



Age Range Update

V1.3 June 2018

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Executive Summary

This document describes the Age Range Policies being introduced and becoming effective from the beginning of School Term 3, 2018. In general, these Policies are the same as those found in the Scouts Australia Policies and Rules, 9th Edition dated November 2018.

The two exception areas related to:

1. The term '**eligible for school**' is update to 'attending full time school'. This is clearly to state that a young person must be in a 'K' year (or higher) on a full-time basis.
2. The **upper age of a Venturer Scout** where the upper age is changed to when the Venturer Scout has their eighteenth birthday, and the introduction of the option for a Year 12 student sitting HSC and planning on attaining their Queen's Scout Award, to remain in the Venturer Section until the end of School Term 1 the following year. This is clearly to enable the Venturer Scout to complete their Queen's Scout Award.

Program Management

Each Region Commissioner, District Commissioner (where designated), and Group Leader is responsible for managing the age ranges within their area of interest – both initially and ongoing.

Each Sectional Commissioner and Sectional Leader, along with their respective Unit Councils, retains the rewarding challenge of a creative and challenging nightly and outdoors programs to provide the right opportunity for their Youth Members to achieve in their personal Scouting goals.

Expectations

- 'Local Rules' are not supported.

Age Ranges

Joey Scouts

1. Boys and girls become Joey Scouts by an investiture ceremony during which the Joey Scout Promise is made and accepted.
2. Before becoming Joey Scouts, children should learn the Promise, Law and Theme for Joey Scouts.
3. The young person must have had their fifth birthday and attending full time school, prior to commencing in this Section. *Please refer to notes on page 6.*
4. Youth are able to commence their progression to the Cub Scout Section at any time after their eighth birthday and will have completed their progression by their ninth birthday.
5. It is recognised some young people with special or cultural needs may require additional considerations regarding age and their developmental levels. As these cases will be highly individual, this should occur in consultation with the youth member's parents/guardians, the Group Council, and the youth member where possible.

Cub Scouts

1. Boys and girls become Cub Scouts by an investiture ceremony during which the Cub Scout Promise is made.
2. Before their investiture as Cub Scouts, children must know and understand the meaning of the Promise and Law for Cub Scouts, in keeping with their age.
3. A Joey Scout who has earned the Link Badge may be invested without further training.
4. The young person must have had their eighth birthday prior to commencing in this Section.
5. Youth are able to commence their progression to the Scout Section at any time after their eleventh birthday and will have completed their progression by their twelfth birthday.
6. It is recognised some young people with special or cultural needs may require additional considerations regarding age and their developmental levels. As these cases will be highly individual, this should occur in consultation with the youth member's parents/guardians, the Group Council, and the youth member where possible.

Scouts

1. Boys and girls become Scouts by an investiture ceremony during which the Scout Promise is made.
2. Before their investiture as Scouts, young people must know and understand the meaning of the Promise and Law for Scouts, in accordance with their age.
3. A Cub Scout who has earned the Link Badge may be invested without further training.
4. The young person must have had their eleventh birthday prior to commencing in this Section.
5. Youth are able to commence and complete their progression to the Venturer Scout Section in the lead up to their fifteenth birthday.
6. It is recognised some young people with special or cultural needs may require additional considerations regarding age and their developmental levels. As these cases will be highly individual, this should occur in consultation with the youth member's parents/guardians, the Group Council, and the youth member where possible.

Venturer Scouts

1. Young people become Venturer Scouts by an investiture ceremony during which the Scout Promise is made or reaffirmed.
2. Before their investiture as Venturer Scouts, young people must know and understand the meaning of the Promise and Law in keeping with their age.
3. A Scout who has earned the Venturer Scout Link Badge may be invested without further training.
4. The young person must have had their fourteenth birthday prior to commencing in this section.
5. Youth are able to commence their progression to the Rover Scout Section at any time within six months prior to their eighteenth birthday. Upon turning eighteen the Venturer Scout will have their Youth Membership status set to 'resigned'. Progression to the Rover Scout Section cannot take place until the Venturer Scout turns eighteen.
6. In circumstances where a Venturer Scout who is turning eighteen AND is seeking to attain their Queen's Scout Award AND has not yet completed their final year of secondary school, may elect to seek approval to remain in the Venturer Section until the end of Term 1 of the following Secondary School Term. *Please refer to notes on page 6.*
 - The purpose of this extension is to offer the Venturer Scout additional time after their final Year 12 exams to complete their Queen's Scout Award.
 - To activate this option the Venturer Scout is required to:
 - a) obtain a Working With Children's Check (WWCC) and have their WWCC registered on their membership record in ScoutLink *prior* to their eighteenth birthday
 - b) have advised their Section Unit Council and State Office' Member Services *prior* to their eighteenth birthday of their intention to activate this option
 - c) allow state office to undertake and obtain a Police Check clearance as per Adult Member policy on their 18th Birthday
 - After their eighteen Birthday, the Venturer Scout who has activated this option lives by the Scout Law and Promise as relevant to a Youth Member in the Venturer Scout Section, otherwise takes responsibility and acts like an Adult Member of Scouts Australia NSW.
7. It is recognised some young people with special or cultural needs may require additional considerations regarding age and their developmental levels. As these cases will be highly individual, this should occur in consultation with the youth member's parents/guardians, the Group Council, and the youth member where possible

Rover Scouts

1. Young adults become Rover Scouts by an investiture ceremony during which the Scout Promise is made or reaffirmed.
2. Before investiture as a Rover Scout a young adult must undertake to comply with the Scout Promise, the Aim and Principles of the Movement, and membership requirements of the Branch Rover Council.
3. Young adults must have had their eighteenth birthday prior to commencing in this section. Members reach the end of the Scout Youth Program, and will leave the Section, no later than their twenty-sixth birthday.
4. A Venturer Scout who has earned the Rover Scout Link Badge may be invested as a Rover Squire without further training.

Considerations for Five-Year-Old Joey Scouts

A young person can join the Joey Section at any time after their fifth birthday provided they are attending full time school.

'attending full time school': This means that they are, in NSW, in a 'K' (Kindergarten) year or subsequent year, five days a week, on a full-time basis.

Considerations for Eighteen-Year-Old Venturer Scouts

In circumstances where a Venturer Scout who has turned eighteen AND is seeking to attain their Queen's Scout Award, AND has not yet completed their final year of secondary school, AND has approval to remain in the Venturer Section until the end of Term 1 of the following Secondary School Term, must be aware of the two deep leadership requirements, camping and fraternising requirements between youth and adults, and the drugs and alcohol policies of the Venture Scout Section.

With specific reference to 'expeditions' and other situations where two deep leadership is a requirement, and there is only one Venturer Scout present who is over eighteen, a 2nd over eighteen-year-old Scouts Australia NSW Branch adult member is required to be present at all times. This 2nd person would be required to take a passive role in the expedition or situation. If the 2nd over eighteen Scouts Australia NSW Branch requirement cannot be met, the over eighteen-year-old Venturer Scout is unable to attend the expedition or situation.

Other situations will arise in the general environment of Venturer Scouting, which may *include*: camping and social environments. In these situations, all policies of Scouts Australia NSW Branch apply.

Administering the Age Extension for Venturer Scouts

There will be an electronic form made available to record and track the key steps for Venturer Scouts to complete as they progress through the steps to qualify for the age extension.

Details regarding the administration of the age extension will be provided in due course.

Document Management:

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