

## Joining 1st Ermington

[www.ermingtonsouts.asn.au](http://www.ermingtonsouts.asn.au)

[www.facebook.com/ErmingtonScouts](https://www.facebook.com/ErmingtonScouts)



We invite your child/youth to participate<sup>1</sup> 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	Complete the Y1 form online at the Scouts NSW website. Continue to attend weekly meetings, weekend Section activities (E1 form required), and Group events.	<a href="https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/members-services/state-forms">https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/members-services/state-forms</a> 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 5).	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 3 for more information on fees.
6	Investiture Ceremony	Families are welcome to attend.
7	Parents/Carer to arrange their own personal paperwork.	Start obtaining a Working With Children Check and submitting a Scouts NSW A2 Adult Helper form if you will be or want to attend any future camps with your child.

### Investiture

The investiture ceremony is an important occasion where the member makes their Section promise, and is officially welcomed into either the Joey Mob, Cub Pack, Scout Troop or Venturer Unit. Family members are welcome to attend and take photos of their child/youth during the ceremony. At this time your child/youth will need to wear a uniform shirt that you have purchased (available online) prior to Investiture (see below for details).

<sup>1</sup> With some of our Sections at capacity, this is subject to availability. We may have to ask you to join as a Leader (along with your child/youth), place you on a waiting list or refer to alternative Groups.

### Australian Scout Promise (all Sections), either version

<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
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### Australian Scout Law (all Sections)

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

### 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

We might have a small selection of uniforms available through your Section Leader for \$35 (\$45 for Venturers), however this shouldn't be relied upon and you should check with the Section Leader in the weeks prior to Investiture. On occasions, we might have some second hand uniform shirts that you can purchase for \$10 each. The best source for new uniforms is to purchase online at [www.thescoutsshop.com.au](http://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. A Record book (containing information on how the member can progress in the Award scheme) is also provided and the Parent is requested to present this during Investiture. The Group only 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. These can also be purchased online. Only one Record book is provided – don't lose this, your child/youth needs it as proof of achievement.

## 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 online from the Service NSW website for a \$100 voucher per child per year to go towards Membership Fees. An additional voucher is also available that can contribute to a reduction in the Group/Section fees. Scouts NSW is an eligible provider under the Program (meaning that you can apply for the Rebate in order to offset some of the term fees), however the Rebate gets spread over multiple terms. 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. We recommend that if your child participates in other activities, then you might be better off using your Rebate on that activity rather than with Scouts. 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.

First term / joining fees (per member)	Cost per member from 2019
<b>Joining Fee</b> – once off fee paid to Scouts Australia	\$30.00
<b>Quarterly Membership Fee</b> – 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
<b>Group Investiture Fee</b> – to partially cover the cost of badges, scarf and woggle	\$25.00
<b>Section Fee</b> – to cover the cost of supplies to run the weekly program and badges	\$15.00
<b>Total</b> (due prior to Investiture)	<b>\$130.00</b>

Ongoing term fees from 2019	Cost per term		
	1 <sup>st</sup> member	2 <sup>nd</sup> member	3 <sup>rd</sup> member (or subsequent)
<b>Quarterly Membership Fee</b> – 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	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00

Ongoing term fees from 2019	Cost per term		
	1 <sup>st</sup> member	2 <sup>nd</sup> member	3 <sup>rd</sup> member (or subsequent)
Leaders of our Group.			
<b>Group Fee</b> – to cover the cost of rates, utilities, basic hall maintenance, administration costs, hall and equipment insurance etc.	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$10.00
<b>Section Fee</b> – to cover the cost of supplies to run the weekly program and badges	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
<b>Total</b> (due by Week 2 of each term)	<b>\$105.00</b>	<b>\$95.00</b>	<b>\$85.00</b>

For example, a family with two members joining the Group would need to pay joining fees of \$260 (\$130+\$130) and then ongoing term fees of \$200 (\$105+\$95). A family with one member joining the Group 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 5).

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). Unfortunately this is how Scouts NSW charge fees.

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 more than happy to answer any of your questions.

Group	Stephen Hughes	0414 626 573	<a href="mailto:groupleader@ermingtonscouts.asn.au">groupleader@ermingtonscouts.asn.au</a>
Joey's	Sandy Knox	0421 651 447	<a href="mailto:joeys@ermingtonscouts.asn.au">joeys@ermingtonscouts.asn.au</a>
Cubs	Mark Andrews	0415 923 302	<a href="mailto:cubs@ermingtonscouts.asn.au">cubs@ermingtonscouts.asn.au</a>
Scouts	Diane Higgins	0412 638 007	<a href="mailto:scouts@ermingtonscouts.asn.au">scouts@ermingtonscouts.asn.au</a>
Venturers	Ann McCredden	0413 617 133	<a href="mailto:venturers@ermingtonscouts.asn.au">venturers@ermingtonscouts.asn.au</a>

### **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/CareMonkey (E1) which must be returned or submitted 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://ermingtonscouts.asn.au>

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

CareMonkey is an electronic/online equivalent to paper forms and allows for Leaders to know who to contact in the event of an emergency. Your Section Leader will make arrangements for you to complete a CareMonkey profile for your child/youth.

## **Photographs**

Please note that from time to time, we may publish photos of our youth in our own reports/publications, or on our website/Facebook page so that you get to see and share the experiences of what your child/youth is doing. If this is of concern to you, then please discuss them with the Group Leader.

## **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.

From time to time, Parents or other adults might be invited to participate in any daily events or activities as a Helper/Assistant. Parents wishing to attend such activities (other than as an observer) will need to create their own CareMonkey profile and share it with the Group. They will also need to advise the Section Leader that they wish to attend the activity so that arrangements can be made with the Group Leader to include your profile into the activity.

Parents or other adults wishing to attend any overnight camps with their child/youth will also need to complete their own volunteers Working With Children Check, in addition to submitting a Scouts NSW A2 Adult Helper form online. Obtaining a volunteers WWCC is free and requires a visit to a Service NSW centre, and processing may take a week or two. We recommend you do this at the time that your member is Invested.

## **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 interesting in to see if a current program is available, otherwise it is likely on display at the hall.

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. We don't want to charge you any more than we need to.

