

POLICY

Section Age Ranges



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

Chief Commissioner		CEO signature	
Sponsor	ACC Youth Program & Support		
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V1.0	01/04/2019	Randall Jones	Initial Document
V1.1	22/11/2021	Chris Buggie	Inclusion of Rover Scouts moving to Fellowship at age 18 as per June 2021 CCC and grammatical updates to current Youth Program

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Policy describes the NSW Age Range Policies effective from the beginning of School Term 1, 2019. These Policies are based on those agreed to by the National Operations Committee (NOC) and published by Scouts Australia.
- 1.2 To enable ease of age range management across the Branch, Scout Groups in both the 'old' and 'new' Youth Programs are covered by the same Section Age Ranges Policy, in NSW.
- 1.3 For clarity, in NSW:
 - 1.3.1. the term '**eligible for school**' is defined as '*attending full time school*' or '*full-time home schooling*'. This is clearly to state that a young person must be in a 'K' (Kindergarten) year (or higher) on a full-time basis, five days a week.
 - 1.3.2. the term '**transition**' is defined as attending the next Section as part of their Scouting journey and become part of that Section.
- 1.4 **Program Management**
 - 1.4.1. Each Region Commissioner, District Commissioner (where designated), and Group Leader is responsible for managing the age ranges within their area of interest in accordance with this Policy – both initially and ongoing.
 - 1.4.2. Each Sectional Commissioner and Sectional Leader, along with their respective Section Councils, retain the rewarding and exciting challenge of a creative and challenging nightly and outdoors programs to provide the right opportunity for all their Youth Members to achieve their personal Scouting goals.
- 1.5 There is a clear expectation that 'local rules' are not supported anywhere within NSW. If there is difficulty in implementing or managing this Policy at the local level, clarification should be sought from either the ACC Youth Program and Support.

2 Joey Scouts

- 2.1 Young people become Joey Scouts by an investiture ceremony during which the Australian Scout Promise is made.
- 2.2 Before their investiture as a Joey Scout, young people are supported to read, understand, and accept the Australian Scout Promise and Law in a developmentally appropriate way. They are supported to select the Promise they wish to make at their investiture ceremony.
- 2.3 The young person must have had their fifth (5th) birthday and be **eligible for school** prior to commencing in this Section. *Refer to paragraph 1.2 for definitions.*
- 2.4 Joey Scouts are supported to commence their transition to the Cub Scout Section at any time after their eighth (8th) birthday and will have completed their transition by their ninth (9th) birthday.
- 2.5 It is recognised some Joey Scouts with special circumstances may require additional considerations regarding age and their developmental levels. As these cases will be highly

individual, this should occur in consultation with the Joey Scout's parents/guardians, the Group Council, and the Joey Scout where possible.

3 Cub Scouts

- 3.1 Young people become Cub Scouts by an investiture ceremony during which the Australian Scout Promise is made or reaffirmed.
- 3.2 Before their investiture as a Cub Scout, young people are supported to read, understand, and accept the Australian Scout Promise and Law in a developmentally appropriate way. They are supported to select the Promise they wish to make at their investiture ceremony.
- 3.3 Age at commencing in the Cub Scout Section:
 - 3.3.1. A Joey Scout is expected to have had their eighth (8th) birthday prior to commencing in the Cub Scout Section.
 - 3.3.2. Some consideration can be offered to a new young person who has not yet had their 8th birthday joining Scouts to enable them to join at a younger age following careful consideration and consultation with the young person's parents/guardians, the Group Council, and the young person, where possible.
- 3.4 A Joey Scout who has transitioned to the Cub Scout Section will need to complete their 'Introduction to Section'.
- 3.5 Cub Scouts are supported to commence their transition to the Scout Section at any time after their eleventh (11^h) birthday and will have completed their transition by their twelfth (12th) birthday
- 3.6 It is recognised some Cub Scouts with special circumstances may require additional considerations regarding age and their developmental levels. As these cases will be highly individual, this should occur in consultation with the Cub Scout's parents/guardians, the Group Council, and the Cub Scout, where possible.

