

frequently asked questions for new volunteers



O As a new volunteer in the Group, how many unit meetings would I be expected to attend?

A This all depends on your role in the Group. Your SGL will discuss what meetings take place in your Group and which ones you would be expected to attend. Meetings that do take place on a regular basis to ensure the smooth running of any Group are:

- **Pack / Den** planning meetings.
- **Troop** planning meetings.
- **Seeonee Meetings** – which are monthly meetings held for Pack Scouters in the District to discuss District items of interest.
- **SGL Meetings** – where the Branch leaders and Committee get together and discuss the effective running of the Group.
- **DSC** – the District Scouters Council Meeting. This is an opportunity for the SGL's to get together and make plans for the District. This sometimes forms the District Warrants committee as well.
- **RCC** – Regional Commissioners Meeting. Where all the DC's get together to discuss the effective running of the Region.

O Where can I find what Training is available in my Region?

A Depending on your Region, an annual calendar will be distributed. This would include all Training that will be taking place for the year in your Region.

O What is a Mentor?

A One of the most important people you can have around you is a MENTOR. We urge each and every new volunteer to find someone in the Movement they feel comfortable sitting down with and chatting to. A mentor is not a trainer but an open ear – an adviser – a supporter. Discuss this topic with your SGL who can advise you further.

O Where can I find resources?

A Our main source of reference is the national SCOUTS South Africa website. The link is: <https://www.scouts.org.za/> and here you will find all the official documents and latest updates, from news and testimonies to permits and job descriptions. The Regional webpages will provide you with info relating to camps, competitions and training. For programme resources go to our SCOUTS SA Wiki **here**.

Take the opportunity to browse around and become familiar!

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|----------------------|---|
| Our history | https://www.scouts.org.za/about-us/our-history/ |
| Adult Support | https://www.scouts.org.za/members/adult-leaders/ |
| Policies / Resources | https://www.scouts.org.za/members/resources/ |
| Adult Leader Forms | https://www.scouts.org.za/members/adult-leaders/adult-leader-forms/ |

For programmes and other resources we suggest that you search our Wiki.

[Meerkats](#)

[Cubs](#)

[Scouts](#)

[Rovers](#)

For marketing resources:

https://scoutwiki.scouts.org.za/index.php?title=SCOUTS_SA_Marketing_Toolkit

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Where can I read all the Policies?

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As SCOUTS South Africa we pride ourselves in the fact that we are governed by our Organisational Rules, our Member Code of Conduct, Child Protection Policy, Safe Scouting Policy and many more, which can be found here:
<https://www.scouts.org.za/members/resources/>

We hope you will read through the most important policies and have a clear understanding of what they mean for you.

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What is the Alumni Network?

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The purpose of the Alumni Network is to enhance the growth and sustainability of Scouting in South Africa. It is important that we retain, reconnect and maintain supportive relationships with previously active members whose experience and expertise could add value in the Region, District, Group, or possibly at events or in limited volunteer roles or just by being positive ambassadors for Scouting among their friends or in the community. There is no obligation to get involved as an Alumni Network member. Membership is free. **Join today [here](#).**

In essence, our Alumni Networking plan focusses on the 'Three R's':

- **Reconnect** with Scouting friends and mentors;
- **Rekindle** enthusiasm for Scouting and the values it represents; and
- **Re-engage** with Scouting in a capacity or form that you as an Alumni are comfortable with.

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Where can I find information about the Award System?

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Most members involved in Scouting do not look for - or expect - any reward. However formal recognition of services rendered to Groups, Districts, Regions, National teams, etc. does wonders to boost morale and increase motivation. It also improves retention of volunteers. We therefore have a number of Recognition and Award categories through which we say thanks to members who assist in implementing Scouting and contribute to achieving the goals of the Scout Movement in South Africa:

- Special Thanks and Recognition
- Service Awards
- Merit Awards
- SCOUTS South Africa National Orders
- National Citations
- Meritorious Conduct
- Gallantry Awards
- Republic of South Africa National Orders

More information on each award can be found here:

<https://www.scouts.org.za/members/adult-leaders/ssa-recognition-awards/>

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What is POW WOW, PAC YAC and TEAM SCREAM?

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You will hear the Pack Scouters talking about Pow Wow, Pac Yac or Team Scream. These are all opportunities for the Scouters who work tirelessly for the Cub Pack, to get together, network, learn new skills and get to know one another. This is a time where life-long friendships are made.

Q**What is a World Scout Jamboree?****A**

The World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) is a global Scout camp that takes place every 4 years in a different part of the world. The first WSJ took place in England in July 1920. It has been held every 4 years with the exception of 1941 during the World War and in 1979 when it was cancelled due to the Iranian Revolution. The WSJ attracts approximately 40 000 Scouts and Guides from many participating countries. If financially possible, attending a World Scout Jamboree as a Scout or as an Adult volunteer is a once in lifetime experience.

Members do ask us why we don't host a World Jamboree in South Africa. To do this would require the skills, experience and capacity to organise large events, an affordable venue to host at least 45 000 youth and offer adventurous and eco-friendly activities, as well as the financial means to do so. Our first priority is to demonstrate meaningful impact to our South African society, by providing the Scouting experience to 1 million young people. This could then open up the discussion with government and other funders, which may make a World Jamboree in South Africa a reality one day.

Q**What is SANJAMB?****A**

Countries often hold National Jamborees/camps, which are more accessible to members than a World Scout Jamboree. The South African National Jamboree "SANJAMB" was revitalized in the Free State in 2017. The objective is to hold a SANJAMB every 4 years.

