date of review and align with the annual census submission.

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Total number of invested Scouts in the Troop.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Scouts in the Troop in row 12.**
(This will automatically update in row 20)

2. Recruitment

Recruitment is essential to sustaining Troop growth, strengthening Patrols, and ensuring long-term continuity of the Troop.

It also provides Scouts with an opportunity to work towards the [Recruiter Badge](#).

The number of Scouts recruited may include Cubs progressing from the Pack as well as new members who joined during the period of review and have been invested as Scouts.

- ★ The number of Scouts recruited during the period of review.
- ★ A minimum of four (4) new recruits, including Cubs, is required.

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Total number of Scouts recruited and invested into the Troop.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of new Scouts invested.**

3. Retention

A strong Troop programme should be exciting, active, and engaging to retain Scouts and sustain participation over time.

Retention is measured by comparing the previous year's census with the number of those same Scouts who remain in the Troop at the time of review.

- ★ Percentage of Scouts from the previous year's census (under 18) who remain in the Troop at the time of review.
- ★ A minimum of 75% retention is required.
- ★ Scouts lost due to factors beyond the Troop's control are excluded, e.g. family relocation, transfer out of District, or reaching 18 years of age.
- ★ Retention must be calculated using the prescribed formula – see below.
(A retention calculation is available on the Star Troop Award assessment Excel file)

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Percentage of Scouts from previous year's census who remain in the Troop.**
(Own calculation required)

★ Excel Capture: **Enter *percentage of Scouts retained*.**

Retention Calculation

Number of Scouts on previous years' census	24
Less: Number of Scouts who turned 18 or transferred	3
Total Scout number for Star Award	21
Less: Number of Scouts on previous census who have since left the Troop	5
Total number of Scouts on previous census & still in the Troop	16
Divide: Retained Scouts by Total Scout number for Star Award	21
Equals: % of Scouts <i>retained</i> from previous census	76,2%

4. Star Patrol Award

The Patrol System is fundamental to Scouting. Patrol Leaders develop leadership skills to manage their Patrol, identify strengths and weaknesses, and improve performance to meet minimum Patrol standards. All Patrols should participate in the Star Award programme, aiming for at least Bronze level, with Gold as the ultimate goal.

Note: **Patrol Participation is mandatory! ALL Patrols must complete and submit the Star Patrol Award assessment sheet for the Troop to qualify for the Star Troop Award, regardless of award level achieved.**

- ★ All Patrols in the Troop must complete and submit a Star Patrol assessment.
- ★ At least 50% of Patrols must achieve a Bronze Star Patrol Award (or higher).

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Submission of Star Patrol assessment by ALL Patrols in the Troop AND 50% or more of Patrols achieved Bronze (or higher) Star Patrol Award.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Patrols (not %) that earned bronze.**

5. Court of Honour

The Court of Honour (CoH) develops leadership, responsibility, and shared ownership of Troop planning and standards. It upholds the good name of the Troop and is responsible for planning, coordination, and decision-making within the Troop.

- ★ The number of CoH meetings held during the period of review.
- ★ A minimum of four (4) CoH meetings per year (one per quarter).
- ★ The appointed COH Chair or Troop Leader must chair the meetings.
- ★ Attendance and minutes must be recorded for all meetings.

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Number of Court of Honour meetings held.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of CoH meetings attended by Patrol Leaders.**

6. Operation First Class

The First Class Advancement Level is a key milestone in Scouting, representing the achievement of essential Scouting skills and the full value of Scout training.

- ★ The Troop must have a minimum number of Scouts who have achieved First Class or higher, based on Troop size.

★ Number of Scouts in the Troop:

12 or fewer Scouts: 1 or more First Class Scouts;

20 to 29 Scouts: 2 or more First Class Scouts;

30 to 39 Scouts: 3 or more First Class Scouts;

40 + Scouts: 4 or more First Class Scouts.

★ Only Scouts who have achieved First Class or higher are counted.

★ Emphasis must be placed on progressing all Scouts towards First Class advancement.

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

★ **Number of Scouts who have earned First Class advancement level or higher.**★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Scouts who have earned First Class or higher.**
Minimum number required shown on Excel sheet columns I & J

*Troop Scouters are requested to put a lot of emphasis and focus on advancement to First Class and get ALL scouts to work towards being a **first class FIRST CLASS SCOUT!** Troop Scouters are asked to encourage their Scouts to strive to achieve this milestone.*

7. Scoutcraft and Interest Badges ★

Scoutcraft and Interest Badges help Scouts explore new skills, interests while building challenge, motivation, and progression through the Scout programme. Each Scout should be encouraged to earn several badges during the year, with a minimum expectation of one badge earned.

