

Joining 1st Ermington

www.ermingtonsouts.asn.au

www.facebook.com/ErmingtonScouts



We invite your child/youth to participate in a trial period (normally 4-6 weeks). Come along to weekly meetings and attend Section/Group weekend activities. This will give your family an introduction to Scouting. Here is what will happen over the first few weeks/months.

Week	Description	More Information
1	Come along and meet the youth/Leaders and participate in the weekly Section program.	Must wear closed in shoes to all meetings/activities.
2 and 3	Hand in Y1 form (pages 1-3) to your Section Leader and continue to attend weekly meetings, weekend Section activities (E1 form required), and Group events.	Y1 form – handed to Section Leader. Copies of term programs and E1s can be downloaded from the website. Meet other families in the Group.
4	More information on Scouting is available from our Group Leader (see page 4)	Have any of your queries about Scouting answered by our Group Leader.
5	Decide whether to continue - by this time your family will be able to make an informed decision about whether Scouting is a good fit for your child.	First Term/Joining Fee Paid See page 2 for more information on fees.
6	Investiture Ceremony	Families are welcome to attend.

Investiture

The investiture ceremony is an important occasion where the member makes their Section promise, and is officially welcomed into the Mob/Pack/Troop/Unit. Family members are welcome to attend and take photos during the ceremony. At this time your child/youth will need to wear a uniform shirt (see below for details).

Australian Scout Promise (all Sections), either version

On my honour, I promise to do my best, To be true to my spiritual beliefs, To contribute to my community and our world, To help other people, And to live by the Scout Law	On my honour, I promise that I will do my best, To do my duty to my God, And to the Queen of Australia, To help other people, And to live by the Scout Law
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Australian Scout Law (all Sections)

Be respectful <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be friendly and considerate • Care for others and the environment
Do what is right <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be trustworthy, honest and fair • Use resources wisely
Believe in myself <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn from my experiences • Face challenges with courage

Uniform

The uniform consists of a dark blue shirt with Section colour across the yoke and sleeves.

Joey Scouts	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Venturer Scouts
Tan	Yellow	Green	Maroon

A small selection of uniforms are available for \$35 (\$45 for Venturers) through your Section Leader. On occasions, we may have some second hand uniform shirts that you can purchase for \$10 each. New uniforms may also be purchased online at www.thescoutsshop.com.au

Closed in shoes (black/brown) must be worn at all Scouting activities. Your child/youth will also need to wear bone long pants or shorts.

Your child/youth will be presented with badges, a Group scarf and a woggle upon investiture. The Group issues one scarf and woggle - should your child lose this, you will need to pay for the cost of a new one before a replacement can be issued. Scarf - \$20.00, Woggle - \$3.50

NSW Government Active Kids Rebate Program

From 31 January 2018 to 31 December 2021, families with children in Scouts from Kindergarten to Year 12 can apply on-line from the Service NSW website for a \$100 voucher per child per year to go towards Membership Fees. Scouts NSW will be an eligible provider under the Program, meaning that you can apply for the Rebate in order to offset some of the term fees. Note that the Group still charges your fees as per usual; it has no administration in the rebate or involvement in the program other than being an eligible provider under the scheme. Families will need to actively pursue the program in order to obtain the rebate. More information can be found online at <https://sport.nsw.gov.au/sectordevelopment/activekids>

Fees

There are initial/joining fees and ongoing term fees as outlined below. The joining fees are slightly higher than ongoing fees to cover some of the cost of uniform materials. A sliding-scale fee applies to ongoing term fees for families that have more than one child/youth member in the Group. Note that there is a change in both the joining and ongoing Quarterly Membership fees for 2018.

First term / joining fees (per member)	Cost per member 2018 Term 1	Cost per member 2018 Terms 2-4
Joining Fee – once off fee paid to Scouts Australia	\$30.00	\$30.00
Quarterly Membership Fee – paid to Scouts Australia NSW to cover the cost of administration and insurance for members. A component of this is also used to support the Leaders of our Group.	\$55.00	\$60.00
Group Investiture Fee – to partially cover the cost of badges, scarf and woggle	\$25.00	\$25.00
Section Fee – to cover the cost of supplies to run the weekly program and badges	\$15.00	\$15.00
Total (due prior to Investiture)	\$125.00	\$130.00

Ongoing term fees during 2018 Term 1	Cost per term		
	1 st member	2 nd member	3 rd member (or subsequent)
Quarterly Membership Fee – paid to Scouts Australia NSW to cover the cost of administration and insurance for members. A component of this is also used to support the Leaders of our Group.	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
Group Fee – to cover the cost of rates, utilities, basic hall maintenance, administration costs, hall and equipment insurance etc.	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$10.00
Section Fee – to cover the cost of supplies to run the weekly program and badges	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Total (due by Week 2 of each term)	\$100.00	\$90.00	\$80.00

Ongoing term fees during 2018 Terms 2, 3 and 4	Cost per term		
	1 st member	2 nd member	3 rd member (or subsequent)
Quarterly Membership Fee – paid to Scouts Australia NSW to cover the cost of administration and insurance for members. A component of this is also used to support the Leaders of our Group.	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Group Fee – to cover the cost of rates, utilities, basic hall maintenance, administration costs, hall and equipment insurance etc.	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$10.00
Section Fee – to cover the cost of supplies to run the weekly program and badges	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Total (due by Week 2 of each term)	\$105.00	\$95.00	\$85.00

For example, a family with two members joining the Group in 2018 Term 1 would need to pay joining fees of \$250 (\$125+\$125) and then ongoing term fees from 2018 Term 2 onwards of \$200 (\$105+\$95). A family with one member joining the Group in 2018 Term 2 would need to pay joining fees of \$130 and then ongoing term fees of \$105.