4 Scouts

- 4.1 Young people become Scouts by an investiture ceremony during which the Australian Scout Promise is made or reaffirmed.
- 4.2 Before their investiture as a Scout, young people are supported to read, understand, and accept the Australian Scout Promise and Law in a developmentally appropriate way. They are supported to select the Promise they wish to make at their investiture ceremony.
- 4.3 Age at commencing in the Scout Section:
 - 4.3.1. A Cub Scout is expected to have their eleventh (11th) birthday prior to commencing in this Section.
 - 4.3.2. Some consideration can be offered to a new young person who has not yet had their 11th birthday joining Scouts to enable them to join at a younger age following careful consideration and consultation with the young person's parents/guardians, the Group Council, and the young person, where possible.

- 4.4 A Cub Scout who has transitioned to the Scout Section will need to complete their 'Introduction to Section'.
- 4.5 Scouts are normally expected to commence their transition to the Venturer Scout Section at any time after their fourteenth (14th) birthday and will have completed their transition by their fifteenth (15th) birthday
- 4.6 It is recognised some Scouts with special circumstances may require additional considerations regarding age and their developmental levels. As these cases will be highly individual, this should occur in consultation with the Scout's parents/guardians, the Group Council, and the Scout, where possible.

5 Venturer Scouts

- 5.1 Young people become Venturer Scouts by an investiture ceremony during which the Australian Scout Promise is made or reaffirmed.
- 5.2 Before their investiture as a Venturer Scout, young people are supported to read, understand, and accept the Australian Scout Promise and Law in a developmentally appropriate way. They are supported to select the Promise they wish to make at their investiture ceremony.
- 5.3 A Scout and new young people are expected to have their fourteenth (14th) birthday prior to commencing in the Venturer Scout Section.
- 5.4 A Scout who has transitioned to the Venturer Scout Section will need to complete their 'Introduction to Section'.
- 5.5 Age at leaving the Venturer Scout Section:
 - 5.5.1. Where a Venturer Scout has not yet completed the final year of their Senior Secondary Certificate of Education, and have had their eighteenth (18th) birthday, the Venturer Scout may elect (with the approval of the Unit Council), to stay in the Venturer Scout Section no later than December 31st of the final year of their Senior Secondary Certificate of Education.
 - 5.5.1.1. A Venturer Scout wishing to stay in the Venturer Scout Section in accordance with the preceding item, 5.5.1, the Venturer Scout needs to complete the requirements for membership of the NSW Branch for members who are 18 years old and over.
 - 5.5.1.1.1. For details of NSW Branch requirements, please contact Member Services at State Service Centre.
 - 5.5.2. Otherwise, Venturer Scouts, upon their 18th birthday, need to transition to the Rover Scout Section, choose to become an adult leader, join a Fellowship, or leave the organisation.
- 5.6 It is recognised some Venturer Scouts with special circumstances may require additional considerations regarding age and their developmental levels. As these cases will be highly individual, this should occur in consultation with the Venturer Scout's parents/guardians, the Group Council, and the Venturer Scout, where possible

6 Rover Scouts

- 6.1 Young adults become Rover Scouts by an investiture ceremony during which the Australian Scout Promise is made or reaffirmed.
- 6.2 Before their investiture as a Rover Scout, young adults are supported to read, understand, and accept the Australian Scout Promise and Law in a developmentally appropriate way, and undertake to commit to the Purpose, Principles and Methods of the Movement. A Rover Scout also needs to comply with the requirements of adult membership of the NSW Branch. They are supported to select the Promise they wish to make at their investiture ceremony.
- 6.2.1. For details of NSW Branch requirements, please contact Member Services at NSW State Service Centre.
- 6.3 A Venturer Scout who has transitioned to the Rover Scout Section will need to complete their 'Introduction to Section'.
- 6.4 Young adults must have had their eighteenth (18th) birthday prior to commencing in the Rover Scout Section.
- 6.5 Rover Scouts reach the end of the 'Scout Youth Program', and will leave the Rover Scout Section, no later than their twenty-sixth (26th) birthday. Rover Scouts leaving the Rover Scout Section are encouraged to further support Scouting by completing requirements to become an Adult Member or Supporter within Scouts NSW Branch.
- 6.5.1. For details of NSW Branch requirements, please contact Member Services at NSW State Service Centre.
- *** END OF AGE RANGE POLICY ***