★ Percentage of Scouts that have gained at least one Scoutcraft badge or Interest badge during the period of review.

★ A minimum of 65% of Scouts must earn at least one Scoutcraft or Interest Badge.

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

★ **Percentage of Scouts that have gained at least one Scoutcraft badge or Interest badge (65%).**★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Scouts (not %) who earned badges**
Minimum number required shown on Excel sheet columns I & J

8. Scout Advancement ★

The Advancement Programme enables Scouts to progress through the levels from Membership to Springbok, developing skills and earning badges along the way. While Patrol-level advancement is recognised under the Star Patrol Award, this requirement measures overall Troop progression.

★ Percentage of Scouts who have advanced to a new level (Membership, Traveller, Discoverer, First Class, or Springbok) during the period of review.

★ A minimum of 50% of Scouts must have advanced.

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

★ **Percentage of Scouts that have advanced (50%).**★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Scouts (not %) who advanced**
Minimum number required shown on Excel sheet columns I & J

9. Outdoor Activities

Outdoor activities provide Scouts with adventure, challenge, and opportunities to explore beyond the normal Troop environment.

- ★ Number of Troop Outdoor Activities during the period of review.
- ★ Outdoor activities must take place away from the usual Troop meeting place and involve a level of adventure (e.g. hikes, day trips, wide games).
- ★ Regular Troop meetings do not qualify, even if held outdoors.
- ★ Activities requiring a permit and conducted at least 2 km from the meeting place qualify.
- ★ A minimum of four (4) outdoor activities is required.
- ★ All Outdoor activities must be recorded with supporting evidence, including:
 - Copy of the permit (where required)
 - Photographic evidence and/or social media posts of the outdoor activity showing Scouts actively participating
 - Social media posts must clearly identify the Troop, event, and date
 - Records kept electronically, in a Troop Logbook, or as a hardcopy file

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Number of Troop outdoor activities.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Outdoor Activities held.**
- ★ Comments/Action: **Activity Permit number(s) must be captured.**

10. Troop Camping

Troop Camping develops teamwork, self-reliance, and Scoutcraft skills through shared outdoor experiences using the Patrol Method.

- Number of nights all Patrols have camped together as a Troop away from the meeting place during the period of review.
- A minimum of two (2) nights camping is required.
- Nights need not be consecutive.
- More than 50% of the Troop must attend.
- Overnight Troop hikes may be included if not counted under Outdoor Activities.
- A Troop Camp must be planned, organised, and led by the Troop, with Patrol Leaders actively involved.
- District, Regional, or National events (e.g. competitions, Kontiki, or organised camps) do NOT qualify as Troop Camps for this requirement.
- The programme must show evidence of the Patrol Method (e.g. Patrol cooking, activities, responsibilities).
- ★ All Troop Camping must be recorded with supporting evidence, including:
 - Copy of the permit (where required)
 - Photographic evidence and/or social media posts of the Troop Camp showing Scouts actively participating
 - Social media posts must clearly identify the Troop, activity, and date.
 - Records kept electronically, in a Troop Logbook, or as a hardcopy file

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Number of nights that all Patrols have camped together as a Troop**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Nights Camped**
- ★ Comments/Action: **Activity Permit number(s) must be captured.**

11. Troop Participation

Participation in District and Regional events connects Scouts to the wider Scouting movement and builds experience through interaction with other Troops.

- ★ Number of District or Regional events attended by the Troop during the period of review.
- ★ The Troop must be represented by at least a Patrol-sized group or full team (as required) at District/Regional events, activities, courses, or competitions.
- ★ Participation at a minimum of two (2) events is required.
- ★ All evidence of participation must be verifiable and relate specifically to the Troop's participation during the review period.
- ★ All Troop Participation must be recorded with supporting evidence, including:
 - Copy of the permit (where required)
 - Photographic evidence and/or social media posts of the District/Regional event or activity showing Scouts actively participating
 - Social media posts must clearly identify the Troop, activity, and date.
 - Records kept electronically, in a Troop Logbook, or as a hardcopy file

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Number of District or Regional events attended by the Troop.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of District or Regional events attended.**
- ★ Comments/Action: **Activity Permit number(s) must be captured.**

12. National Challenge

The annual National Challenge encourages Scouts to take meaningful action and develop an understanding of key environmental and sustainability challenges facing our world.

