



Air Scouts Canberra

A New Parent's Guide

Welcome to Air Scouts Canberra

Welcome to Air Scouts Canberra! We want your child to have an excellent Scouting adventure here at Air Scouts, so we have created this guide to help explain things. Scouting is a year round family oriented experience and by joining Air Scouts Canberra you will be joining the Scouting movement in Australia. At Air Scouts Canberra, we do all the usual Scouting activities, such as:

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Field sports | Environment camps | High adventure |
| Boating skills | Community work | Outdoor skills |
| Rock climbing | Excursions | First aid skills |
| Camping skills | Specialist speakers | Winter sports |
| Campfires | Aquatics | |
| Jamborees | Handicraft | |

However as Air Scouts we have a special interest in all things aviation and space, so we also learn about:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Planes | Drones | Airports |
| Hovercrafts | Space | Royal Australian Air Force |
| Jet Simulators | Pilots | CASA |
| Helicopters | Astronauts | Air Services Australia |
| Hot air balloons | Astronomy | Mt Stromlo |

Many of our parents and grandparents have a background or special interest in aviation, and some join because being located in Deakin, Canberra, we are the closest Scout group to home. No matter where you are coming from, you are likely to develop a love of aviation and appreciate the wonderful opportunities available to your child as a valued member of Air Scouts Canberra.



Air Scouts Information

Group Air Scouts Canberra
Region Hindmarsh Region, ACT
Website www.airscouts.com.au
Address Latrobe Park Scout Hall - Gawler Crescent, Deakin ACT 2600, located on the corner of Gawler Crescent and Melbourne Avenue next to Canberra Girls Grammar.



Section meeting times

Joey's	(6-7 year old boys & girls)	Monday nights, 6.30pm-7.30pm
Cubs	(8-10 year old boys & girls)	Monday nights, 6.30pm-8.00pm
Scouts	(11-14 year old boys & girls)	Thursday nights, 6.00pm-8.00pm
Venturers	(15-17 year old boys & girls)	Thursday nights, 6.30pm-8.30pm
Rovers	(18 – 26 year old men & women)	Not currently active in Air Scouts

We are urgently seeking, adult helpers & leaders in all Sections, and we are urgently recruiting for a Joey Leader to take over at the end of 2014 or our Joey group may not continue in 2015. We are also looking for a Scout section leader immediately, as this position is vacant from Term 2, 2014. If you think you can help, please have a no-obligation chat with Keith Jobson our Group Leader.

Contact numbers

Group Leader	Keith Jobson (Chil)	0410 457 562 keith.jobson@raytheon.com.au
Joey Scout Leader	Claire Konno (Bilyara)	0487 471 240 clairekonno@grapevine.com.au
	Assistant Leader VACANT – needed urgently	
Cub Scout Leaders	Martine Pekarsky (Jacala)	0417 350 055 martine.pekarsky@gmail.com
	Andrew White (Kaa)	0418 765 692 andrew.p.white@team.telstra.com
Scout Leader	Scout Leader VACANT – leader needed urgently	
Venturer Leader	Keith Jobson (Chil)	0410 457 562 keith.jobson@raytheon.com.au
Committee Chair	Vacant	
Secretary	Vacant	
Treasurer	Kerry Staples	0416 015 816 wrays@grapevine.com.au

A parent's first point of call when contacting Air Scouts is the Section Leader. For example, if your child is of Cub Scout age or approaching that age (within 6 months), then contact the Cub Scout Leader first. Please remember these roles are voluntary so it might take time to get back to you.

The origins of Scouting

Lord Robert Baden-Powell (B-P) the founder of Scouting lived a busy and adventurous life, and as a boy spent much of his spare time in open-air pursuits, hunting in the woods, and joining his brothers in expeditions by land and in their boats. After serving in the British Army in India and Africa for many years he became a national hero after defeating the Boers in the battle of Mafeking, and returned to England to write 'Scouting for Boys' and other books teaching young boys the power of observation, resourcefulness and useful outdoor skills.

After holding the first Scout Camp near London with great success, the Scouting movement was born in 1907 and spread to Australia and New Zealand in the space of 12 mths. Over 100 years later, the Scouting movement is now a global organisation of over 28 million boys and girls all over the world.

