



Welcome to the

Bibra Lake Scout

Group

This information has been gathered to help you understand what lies ahead - what you can expect of us, and what we will expect of you. We have tried to make this guide as comprehensive as possible, but if there is anything you are unsure about, please feel free to ask one of our leaders. This information is current as at Jan 2016, and is subject to change.

We hope this is the start of a long and happy association between Bibra Lake Scout Group, your child and you.

What is Scouting?

Scouting is a worldwide movement that has shaped the development of youth, and adults, for more than a century. Scouts are in every part of our community, and Scouts is the largest and most successful youth organization in the world.

"Be Prepared... for new adventure!"

Scouts Australia provides young Aussies aged 6 to 25 with fun and challenging opportunities to grow through adventure. Scouts Australia has around 66,000 members, making it the largest youth movement in the nation. No other organization offers such a diverse range of activities for young people across such a wide range of ages!

Today's Scouts can take part in an extraordinary variety of outdoor activities, from 'traditional Scouting skills' such as camping and bush craft, through to more extreme challenges such as abseiling, overnight hiking, rafting, canoeing, cannoning, snow activities, rock climbing, sailing... even flying!

Scouts can get involved in performing arts, leadership development, community service, amateur radio operation, environmental projects, large-scale Australian events such as Cubilees, Jamborees and Ventures, international events, and service projects in developing countries. Scouts also learn valuable practical skills such as first aid and cooking... and fun skills, like how to build a ballista and fire wet sponges at their mates!

The Scouts Australia Youth Program also incorporates contemporary issues such as youth health, 'responsible risk-taking', and vocational skills, and offers an Award Scheme that encourages participation in the full range of activities available and provides recognition of individual achievement.

Scouts Australia's ongoing success is due to enthusiastic and committed adult volunteers from all walks of life who love adventure and take great pride in encouraging our young Aussies to reach their full potential.

Scouts Australia is an accredited member of the [World Organization of the Scout Movement \(WOSM\)](#), which has over 30 million members in 161 National Scout Organisations around the world.

All Scouts commit to a code of living as expressed in the Promise and Law.

The Scout Promise

The Scout Promise has three fundamental parts - duty to your God, duty to the Queen of Australia and duty to other people.

Our programmes encourage in young people, attitudes which will stand them in good stead throughout the rest of their lives, such as; initiative, self-reliance, responsibility, respect and consideration for others, planned with due regard for age appropriate development.

Please note: *If your family beliefs preclude your child from participating in any religious or patriotic activities, such as saying a prayer or saluting the flag, this needs to be raised with your section leader. We are not however, affiliated with any particular religion, nor is membership of a church a requirement of joining the movement.*

About Scouting

Scouting, a movement for boys, was started by the 1st Baron of Gilwell, Lord Robert Baden-Powell. He returned from the epic Siege of Mafeking, in the early 20th century, to find the youth of the British Isles playing games they based on his handbook for army scouts.

He was persuaded to rewrite the book and re-named it 'Scouting for Boys'. It is recognised as the birth of the Scouting movement. He later used stories from The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling as a basis for the Wolf Cubs (aka Cub Scouts). These were specially adapted for the needs and abilities of younger boys.

The Scout Movement has progressively expanded its programme to include girls and in 1990 the movement finally became of mixed membership in all sections.

The Scout Movement is currently the world's largest youth organisation, active in over 216 countries and with more than 32 million members!!

Here in Australia, five sections accommodate the different age groups:

Joey Scouts - 6 to 7½

Cub Scouts - 7½ to 10½

Scouts - 10½ to 14½

Venturers - 14½ to 18

Rovers - 18 to 25.

Mission

To contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Promise and Law, to help build a better world, where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

We achieve this by:

- Involving young people through their formative years in a non-formal education process.
- Using a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent in his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive and committed person.
- Assisting them to establish a value system based upon spiritual, social and personal principles as expressed in the Promise and Law.

Aim

The Aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual and

character development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as a member of their local, national and international community.

