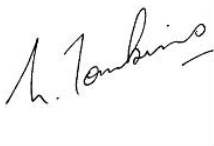



PROCEDURE

Bushwalking Activities SOP



Issued with the authority of the Chief Commissioner
and Chief Executive Officer of Scouts Australia NSW

Chief Commissioner signature		Chief Executive Officer signature	
Sponsor	Deputy Chief Commissioner – Activities, Training, Fellowship		
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Bushwalking Activities SOP

1 Philosophy

Bushwalking is covered by Scouts NSW Adventurous Activities procedures. The requirements that are common to planning and conducting *any* type of adventurous activity are covered in [POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy](#). The additional requirements that are specific to Bushwalking is described in the following procedure.

Therefore, when planning and conducting any Bushwalking activity, it is necessary to refer to [POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy](#) as well as this specific SOP. Should contradicting requirements be found in these documents, the more stringent standard shall apply.

2 Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Refer to [POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy](#) for roles and responsibilities.

3 Conduct of Activities

In addition to the requirements of [POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy](#), the following **additional** requirements apply to this activity;

- 3.1 The term 'Bushwalking Activities' includes all walking activities conducted in the natural environment. This includes alpine, forested, desert, coastal and wilderness locations. Walks may be from a few hours (day walks), weekend (2 to 3 days) or expeditions (4 plus days).
- 3.2 Scouts bushwalking activities should be conducted with due regard to all relevant land management, minimal impact and environmental requirements.
- 3.3 Walks conducted in suburban reserves, specified walking trails through urban areas or national parks that interface with residential areas are classified as urban walks and are exempt from this SOP. Examples of this include Mt Anna Reserve, Lane Cove National Park and most community based parks. The Region Commissioner Activities (RCA) can assist with identifying such areas (these walks are suitable for Joey Scout and Cub Scout award requirements).
- 3.4 For the purposes of the Scout and Venturer section award schemes the Section Leader is responsible for ensuring that youth members are suitably trained prior to participating in a bushwalking. They are supported in this goal by appropriately qualified Activity Leaders.
- 3.5 The Scout/Venturer Section Leader is identified as the bushwalking Activity Leader, albeit by remote, for award requirements, the Leader signing off adventurous activities must hold the relevant, current qualification. While basic Leader training provides some skills in

these areas, Leader should seek additional support from their RCA or bushwalking Subject Matter experts where necessary.

4 Roles and responsibilities

- 4.1 Refer to *POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy* for roles and responsibilities.

5 Equipment

- 5.1 Refer to *POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy* for equipment requirements including navigation equipment and supplies.

6 Ratios and Party sizes

- 6.1 Refer to *POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy* for Ratios and Party Sizes requirements.

7 Qualifications

- 7.1 Refer to *POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy* for Qualifications requirements.

8 Track Ratings

- 8.1 The Field Book for Australian Scouting provides a detailed explanation of the Australian Track ratings, and should be used to assist in the planning of bushwalking activities. Further resources may be located in Scouts Australia eLearning modules.

The 'environment' ratings are consistent with SIS Training definitions and the Australian Standards for Walking Tracks. Areas that do not fall under these definitions should be referred to the Assistant Chief Commissioner State Activities, or their delegate.

Class	Description	Environment Rating
1	Path in local parkland, suits all ages	Controlled
2	Nature circuits in parkland, suits all ages	Controlled
3	Well used tracks in major national parks and state forests, may be suitable for older children with adult supervision, teenagers and adults with appropriate training	Controlled
4	Less used tracks in national parks and forests, suitable for experienced walkers	Controlled
5	Minor trails in remote or distant national parks and forests, suitable for very experienced walkers	Intermediate
6	Little used trails (that may or may not be obvious) in	Uncontrolled

	remote areas in national parks, forest or wilderness, suitable for highly experienced walkers	
Reference SISOBWG range statements, AS 2156.1 – 2001 Walking Tracks		

9 Incidents

- 9.1 Refer to *POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy* for Responsibilities and expectations for reporting incidents, including for if a serious incident occurs.