A Scout Group is a local organisation that offers different levels of Scouting to various ages. A full Group consists of five Sections called a Joey Mob, a Cub Scout Pack, a Scout Troop, a Venturer Unit and a Rover Crew.

Each Mob, Pack, Troop or Unit is under the control of a person known as a Joey Scout, Cub Scout, Scout or Venturer Leader who is helped by Assistant Leaders. In the Joey Scout and Cub Scout Sections they also have Parent Helpers. The Group as a whole is managed and guided by a person known as the Group Leader.

Sections of the Scout Movement

Scouts are placed into different age groups to provide different activities, as interests are different as they develop in age.

Joeys aged 6 - 7 yo play games and learn to 'Care and Share' and 'Help Other People'.

A Joey must have turned 6 years and be no older than 8 years (they can become a Cub from 7.5 years old).

A typical meeting would involve a special theme for the night's meeting, such as 'Birds' and would involve learning about birds, listening to different bird calls, hearing from a guest speaker and perhaps making bird houses or a bird-themed craft activity to take home. Joeys are also involved in outdoor excursions and activities but generally are not involved in camping.

Cubs aged 8 - 11 yo do activities in small groups called "Sixes" and are run by the leaders.

A Cub must have turned 7.5 years and be no older than 11 years (they can become a Scout from 10.5 years old).

Meetings are run with the help of their 'Sixers and Seconders', who are generally the older Cubs, appointed as leaders of their Six. Meetings often include a steam game to open the meeting and burn off some energy, followed by a themed topic, often involving badge work. Cubs participate in more adventurous activities such as canoeing and archery and usually take part in weekend camps 'under canvas' or overnight sleepovers in the Hall. Cubs use 'The Jungle Book' as their inspiration.

Scouts aged 11 – 14 yo do activities in patrols.

A Scout must have turned 10.5 years and be no older than 14 years (they can become a Venturer from 14.5 yo).

The activities may be organised by the patrol, the patrol leader or the scout leaders. Scouts generally do more adventurous activities such as white water rafting and rock climbing, and they usually carry their gear into a campsite so developing hiking and orienteering skills are important.

Venturers aged 15 – 17 yo run their own activities and program, guided by the leader and often help the community and younger Scout sections, for instance as trained rock climbing instructors.

Rovers aged 18 - 26 yo are self-governing and may have a leader as a friend, guide and philosopher.

With the exception of Joeys, it is common practice for Scout sections to accept children up to 6 months younger than the defined ages, depending on the child's age or circumstances. If a child aged 7 ½ years of age was interested in joining a new Scout Group, they would be best to join the Cub Scout Pack, so they don't need to move from Joeys to Cubs and make new friends in the space of 6 months. As Canberra has a transient population, at Air Scouts we are used to welcoming lots of newcomers into all sections.

What we do at Air Scouts Canberra

Scouts are usually given the opportunity to participate in activities with other Sections, and particularly at Air Scouts, the Joeys and Cubs are closely aligned as we currently meet on the same night, often sharing the Hall.

Air Scouts Canberra is an active group with a full program, and most of the time, not all of the time, we apply our special interest in aviation and space to our activities. A usual Scout Group would visit a local fire station, and at Air Scouts, we would visit the fire station at the Airport.

Week night meetings in the hall have included experimenting with helium balloons, building our own hovercrafts, using PC based flight simulator software, holding Games Nights, and hosting speakers from the Royal Australian Air Force. Recently we took a joy ride in a helicopter thanks to one of the dads who is a helicopter pilot.

Week night excursions have included using Canberra's Boeing 737 Jet Simulator, visiting the Dinosaur Museum at night, bushwalking along a local mountain ridge at sunset, and visiting Mt Stromlo for a tour of the observatory buildings and peering through telescopes thanks to the local astronomy society.

Weekend activities have included flights from Canberra to the Temora Aircraft Museum, overnight camping at the Scout property (Camp Cottermouth just outside of Canberra), canoeing, archery and ACT Branch get togethers.

During the summer months we make the most of daylight savings and warm weather and hold most activities, including week night meetings, outdoors in the park beside the Scout Hall.

Ask for our Term program and website calendar for more information on past activities.

There are a few activities that are inherently included in our pack program, such as games, campfires & singing, camping, craft and badge work – these will depend on the section as the age of the youth. When involved in adventurous activities such as canoeing, rock climbing and caving, adventurous activities leaders who have been trained and qualified in these activities will run the program.