- ★ Percentage of Scouts who have successfully completed the annual National Challenge during the period of review.
- ★ A minimum of 50% of Scouts in the Troop must successfully complete the National Challenge.
- ★ A formal National Challenge Troop entry must be fully completed and submitted by the closing date for Troop participation to qualify.
Note: *Participation will be verified by official entries received.*
- ★ Participation may not be claimed by completing only selected activities – successful completion of all National Challenge activities is required.
- ★ Only Scouts included in a valid National Challenge Troop entry submitted will be counted.

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ **Percentage of Scouts that participated in and successfully completed the annual National Challenge.**
- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter number of Scouts (not %) who completed the National Challenge** – this must tally with the number of Scouts on the submitted entry.

13. Troop Records

Accurate, up-to-date records are essential for effective Troop management. All Adult Leaders working with Scouts must be trained and registered with SCOUTS South Africa in line with policy and the Safe from Harm framework.

- ★ All Adult Leaders must have profiles registered on Scouts.Digital to ensure proper record-keeping and compliance.
- ★ Note: *Records will be verified on Scouts.Digital.*

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter *number* of Adult Leaders registered on Scouts.Digital.**
- ★ Comments/Action: **Name and role of each Adult Leader to be listed in the comment's column.**
Number required shown on Excel sheet columns I & J

14. Communication

Effective communication is essential for keeping Scouts, parents, and the wider community informed, building strong relationships, and supporting successful Troop operations.

- ★ The Troop must maintain active communication through one or more of the following:
 - A visible SCOUTS SA branded Troop notice board at the meeting place with up-to-date information.
 - A regularly updated Troop/Group website and/or active social media platform (e.g. Facebook or Instagram), or a quarterly newsletter.
 - Regular electronic communication to parents (e.g. email, WhatsApp, or SMS) with evidence of distribution.
- ★ All communication must be supported by verifiable evidence and recorded (electronically or in a Troop file/logbook).
- ★ Social media posts must clearly identify the Troop, activity, and date.
- ★ **Communication in the form of a Troop Notice Board; Group Website/Social Media updated regularly; electronic communication to parents; and/or Group/Troop newsletter issued quarterly.**
- ★ Troop Communication must be recorded with supporting evidence, including:
 - Photographic evidence and/or social media posts of the District/Regional event or activity showing Scouts actively participating
 - Social media posts must clearly identify the Troop, activity, and date.
 - Records kept electronically, in a Troop Logbook, or as a hardcopy file

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter *Yes* or *No*** to indicate whether effective communication is in place, supported by evidence.

Scouts and parents should be encouraged to subscribe to Regional and SCOUTS SA mailing lists: <https://www.scouts.org.za/2022/01/27/stay-in-the-know-sign-up-to-ssas-mailing-list/>

There's a comprehensive SCOUTS SA Marketing Toolkit available on Scout Wiki:

https://scoutwiki.scouts.org.za/wiki/SCOUTS_SA_Marketing_Toolkit

15. Moments that Matter

Ongoing reflection between the Troop Scouter, Assistant Troop Scouters, and Adult Helpers is essential to strengthen leadership, improve programme quality, and support continuous development within the Troop. It provides a structured opportunity to review progress, share observations, and reflect on personal performance as Adult Leaders and strengthen support for Scouts and Patrol Leaders.

- ★ The Troop Scouter must hold an annual 'Moments that Matter' discussion with and Assistant Troop Scouters and Adult Helpers to reflect on the year and individual Adult Leader performance.
- ★ This discussion should focus on:
 - Troop growth, participation, and retention
 - Programme quality and delivery
 - Patrol System effectiveness and Youth Leadership development
 - Individual Adult Leader performance and contribution
 - Areas of success and opportunities for improvement
 - Planning priorities for the year ahead.

Star Troop Assessment Sheet:

- ★ Excel Capture: **Enter Yes or No** – Confirmation that the annual Moments that Matter discussion has been held and recorded.

Remember, the requirements of the Star Patrol Award and Star Troop Award Programme are *minimum* standards. The aim is to achieve at least the minimum, which indicates that you are ticking all the right boxes in managing and leading your Patrol and Troop.

The intent is to do continuous self-assessment during the review period to ensure that minimum standards are maintained, with the goal of continuous improvement and achieving 'Gold Award' status.

The *National Scout Programme Team* wish you and your Scouts everything of the best in achieving your goals and objectives during 2026.

Go for GOLD!!