Please note that joining/ongoing fees do not include the cost of any activities (see below page 4).

Fees can be paid by cash or cheque (payable to 1st Ermington Scouts) to your Section Leader. If paying by cash, please make sure that your Section Leader issues you with a written receipt to prove that your payment has been made. Alternatively, fees can be paid with the convenience of electronic direct credit using the below details:

Account name	BSB	Account Number
1st Ermington Scouts	032 280	180 160

Unless requested otherwise, please use your surname as the transaction reference so that the payment can be correctly allocated onto your account.

Please ensure that you read your invoices carefully. You must advise us of your members resignation or temporary suspension **before the start of the next calendar quarter/term**. No refunds or adjustments can be made to the Quarterly Membership Fee after the indicated date on our invoices. This means that if you do not advise us by the required date, then you will still need to pay this fee for the remainder of the quarter (in which your child/youth is no longer attending).

Please also note that the Quarterly Membership Fee is **accumulated** when you request a temporary suspension or leave of absence for your child/youth. On their return from temporary suspension, this accumulated amount is billed onto your next invoice. If you expect your child/youth to be away for two or more terms, then please contact the Group Leader for advice and to discuss your options for minimising your charges.

Our Leaders

Our Leaders will help guide your child/youth throughout their Scouting adventure. All of our Leaders undertake a training program and are required to hold a current Working With Children Check. Our Leaders are approachable and happy to answer any of your questions.

Group	Peter Barber	0429 274 966	groupleader@ermingtonscouts.asn.au
Joeys	Sandy Knox	0421 651 447	joeys@ermingtonscouts.asn.au
Cubs	Stuart Bragg	0407 497 137	cubs@ermingtonscouts.asn.au
Scouts	Diane Higgins	0412 638 007	scouts@ermingtonscouts.asn.au
Venturers	Ann McCredden	0413 617 133	venturers@ermingtonscouts.asn.au

Activities

The cost of activities such as camps or other weekend activities are not included in the term fees. Activities may also include any outings that the Section have occasionally organised as part of their evening schedule (such as entry/admission to indoor rock-climbing, swimming centres, etc).

These costs will vary depending on the type and duration of the activity – e.g. the cost of a one day hike will normally be based on transport costs, while the cost of a 2 day camp will be based on camping fees, food and activity costs. These costs are usually quite reasonable, as Section Leaders endeavour to keep these affordable.

Your Section Leader will advise the costs for each activity via the Activity Notification Form (E1) which must be returned on time to ensure participation at activities.

E1 forms can be downloaded from our website (or a generic one on the Scouts NSW website):

<http://www.ermingtonscouts.asn.au>

<http://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/>

Parent Involvement and Responsibilities

The Committee are a group of volunteer adults that usually meet on the first Monday of the month at 7:45PM (except during School Holidays). The Committee provides support, resources and administrative assistance so that the Group can effectively operate the youth program. All parents are invited to attend the meetings; support your child/youth or their Leader by helping the Committee. Offers of assistance are always welcome and we love to hear feedback or suggestions that you might have and to discuss them with you.

Parents are expected to provide assistance for our various other Group events, including attendance at our Annual Report Presentation (from at least one parent) and volunteering towards our fundraising efforts (including our regular Bunnings BBQ fundraisers and the Annual Fertiliser Drive) as well as assisting in our occasional Working Bees. More information on your responsibilities can be found in our “Membership and Parental Responsibilities” document.

Finding out what is happening

Our website at <http://ermingtonscouts.asn.au/> will usually give you a good indication of any Group or Section activities. Check the Calendar page to get an indication of what types of activities might be approaching. Our Sections usually also publish their Term programs on our website. Check the page of the Section you are interested in to see if a current program is available.

Our Leaders will usually make any announcements on any upcoming events towards the end of the evening, including relevant information such as dates, any special requirements, costs and where to find an E1 permission form.

We also encourage you to keep an eye on our Facebook page as we sometimes publish pictures of our members in action following an event. We welcome your comments and likes at <https://www.facebook.com/ErmingtonScouts>

Resignation

While we aim to provide a positive and fulfilling experience, we also understand that sometimes our Members interests may change or other factors may prevent continued participation in our Group (such as transferring to another area). If you or your Member is considering resigning we ask that you discuss this with the Group Leader to understand any implications. We also suggest that you refresh your memory on Fees (from page 4) and formally advise the Group Leader of the Members resignation so as to ensure that your payable charges are minimised.

Please note that in regards to resignations, Scouts NSW does not offer any leeway on the Quarterly Membership fee; if you do not advise of the resignation **before** the end of the quarter, then you **will be charged** for the next quarter as well. If your Member does not intend to return in January, then ensure that you advise the Group Leader in December (and likewise for April/March, etc). Many parents forget to do this and then wonder why they have been charged for an extra term even though their child/youth is not attending the Group.