Principles

The Principles of Scouting, as identified by the founder, Lord Baden-Powell, are that Scouts serve their God, act in consideration of the needs of others and develop and use their abilities to the betterment of themselves, their families and the community in which they live.

Bibra Lake Scout Group

Children may join Scouts from 6 years and upwards, and can continue through the different sections until they are young adults at age 26. Below are each sections meeting times:

SECTION	AGES	TIME	DAY	LEADERS
Joey's	6-8	6.00-7.00pm	Tuesday	Quenda, Bandicoot
Cubs	7.5-11	6.30-8.00pm	Monday	Sona, Bagherra, Rikki (youth leader in training)
Scouts	10.5-15	7.00-9.00pm	Wednesday	Turtle, Gilligan, Heather, Joker
Venturers	14.5-18	7.00-9.00pm	Tuesday	Stork, Scarlet
Rovers	18-25		As required	Heather, Rory

Each of the sections is run by the section leaders who co-ordinates weekly meetings and other activities. Managing and guiding all the sections is a Group Leader. Scout Leaders are volunteers from the community, often parents of Scout aged children, who have an interest in helping young people to develop to their full potential. Leaders are put through a rigorous selection and training process including full police and referee checks. They are then supervised and trained fully before being able to work with young people on their own. All uniformed leaders must commit to role-modelling the Scout Promise and Law, and to full compliance with Scout's robust child protection procedures.

Joining Scouts

Your child is invited to join our Scout Group. For the first few weeks he or she will be a 'new chum', and will be automatically covered by the Scout Association for insurance. After this introductory period, your child must decide whether or not he or she wants to be a Scout.

Once your child decides to join we invest them into Scouts. This is a ceremony where they will be asked to confirm their wish to join and to recite the Scout Promise.

From the night he or she is invested, your child will be expected to wear full uniform unless advised otherwise. Uniforms are available from the Scout store, between specific hours, at:

133 Scarborough Beach Rd Mt Hawthorn

Tuesday: 10am - 2pm Thursday: 11am - 3pm Saturday: 9am – 12pm

Or online at: <http://scoutswa.cart.net.au/>

Navy pants and black shoes can be purchased from other retailers.

Fees and Finances

A Scout Group is entirely self-funded. Whilst every effort is made to keep costs as low as possible, it is not cheap. Scouts represents exceptional value for money given the breadth of personal development and fun, that our youth members gain from it, as well as the fact that we run the program all year during school term (and sometimes during holidays as well!), not just a season.

There are opportunities to get involved and reduce your family's scouting costs. First and foremost, the Parents and Friends Committee is our cohort of active parents, whose main function is to seek fundraising opportunities. These can be for a specific purpose such as major equipment, general scouting costs such as fees and camps, or major events such as Jamborees.

There are two parts to the fees charged to be in Scouts:

GROUP:

Group fees are currently \$320 pa. This covers rent, group equipment purchase and replacement, equipment insurance, and consumables such as section badges, gas, globes, ropes and everything else. There is also an initial cost of \$30 to cover your child's scarf, and investiture badges and handbook (cubs and scouts).

BRANCH:

Scouts WA (branch) is currently \$165 pa, and will be billed directly by Branch once your child is invested. This fee is for the first child in a family, and sibling discounts apply. The bulk of this fee is used by Branch to cover personal insurance of members, as well as Branch admin. You will receive an email from them with the invoice attached.

OTHER COSTS:

Bibra Lake Scout Group does not charge subs – this is included with your Group fee. As Scouting is an outdoors-based program, there will regularly be pack holidays, weekend camps, hikes and other outings that your child will want to attend. The cost of these activities is an additional expense but you can be assured we aim to keep the price to a minimum.

While the camping equipment needed by each section varies, your child should have some basic personal gear. This includes:

- A sleeping bag suitable for winter, outdoors
- A bed mat (*not* stretcher), blanket and pillow
- A dilly bag containing a knife, fork, spoon, bowl, plate, cup and tea towel
- A day pack and water bottle
- A personal first aid kit and head torch
- A duffel or similar clothing bag the child can carry

Specific items will be recommended by the Section Leader prior to each outing, and it is essential that all items be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Some sections have handbooks and other reference material that your child may find helpful when doing their badge work.