The Award Scheme and Badges

All sections have an Award scheme where the children can work learn skills and achieve a badge as recognition.

Cubs can learn skills to achieve their Bronze, Silver and Gold Boomerang and then the Grey Wolf Award. In Scouts they can work towards their Red, Blue and Green Cords and go on to the Scout Medallion. The Venturers are encouraged to complete the Queens' Scout Award while the Rovers strive towards the BP Award.

Ask a leader or refer to the Scouts Australia web site for more information: <http://www.scouts.com.au/main.asp?iMenuID=16464823>

Joining Air Scouts

Here are the guidelines on joining Air scouts:

- **Determine which Section is suitable for your child** – Joeys, Cubs, Scouts (if you are unsure then contact one of the section leaders at the front of this Guide to help you decide).
- **Check the meeting times** to make sure they suit your family – if the night or time does not suit you or your child, there are around 60 other Scout groups in the Canberra area to choose from.
- **Contact the Leader for that section**, who will send you the upcoming program and welcome you along to the next meeting. The contact details are at the front of this Guide. *If sections are full, there may be a waiting list – if so, members linking from younger groups (eg Joeys to Cubs) will have priority along with any child whose parent wishes to join up as a full time Leader.*
- **Start a free trial to see if your child likes Scouting.** Your child is welcome to attend Air Scouts on a trial basis for a maximum of 3 visits in a 4 week period before any commitment (the 4 week period can be frozen temporarily eg if you are going on holidays, or there are school holidays in between). Before your child can participate in any Scout meetings **you will need to complete an ‘Application for Youth Membership’ form** to qualify for insurance cover for your child whilst they are trying out Scouts. You are welcome to, but not required to stay at the meeting at the trial period, as long as we have your contact details which will appear on the ‘Application for Youth Membership’ form.
- **Advise the Leader that you’d like to join Air Scouts.** Joining + Term fees will be required at this time and your already completed ‘Application for Youth Membership’ form will be sent to the ACT Branch Office. If you decide not to join, your form will be kept securely on file for a certain period for insurance purposes.
- **Prepare for the ‘Investiture’ ceremony, and purchase a uniform**, which consists of only a Section shirt. These can be purchased online from the Scouts Shop: <http://www.thescoutsshop.com.au>. We recommend getting one a bit large. The Scarf, Woggle, Badges and any booklets you need will be provided by the group at the investiture ceremony and are included in your joining fee. **Only children who have paid their joining and term fees can be invested.**

Your Section Leader will advise you on the investiture ceremony – at Air Scouts we try to do them outdoors or on excursion so they are memorable. Family members are encouraged to attend this ceremony which is usually held at the end of the evening but can be held at the opening ceremony by arrangement. Don’t forget to bring your camera as this is an important milestone in their Scouting career.

Now that your child has joined Scouts, we have formalities for adults who participate in Scouting. Everyone (aged over 16 years) who has contact with Scouting Youth needs to complete the ‘Adult Helper’ form and get their Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. This is to protect our children, so while it can be a mild inconvenience, it does have important consequences - keeping Scouting safe for our kids.

- **Complete the Application for Appointment as an Adult Member form and give it to your Leader**, the Adult Helper form takes under 2 minutes to complete and can be done on the spot at the Scout Hall.
- **Complete the NSW Prohibitive Employment Declaration (PED) form and give it to your Leader**, which allows us to accompany youth into the state of New South Wales (which is often for Canberrans).
- **Complete the Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) form and take it to Canberra Connect** (government office). The WWVP card is like a drivers license, complete with your photo. It’s a quick and easy process so we ask all parents, mums and dads, to do this so we comply with the regulations. Tell your Leader once your card arrives so we can send copies of both sides (front and back) to ACT HQ.

Uniform

From the night he or she is invested, your child will be expected to wear the Scout uniform which only consists of a section shirt. Air Scouts prefers navy blue coloured pants, for which you can use King Gee, or navy school pants (not compulsory).

Uniforms are available online at the Scouts Shop: <http://www.thescoutshop.com.au>.

Below are the Joey (red sleeve), Cub (yellow sleeve), Scout (green sleeve), Venturer (burgundy sleeve) polo shirts. There are also jumpers, hats and other uniform pieces but these are not a necessity.



