



Star Award Recognition Programme

Star Den Award 2026

MINIMUM STANDARDS

(Guidelines)

The **Star Award Recognition Programme** is a Den management and self-assessment tool, that is also used to recognise Dens who are meeting the Aims of SCOUTS South Africa.

The **Star Awards** also serve as an essential tool for Den Scouters, District Commissioners (DCs), Support Team Members (STMs), and Scout Group Leaders (SGLs), to identify areas where support is needed in various disciplines of the Den.

Period of Review

The Star Award assessment period runs from **1 January to 31 December** each year. The form allows Den Scouters and SGLs to assess.

Requirements

AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEERKATS IN THE DEN: There should be **no less than 5 Meerkats** in the Den.

1. LEADERS IN THE DEN:

All appointed Adult Leaders must have the appropriate training and be properly warranted. They must also submit a criminal record clearance. Additionally, assistance may be required to maintain a ratio of one adult (who does not necessarily need to be in uniform) for every four Meerkats.

In each block please type a number of people who hold/attended:

IAL (holds a limited warranted or attended IAL).

Warranted Den Scouter

Den Helpers

Meerkat Instructors

Meerkat Camping License

Please note that each adult can only be credited once based on their current training or role. For example, an adult who is a Warranted Scouter will receive only one point and cannot be counted in both categories: IAL, Warranted DS. Additionally, Den helpers who have attended IAL but do not hold warrants should be included only in the IAL category.

ALL OTHER SECTIONS

When assessing the following sections, it is important to grade the markings according to:

- Presentation
- Accuracy
- Accessibility

2. DEN ADMINISTRATION

Detailed long term '**Year-at-a-Glance**' plan to include National (if applicable), Regional, District, Group and Den events; training courses.

Detailed quarterly programme for each quarter.

Moments that Matter with each warranted adult in the Den

Attendance Register - should be clear, accurate and up to date. Can be an electronic copy but **MUST** be always available.

Personal Records – detailed up-to-date record of each Meerkat, must be kept on Scouts Digital. These details **MUST** be available at all times during den meetings and on outings.

Progress chart – this could be either the type available at Scout Shops or a homemade one. It must be where the MEERKATS and PARENTS can see and read it. It **MUST** always be up to date.

3. DEN PROGRAMME

✓ Details of **weekly programmes** quality in respect of: content, variety and discipline.

✓ **Den ceremonies** carried out according to **Den Ceremonies. Uniform and smartness**: All uniformed members wearing the uniform according to **Organisation Rules**.

✓ **Up to date First Aid kit** – accidents do happen and it's best to be prepared! Always keep a properly stocked and up to date First Aid kit close by when running your den programmes and on outings.

✓ **National Challenge** – participation in the National Challenge may only be claimed if an entry form was completed and submitted to National.

4. ADVANCEMENT

Each Meerkat needs to have gained at least two Advancement Badges during the 12-month period. Meerkat that has joined the Den within the last six months are to be included in the Advancement section as they would have earned the Membership badge. If a Gold Star badge has been earned during the 12 months, they are to be included in the Advancement section.

5. CHALLENGE AND INTEREST BADGES

Each Meerkat needs to have gained at least four Challenge Badges (Body & Mind, Life Skills, Living with Nature, Scoutcraft, Service, Social) during the period under review. Meerkats that have joined the Den within the last six months and have done the Membership badge and have done two Challenge badges will be accepted. (This will be monitored manually).

One of the requirements for the Challenge badges is to earn two interest badge per challenge; therefore, each Meerkat should earn at least four interest badges during the period under review.

6. MEETINGS

Den meetings are a tool we use to teach meerkats in a fun manner and cover the progressive stimulating meerkat program. A den should have at least minimum 36 den meetings in a year.

7. ATTENDANCE

Attendance is one way to evaluate the success, or challenge of a Den. Clear, accurate attendance should be kept. When completing the assessment form **please do not** include New Pups.

8. OUTINGS

Outings – outings should be encouraged, particularly den outings. The duration of the outing must be 2 (or more) hours. These outings should be well prepared and run **over and above** the normal den meetings. For any outing all permits and consent forms need to be available at all times. Dens are encouraged to also participate in districts and regional outings.

Camping – knowledge of the rules governing Meerkat Camping is necessary. Each Den camp to be under the supervision of a **MEERKAT/CUB CAMPING LICENSE HOLDER** plus **ONE WARRANTED DEN SCOUTER**. Every effort should be made to keep the ratio of one adult to every four Meerkats.

9. ACTIVITIES:

Try to encourage your Dens to take part in activities with other Dens, such as Mob Days, Denborees, and Regional or National events. This helps Meerkats understand that there are other Meerkats who may be different from them but still participate in the same activities. The National Challenge also contributes towards earning their Gold Star.

ASSESSMENTS:

The assessment should be done in a friendly manner. The object of the assessment is to assist the Den Scouter in understanding what is required to run an effective Den and to establish if the Den Scouter is on the 'right track'.

Visits to individual Dens are undertaken as a normal part of the Support Team's function. At the earliest of these visits in the New Year, it is recommended that the Star Den Assessment form be discussed as a guideline to running an effective Den. Any problems or difficulties could then be resolved, and the Den Scouter set on the right track to a good final assessment.

SUGGESTION FOR FINAL ASSESSMENT:

The Regional Team Co-Ordinator (RTC) – Meerkat Programme could interchange Evaluators between different districts. This would probably make the assessment easier for both the Den Scouter and Evaluator.

DEADLINE DATES:

All completed assessment forms are to reach your RTC Den Programme by no later than **10th December 2026**.

A summary of the assessment forms is to reach the National Chair – Meerkat Programme by **23 December 2026**.

AWARDS are made up as follows:

GOLD STAR CERTIFICATE:

Grand total of 80% with a minimum of 50% in EVERY section and **a YES to the all the following question:**

1. Have you had an average of 5 or more Meerkats over a 12-month period?
2. Has the Den gone on at least 2 outings in the year?
3. Are all your adult leaders registered on Scouts Digital?
4. Did your Den participate in the National Challenge?
5. Do you currently have at least 1 fully Warranted Den Scouter?

SILVER STAR CERTIFICATE:

Grand total between 70-79%.

BRONZE STAR CERTIFICATE:

Grand total between 60-69%.

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE:

Grand total less than 60%