For example, the 'Australian Scout Fieldbook' is a useful and informative book for those in the Scout Section (available from the Scout Shop).

What is expected of parents?

Since Scouts is a voluntary organization, we rely heavily on parent support. If you are not prepared to give support where you are able, you should reconsider your decision to have your child join.

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

1. Transport

Occasionally help is needed in transporting the children to various outings and activities.

2. Helping with Fundraising and Community Events

Throughout the year, there are a few events where our Scout Group assists the local Community - Australia and ANZAC days, and other opportunities as they arise. We also have other fundraising which typically only need each family to help out a couple of times a year.

3. Assisting with running meeting nights.

This applies mainly to Joey and Cub sections. Cub Leaders can regularly do with an extra pair of hands, eyes and ears, while in Joeys, parents play a vital role in maintaining an effective adult/child ratio.

With all sections, parents may be asked to help pack up from time to time. We are very fortunate to have access to the meeting place we do, and must return it at least as clean as we find it each meeting night.

Similarly, with camps and other outings, the activity finishes when all the gear is packed away, ready for next time. This is not only fair on everyone, but is an important part of teaching accountability to our youth members.

If we call for a little extra help, it is good to know that there are parents willing to assist.

4. Joining the Group (parent) Committee.

This is not a very onerous task – but the more hands we have, the better we can make the experience for our youth. Group Committee has responsibility for:

- Fundraising. Fees will never cover all the costs associated with running a Scout Group. We have ongoing need for major equipment purchase, and large scale events such as Australian Jamboree.
- Maintaining equipment – Group Quartermaster
- Managing Financial records – Group Treasurer
- Organizing Group activity shirts, sewing of scarves.
- Grant applications
- Promoting the Group in the local community.
- ..and many more!

Group Committee is an ideal way to help out if you don't have the time or inclination to become a uniformed leader.

5. Becoming a uniformed leader.

Leadership of Youth Members is not for everyone, but if it interests you, please speak to any one of the current leaders. They will tell you that they get just as much fun out of it as the kids, plus a very real sense of achievement in doing something worthwhile for the community.

Remember, there is no such thing as a professional Scout Leader. Most Leaders used to be just a mum or dad like you, but the Scout Association provides wonderful training that turns laymen into leaders - and without leaders we, wouldn't have a Scout Group for your child to join!

Please also be aware: **if we ever ask you personally to consider becoming a uniformed leader, it is because we need help, AND we have reason to believe you are suited!**

A Community Affair

Bibra Lake is one of Western Australia's most active and successful Scout Groups. The enthusiasm of everyone involved has made it that way.

Scouting is a community affair, Scout Groups are formed and maintained by the community because parents believe in the benefits and teachings offered by Scouting and they want it to be available to their children.

Throughout all sections of the movement, the aim is to encourage the physical, mental, social and spiritual development of young people so that they may take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens.

This is achieved through:

- a. Voluntary membership of a uniformed group, which, guided by adults is increasingly self-governing in its successive age groups.
- b. Commitment to a code of living as expressed in the Promise and Law.
- c. Provision of a wide range of attractive, constructive and challenging activities, including opportunities for adventure and exploration both indoors and outdoors.
- d. Provision of opportunities for leadership and responsibility.
- e. Learning by doing.
- f. Encouragement of activity in small groups.
- g. An award scheme which encourages participation in the full range of activities and provides recognition of individual achievements.

It is a formula that has survived for many years!

The principles of Scouting are proven to be just as relevant today as they were when Scouting began in 1907.

What's in it for you and your child?

You can reasonably expect that your son or daughter will be in the hands of capable and caring leaders who have made a commitment to providing stimulating and interesting programmes 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 to take 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 all undertake thorough training and give our time and energy freely to enable all this to happen. We would not do it unless we were convinced of the value of Scouting in the lives of children.

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