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New measures from Scouts NSW to assist your Groups

Dear Group Leader/ Leader In Charge,

We are living in extraordinary times.

Our State, our country and our friends around the world are facing unprecedented measures and recommendations to help reduce the transmission of the COVID-19 disease.

The safety of everyone involved in Scouts, both young people and adults, is our number one priority. It remains at the centre of our decision making, helping guide how we respond.

Thank you for your feedback to the email from your RCs, and the insights you shared in the survey.

Your comments were shared with the Board of Directors and helped inform some additional new measures.

Through the survey, we heard:

- The majority of you are feeling neutral or reassured about our response to date.
- Over 60% are already offering online Scouting and a further 30% will participate in Scouting@Home (the Scouts NSW initiative).
- Around half of you have not had any membership fee enquiries. Of the remainder, most have only received one or two queries.
- 85% of you promote Active Kids vouchers and 50% promote the Family Support Fund.
- Just under 70% of you would like us to do more. In the open feedback, you asked us for additional support for online Scouting and to reduce fees.

Today, I am announcing additional initiatives, agreed by the Board of Directors last night, to help those members whose livelihoods have been directly affected by the current situation.

New Measures

To help those families in your Group whose livelihoods have been directly affected by the COVID-19 situation, the Board resolved to:

- offer a 50% reduction in the Quarter 1 new membership fee to families who have not used the Active Kids rebate vouchers (that is from \$50 to \$25), and
- consider some form of relief in Quarter 2.

Scouts NSW will also be delaying the Quarter 1 invoice to Wednesday 8 April.

I also ask you to please continue to actively promote the Scouts NSW [Family Support Fund](#) for families facing financial hardship, and our [Emergency Bushfire Relief Fund and Drought Relief Fund](#) for eligible families. Details are on our [website](#).

I am also pleased to confirm that this Thursday, we will be launching our new **Scouting@Home** initiatives.

Please keep checking the [Scouts Guide to Coronavirus page](#) on the Scouts NSW website - it contains lots of helpful materials.

Thank you for your support. We all hope that, through this difficult time, and through this assistance, we can continue to deliver Scouting to as many children and youth as we can.

If you have any ideas or questions about our response to COVID-19, you can either contact me directly or send your suggestions to feedback@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Tomkins".

Neville Tomkins OAM JP
Chief Commissioner
Scouts Australia (NSW Branch)

To contact the Chief Commissioner, please email chief.commissioner@nsw.scouts.com.au.

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.

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