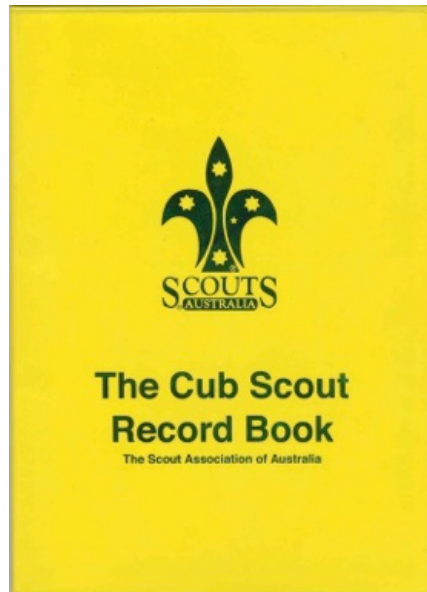
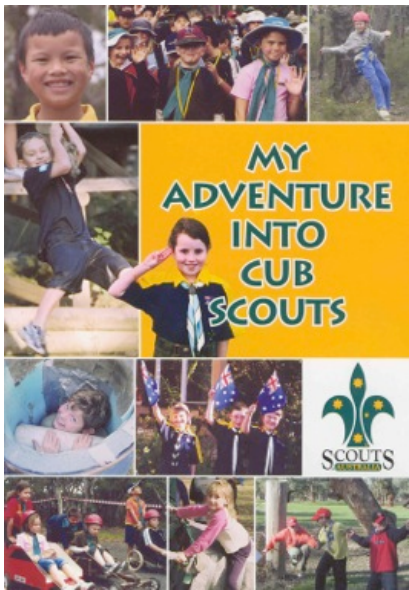
Publication of photographs

We regularly publish photographs from our events, through the Air Scouts Weekly newsletter. We aim to keep the photos generic and will never publish a photograph of your child along with their surname, nor will we publish photos which might embarrass them. We do not publish photos on Facebook. If you have any concerns about the use of photos, please speak to a Leader.

Handbooks

There are very informative and useful handbooks produced for each Section of the Scout Movement, these are also available from the Scouts Shop online.

The Cub Scouts introduction book is called 'My Adventure as a Cub Scout' and it contains all the information needed to understand the values and Cub Scout promise, and explains the linking process from Joeys to Scouts. At Air Scouts you can borrow this and return it so there is no need to purchase one. Cub Scouts also use the Yellow Cub Scout Handbook that is used to pass the tests for Bronze, Silver and Gold Boomerang Badges, as well as all the requirements for all the Achievement Badges that the Cub Scout can earn. This yellow book is included in your Air Scouts joining fee and will be given to your child when they are invested as a Cub Scout.



Check out the Scouts Shop for a range of books and handbooks and speak to your leader about which ones are useful / necessary vs which ones are nice to have: <http://www.thescoutshop.com.au>

Financial

A Scout Group is entirely self-funded. The expenses of a Scout Group are varied. A major cost is the purchasing of badges, scarves, woggles etc., (badges are presented as soon as they are earned and there is no call for parents to purchase their child's badges).

The Group must also meet the cost of maintaining and providing new equipment and resources such as tents, ropes, cooking gear, games equipment, as well as paying for and maintaining the Scout Hall itself. Naturally we also have electricity, insurance and the like to pay. Even though all of the leaders are volunteers and pay for their own uniforms and Camp Fees, the Leader training costs are met by the Group.

The purchase and maintenance of these capital items is the subject of fundraising. Every Section helps raise the necessary funds to continue the successful running of our Scout Group, but most of our funding comes from Hall Hire so Air Scouts does not need to do a great deal of fundraising.

Since Scouting is fundamentally an outdoors-based program, from time to time there are pack holidays, camps, hikes etc., normally over 2 or 3 days, which your child will want to attend. The cost of these activities is an extra expense to yourself although we aim to keep the price of such activities to a minimum. From time to time we charge a gold coin fee for a meeting where supper is provided, as this keeps annual fees down and supports a fairer user-pays system.

