



Trouble reading this email? [click here](#)

Scouts NSW Guidelines on COVID-19 Response

In the past week, since Scouts NSW launched the [Scouts Guide to Coronavirus](#) page on our website, the situation across Australia and around the world has continued to change rapidly.

We recognise that adult members of Scouts NSW will be receiving many different guidelines from schools, businesses and organisations about the way each is responding.

Our approach has been to follow the guidance of the NSW Government Department of Health, which is the authority with responsibility for monitoring and guiding health issues in NSW.

Scouts NSW has a dedicated task force of individuals with deep experience in health issues, who have been appointed to help oversee our response to COVID-19. They are also coordinating our approach with our counterparts in each Scouting Branch, and our colleagues at Scouts Australia.

Our priority is to protect the health and safety of all our youth and adult members. Using our guidelines, we trust our adult leaders to make sensible, considered decisions about their local activities, seeking guidance, support and second opinions from their District and Region teams, and conducting a risk analysis on a case by case basis.

Scouts Australia Guidelines

Scouts Australia is following the guidance of the Australian Government Health Department, and has implemented the following measures:

- All international travel on behalf of Scouts Australia is now suspended until at least 30 June 2020.
- All non-essential interstate domestic travel by Scouting members will be suspended until at least 30 June 2020.

Scouts NSW Guidelines

- While the schools in NSW remain open, weekly Group, Section Meetings and activities can continue, provided they are able to conform with [social distancing and maintain good hygiene](#) as recommended by the NSW Department of Health.
- If the schools close, then all weekly face to face Scouting will be suspended.
- All District and Region events and activities will also be suspended from Monday 23 March until at least the end of the NSW Easter school holiday on 27 April 2020.
- All events of 100 or more attendees are to be cancelled or postponed till later in the year.
- All State Training Courses including Leadership and Adventurous Activities have been cancelled until at least the end of the NSW Easter school holiday on 27 April 2020.

Camping and Hiking

- We recommend that all indoor and outdoor Group camps (overnight or multi-night) are suspended from Monday 23 March until the end of the NSW Easter school holiday on 27 April 2020. Our guidance is that social distancing cannot be maintained for these activities.
- However, overnight and multi-night lightweight hikes including those for Peak Awards can continue as long as they conform with social distancing and maintain good hygiene as recommended by the NSW Department of Health. Please speak with your Section and Group Leader to discuss the appropriate measures to put into place.

Communicating with you

We continue to update the [Scouts Guide to Coronavirus](#) page on the Scouts NSW website, which provides information about COVID-19 and guidance for adult leaders.

Please save this link so you can easily return to it. Please remember this is the best source of information about the response for Scouts NSW. It provides direct links to the NSW and Federal Government Department of Health pages which are updated daily.

If you are sharing local or regional guidance with your teams, we recommend that it links back to [this page](#).

We will keep you informed by email if we make any major changes to our guidelines.

We are planning to share activities for young people to do at home with their parents if families are faced with self-isolation. We will be communicating more about this soon.

Should you have any additional questions about this matter that have not been addressed by the information on the website, please direct all enquiries via email to feedback@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Taking care of yourselves

During such challenging times, our Scout values play an important role. We know there are many adults in Scouting whose are coping well. They are staying calm and rational, and are looking for ways to help those in need within their local communities.

We encourage everyone to take care of each other, protect your mental and physical health, and continue to adopt a measured approach to decisions about your local Scouting activities.

We are here to support you.

If any member is diagnosed with Covid-19, please let us know as quickly as possible through the [WHS Incident Report form](#) button on the [Scouts NSW](#) home page.

Thank you for everything you do for Scouts.

Yours in Scouting

Neville Tomkins OAM JP
Chief Commissioner
Scouts NSW

Child Safety in Scouting

Scouts Australia NSW is committed to operating as a child safe organisation and implementing child safe policies and practices in accordance with the elements of a child safe institution outlined by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse report entitled Creating Child Safe Institutions.

Remember

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner (Youth Safety, Compliance and Support), the CEO or the Child Protection Officer at the NSW State Office.

To make a report use the [online child protection form](#), call 02 9735 9000 or email childprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Imminent Danger

If a young person is in imminent danger, the matter should be reported directly and immediately to NSW Police on 131 444.

Where a report is made to the police, you should also subsequently notify the NSW State Office.

You've received this email as a member of Scouts Australia NSW, or through your email address being the contact email provided for a member of Scouts Australia NSW.

[To stop receiving these emails click here.](#)



www.nsw.scouts.com.au

© Scouts Australia NSW