Q**What is Kontiki?****A**

Kontiki takes place in several Regions (incl. the Western Cape and Gauteng). Named after Thor Heyerdahl's Kon-Tiki expedition of 1947, teams compete to build and live on a raft for a weekend. Support crew or "Land-Crew" teams compete in other, ground-based competitions.

Q**What is a Moot?****A**

Moots provide the Rovers with the opportunity of meeting with other Rovers from around the country or around the world. The World Scout Moot is an event held every 4 years by the senior Scouters (Rovers) aged between 18 and 25. The objective of these is to improve their international understanding of being citizens of the world. They take place in a variety of countries e.g. Iceland (2017), Ireland (2022). Nationally Rover Moots are held every 3 years and are hosted by different Regions e.g. Gauteng (2018), KZN (2021).

Q**What does it mean to be a member of 1st Gilwell Park?****A**

The WOODBADGE is awarded for completion of the formal training needed as an Adult Leader. It is a recognition of experience and skill level achieved. The training steps are: Introduction to Adult Leadership (IAL), then Warrant and then Woodbadge. On completion, participants are awarded their "WOODBADGE BEADS" in recognition of their significant achievement in leadership and direct service to young people, and to welcome them to membership of 1st Gilwell Park Scout Group. For more information <https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/support-scouts/gilwell-fellows/>

Q What does 'Conflict of Interest' mean?

A The Leadership of SCOUTS South Africa (SSA) has a responsibility to act in the best interests of SSA as a whole - above all other roles and responsibilities carried out by these members when making decisions. If a decision is to be made where the member has a personal or other interest, this is regarded as a "conflict of interest" and the member will not be able to comply with his or her responsibilities unless certain steps are followed. Find the Conflict of Interest Policy [here](#).

In particular, a member has a conflict of interest if the member is considering making a decision that would mean either:

- That the member could benefit financially or otherwise from that decision, either directly or indirectly; or
- The member's duty to SSA competes with a duty or loyalty through another appointment that the member has to another company, organisation, Scout committee, or individual.

Q What is a Sixer Council?

A A Sixer Council Meeting is a gathering of all the Sixers of the Pack together with the Leaders. Here they meet to discuss what could be of interest to the Pack in the months to come. The Sixer Council have input and make suggestions but the Pack Scouter runs the Pack.

Q What is a CoH – Court of Honour?

A A Court of Honour is a meeting held by the Patrol Leaders in the Troop, to discuss responsibilities and how the Troop will be run. The CoH make decisions under the guidance of the Troop Scouter.

Q What is a Springbok Scout?

A The **highest award** attainable by a **Scout** in South Africa is the Springbok award. A Scout is required to complete all the requirements for the Springbok award before their 18th birthday.

Q What is a Leaping Wolf Cub?

A The Leaping Wolf is the **top award** a **Cub** can earn and involves about 6 months of work covering various aspects of Cubbing and personal challenges.

Q When do we salute or use the Scout sign?

A Find more information in the SCOUTS South Africa Ceremonies and Guidelines document on the website [here](#).

Q What is a YATAG? (Gauteng Region)

A The YATAG (Year at a Glance) is an annual calendar drawn up by the Gauteng Regional Training Team. Each Region has their own version of this document and can be obtained through your SGL, Mentor or Regional Office. It includes Scouting events, BP Sunday, as well as the proposed training for the Region for the year.

Q

Why do you have so many different scarves?

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A scarf is individual to each Scout Group – with each Group within each Region having a different scarf. Each Region then has their own scarf and each Country around the world has a different National scarf. It becomes a form of identification.

"Every Troop has its own scarf colour, since the honour of your Troop is bound up in the scarf, you must be very careful to keep it tidy and clean. Baden Powell.

Q

What is BP Sunday?

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Each Sunday closest to Baden Powell's birthday – the 22nd of February – is called BP Sunday and is set aside to celebrate the founder of the Scout Movement.

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I hear people saying "I will send it out on the Regional Mailing List (e.g. GT Scouters)". What is this?

A

GT Scouters; WC Scouters; NW Scouters etc. are the respective mailing lists used for each Scout Region in South Africa. If you have any information that needs to be distributed to the entire Region you can send the mail to this mailbox where it will be adjudicated before being sent on.

The National Scout Office uses these Regional mailing lists to send out their monthly National Announcements in which updates, opportunities and national challenges are shared.

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How are the records kept for all Rovers, Scouts and Cubs?

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We use a digital Member Management System specifically commissioned and designed for SCOUTS South Africa. This Member Management System is called "Scouts.Digital". It encompasses complete Scout Group management - ranging from automated invoicing to parent statements, District and Regional reporting, attendance, events, advancements and badges for Rovers, Scouts and Cubs, etc.

Scouts.Digital is POPIA (Protection of Personal Information Act) compliant. Access to member data is limited to the relevant roles e.g. Pack Scouter will access their Cubs' information. Parents only have access to the system to view their own children's progress. Are you registered? If not, please ask your SGL to register you.

Q

What does ALT stand for?

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In the general sense of the word, it stands for Adult Leader Training and we have a Chair: National Adult Leader Training.

However on the Training Team, we also have ALT's but in this context, it stands for Assistant Leader Trainer.

Q

Where do I find marketing materials we can use for our Group?

A

There is a dedicated **Marketing toolkit for Scout Groups** on the Scouts Wiki [here](#). Not sure **which logo to use when** and what is possible? [Find info here](#). If you don't find what you are looking for or have a query, please email pr@scouts.org.za.