2014 Youth Member fees

Section	Early-bird fee (if paid before 1 March 14)	Annual fee (if paid after 1 March 14)	Pro-rata fee if starting in term 2	Pro-rata fee if starting in term 3	Pro-rata fee if starting in term 4	One-off joining fee* (new members)
Joeys	\$280	\$330	\$250	\$170	\$90	\$50
Cubs	\$320	\$370	\$280	\$190	\$100	\$50
Scouts	\$320	\$370	\$280	\$190	\$100	\$50
Venturers	\$280	\$330	\$250	\$170	\$90	\$50

Notes:

A free trial is available (up to three attendances over a maximum period of four weeks).

Pro-rata fees apply to membership for whole or part of an ACT School Term. Membership commences upon conclusion of free trial.

One-off joining fee covers costs of group scarf, woggle, record book and initial badges.

*Reduced to \$30 for transferees from other Scout groups requiring only group scarf and name tape.

Discounts are available for children of Leaders, Adult Helpers and Support Committee members who provide regular, tangible assistance to the Group (not just attend meetings).

The Air Scouts 2014 financial year runs from 1 March 2014 to 28 February 2015.

To calculate the amount you need to pay, add the Pro-rata fee for the Term you are joining PLUS the One-off joining fee of \$50.

Payment is by Cash, Cheque or EFT (although EFT is much, much preferred!):

- Cash should be enveloped with payee name and amount.
- Cheque should be payable to 'Air Scouts Canberra'.
- EFT details are: BSB 032-722 / ACN 18-0601 (please use child's full name as the reference)

If paying for two children, please make two separate payments for clarity.

Hall Rental

As part of our fund raising, the hall is available for rental for activities, and we currently hire the hall to Aikido instructors who use the hall some weekdays and leave their mats in our Hall. The Scout Hall must be kept tidy at all times to make rental viable, so we need everyone to pitch in and make sure the hall floors are swept after our Scout meetings, and to make sure the mats are not touched by Air Scouts members.

Drop-Off & Pick Up on Meeting Nights

We ask that you arrive just before starting time and don't leave your child until there are two leaders present and the hall is open. This is a safety and logistics issue as if the second leader doesn't arrive then the night may be cancelled.

At closing time please arrive early enough to come into the hall and listen to messages on closing parade and meet other parents and the leaders. We do not wish to have the children running off to a car in the car park as it is dark and dangerous, and it may not be the correct car. Parents are welcome to stay for the night to watch or better still, join in.

Lost Property

Any thing left behind from camps or meeting nights will be placed in the 'Lost Property Bin' in the entry alcove of the Scout Hall. If not claimed after a few weeks it may be given away, placed in the clothing pool or thrown out.

How you can get involved as a parent

The most important aspect of parent involvement is the encouragement you give to your child. The boys and girls who get the most out of Scouting are those who put the most into it. All children have times when they need a gentle push, and certainly times when they need some help. This is where you come in.

If your child wants to do some test-passing or earn a badge, please go through the requirements and check that he or she has the knowledge needed and that all aspects of the test are covered. If your child hasn't done anything for a while, you may need to offer some extra encouragement to get started. The pride on their faces when they come to the front of the parade to receive their badges makes the effort well worthwhile.

Scouting is a voluntary organisation, and we do rely heavily on parent support.

The support given will depend on the individual circumstances of each family. Areas in which regular help is needed are:-

- **Parent Roster:** There are some programs when the Leaders can do with an extra pair of hands, eyes and ears. If we call for a little extra help, it is good to know that there are parents willing to assist.
- **Transport:** Occasionally transporting the children to various activities included in our program.
- **Cleaning/Maintenance of the Scout Hall:** It is important that the place in which our children gather be maintained in a clean hygienic fashion.
- **Fundraising:** So as to keep fees under control as a group we may run a couple of fund raising events through the year, and it is expected that all families will be involved.
- **Volunteer Camp Staff:** On some activities we need and appreciate the help of parents with transport, cooking, running activities, first aid. Everybody has a great time getting involved.
- **Joining the Parent Support Group:** This is not an onerous task – the really hard work of building the Scout Hall and providing major resources has already been done by past committees. It really only involves helping to manage and maintain the resources of our Group as well as the occasional social activity.
- **Becoming a uniformed Leader:** Leadership is not for everyone, but if it interests you, please speak to any one of the Leaders. They will tell you that they get just as much fun out of it as the kids, and a very real sense of achievement as well as doing something worthwhile for our youth and the community.

"Scouts is NOT a baby sitting club, your participation is vital to its existence".



Becoming a Leader or Assistant Leader

As a volunteer organisation we always need to be looking for new leaders. If you are willing to help out as an assistant leader we will assist you by funding your scout leadership training, and can offer you some of the best time and experiences helping children grow and learn.

As a leader you need to be aware that you take on a responsibility to care for the children of your section. As well as the meeting night (1~2 hrs) there is planning and preparation time, week end activities and training courses, as well as a quarterly meeting of leaders in the group and a regular meeting of the leaders in the district.

Scouting would not exist if current leaders did not think the time invested was worth it.

Please speak to your current Section Leader to discuss further, and please be confident that starting the conversation will be obligation-free, we are not keen on asking parents to overcommit when we know they have busy lives too.



Your Expectations

Now, what's in it for you and your child? You can expect that your child will have a fun time.

You can reasonably expect that your son or daughter will be in the hands of capable and caring Leaders who have a commitment to providing a stimulating and interesting program designed to assist children to develop into self-reliant and responsible members of the community.

Scouting was started by Robert Baden-Powell to cater for children's sense of adventure and love of independence and to channel these characteristics into appropriate activities, which will equip them for later life. Leaders take the task of fulfilling the Aims of Scouting very seriously. We undertake every reasonable care of your child when you entrust him or her to us, and to do our best in partnership with you, to help your child to develop to his or her full potential.

We have all undertaken thorough ongoing training, and we give freely of our time and efforts to enable us to do this. We would not do it unless we were convinced of the value of Scouting in the lives of our children.

We hope that after your child has been with us for a short time, you will be likewise convinced.

Insurance

A portion of the annual membership paid to the ACT Branch goes towards an insurance policy that covers all registered members while on authorised or recognised Scout Association activities.

Protecting your Child

Scouts are Australia's leading youth development organisation and we do our utmost to ensure that your children are kept safe in our care. Leaders and volunteers helping to run Scout activities undergo thorough training for 6 to 12 months before becoming Scout Leaders.

Scouts has a 'two deep' leadership policy, that is, two Leaders (a male and a female) is our preferred option; however if this is not possible there will always be at least one 'warranted' or certified leader present. We will not run a meeting without at least one other adult also being present. We are required to have a female present in all meetings when a girl is attending.

The ACT Branch ensures that all of its volunteers – adult helpers and leaders - comply with current legislation including the Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) card. Any adult involved in Scouting who does not hold a WWVP card was asked to leave the Scouts organisation at the end of 2013.



Final Questions?

We hope this Guide has given you an insight into Air Scouts Canberra and the Scouting movement. If you have any questions please let us know. We look forward to welcoming your family to Air Scouts!

Glossary of Scouting Terms

Akela - Name of the role of the Cub Leader, named after the head Wolf from the Jungle Book. The Cub leader may have their own Scouting name but whoever is in the Leader in Charge at a meeting is filling the role of 'Akela'

Cuboree - A Jamboree for Cubs, usually runs for 4 days, once every 3 years. The next Cuboree will be held in January 2017.

Jamboree - a national / international camp of Scouts full of fun and activities. Run every 3 years, usually for 7-10 days

CSL	Cub Scout Leader
GL	Group Leader
JSL	Joey Scout leader
PL	Scout Patrol Leader
RA,	Rover Adviser
Sixer	Leader of a Cub six (patrol)
SL	Scout Leader
VL	Venturer Leader

ACSL, AJSL, ASL, AVL - Assistant leaders

Group Committee

Parent group who help manage the group

Group Council - Meeting of all leaders

Scout Group - Collective name of Joeys, cubs, scouts etc

Pack Council - A meeting of Sixers and Seconders in Cub Scouts, so the leading Cubs can provide feedback to the leaders and learn leadership skills.

Group Leader – makes sure paperwork is done, link between section leaders and group committee.

Joey Scout Leader – plans, organises and runs Joey section program with 2 assistant leaders and parent helpers.

Cub Scout Leader – plans, organises and runs Cub section program with two assistant leaders and parent helpers on request.

Scout Leader – plans, organises and runs Scout section program with 3 assistant leaders.

Venturer Scout Leader – oversees and assists with the management of the Venturer Unit.

Committee Chairperson – Convenes and coordinates group committee activities.

Committee Secretary – Collects and distributes mail, deals with correspondence

Committee Treasurer – Oversees collection of fees, pays bills, oversees group and section funds.