



# Darlington Scout Group

**Adventurous! Fun!**  
**Challenging!**

Inclusive for boys & girls age 5 to 25

## Welcome to Darlington Scout Group!

Kathleen Skipsey Hall, 615 Glen Road, Darlington

[groupleader@darlingtonscouts.com](mailto:groupleader@darlingtonscouts.com)

Facebook (Closed group): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/807779592673846/>

This information has been gathered to help you understand what lies ahead - what you can expect of us, and what we will expect of you.

We have tried to make this guide as comprehensive as possible, but if there is anything you are unsure about, please feel free to ask one of our leaders.

This information is current as at the 2 February 2024, and is subject to change.

### What is Scouting?

**"Be Prepared... for new adventure!"**

Scouts Australia provides young Aussies aged 5 to 25 with fun and challenging opportunities to growthrough adventure. Scouts Australia has around 66,000 members, making it the largest youth movement in the nation. No other organization offers such a diverse range of activities for young people across such a wide range of ages!

Today's Scouts can take part in an extraordinary variety of outdoor activities, from 'traditional Scouting skills' such as camping and bush craft, through to more extreme challenges such as abseiling, overnight hiking, rafting, canoeing, canyoning, snow activities, rock climbing, sailing... even flying!

Scouts can get involved in performing arts, leadership development, community service, amateur radio operation, environmental projects, large-scale Australian events such as Cubilees, Jamborees and Ventures, international events, and service projects in developing countries. Scouts also learn valuable practical skills such as first aid and cooking... and fun skills, like how to build a ballista and fire wet sponges at their mates!

The Scouts Australia Youth Program also incorporates contemporary issues such as youth health, 'responsible risk-taking', and vocational skills, and offers an Award Scheme that encourages participation in the full range of activities available and provides recognition of individual achievement.

Scouts Australia's ongoing success is due to enthusiastic and committed adult volunteers from all walks of life who love adventure and take great pride in encouraging our young Aussies to reach their full potential.



## Scouting Promise & Law?

Scouts Australia recognises that what we offer is as relevant as ever, and can help young people navigate their way through modern life. From as young as five years old, our members are introduced to our values at the first step in the Scouting journey – learning the Australian Scout Promise and the Australian Scout Law.

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.

OR

On my Honour  
I promise that I will do my best To do my duty to my God, and To the King of Australia,  
To help other people,  
And to live by the Scout Law.

### The Australian Scout Law

#### Be Respectful

Be friendly

Care for others and the environment

#### Do What is Right

Be trustworthy, honest and fair Use resources wisely

#### Believe in Myself

Learn from my experiences Face challenges with courage

**MISSION** -To contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Promise and Law, to help build a better world, where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

We achieve this by:

- Involving young people through their formative years in a non-formal education process.
- Using a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent in his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive and committed person.
- Assisting them to establish a value system based upon spiritual, social and personal principles as expressed in the Promise and Law.

**AIM** - The Aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual and character development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as a member of their local, national and international community.

**PRINCIPLES** - The Principles of Scouting, as identified by the founder, Lord Baden-Powell, are that Scouts serve their God, act in consideration of the needs of others and develop and use their abilities to the betterment of themselves, their families and the community in which they live.

## Darlington Scout Group

Children may join Scouts from 5 years of age (and at full time school) and can continue through the different sections until they are young adults at age 25.

Darlington Scout Group offer Joey Scouts for age 5 (and at full time school) to 8; Cub Scouts for ages 8-11, Scouts for ages 11-14 and Venturers for ages 15-18. Each of the sections (also known as a Unit) has a leader who co-ordinates a team of leaders to mentor the youth to run weekly meetings and other activities. Managing and guiding all the sections is a Group Leader.

Within each unit is a youth leadership team consisting of Unit leaders (1-3); Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders. A patrol is simply a small group (typically 5 -maximum 8 members) that work as a small team to have fun and develop skills.

It is always recommended to contact the section leader before turning up at the hall for the first time. There may be an activity away from the hall or the leader may have specific information of what to bring or wear.

Preferred method of communication is by email, as detailed in below chart.

| School Holidays<br>(excluding Public Holidays) | Age   | TIME        | NIGHT           | LEADERS & EMAIL   |
|--|-------|-------------|-----------------|---|
| Joeys  | 5-8   | 1730 – 1830 | Monday Night    | Tawny & Birdal<br><a href="mailto:joeys@darlingtonscouts.com">joeys@darlingtonscouts.com</a>                |
| Cubs   | 8-11  | 1800 -1930  | Wednesday Night | Bengal, Rikki & Bagherra<br><a href="mailto:cubs@darlingtonscouts.com">cubs@darlingtonscouts.com</a>        |
| Scouts   | 11-14 | 1830 - 2030 | Thursday Night  | Oso, Serigala & Shere Khan<br><a href="mailto:scouts@darlingtonscouts.com">scouts@darlingtonscouts.com</a>  |
| Venturers                                      | 14-18 | 1930 - 2130 | Friday Night    | Kaa, Grizzly & Kooyar<br><a href="mailto:venturers@darlingtonscouts.com">venturers@darlingtonscouts.com</a> |

## Joining Scouts

Your child is invited to join our Scout Group. For the first few weeks (up to 3) he or she will be covered by the Scout Association for insurance where a Y1 form and H1 form have been completed. After this introductory period, your child must decide whether or not he or she wants to be a Scout.

Once your child decides to join we invest them into Scouts. In their new uniform this is a ceremony where they will be asked to confirm their wish to join and to recite the Scout Promise (see page 2).

From the night he or she is invested, your child will be expected to **wear full uniform** unless advised otherwise. Uniforms are available online from <https://scoutshop.com.au/>

Your youth member will need a uniform of a shirt for their section with an optional Scout belt. Apart from that, dark blue shorts or trousers, a hat, and decent enclosed shoes appropriate to the activity are required. Scout uniform (as well as other optional items like a scout branded hat, jumper etc), can be purchased from <https://scoutshop.com.au/> Also keep an eye out on Gumtree and Facebook Marketplace. From time to time we have second hand shirts available as well, please check with your leader.

Upon commencement, the group will provide a scarf, activity shirt and badges for youth. Additional activity shirts are available for \$45 for short sleeve and- \$50 for long sleeve each for existing members. These shirts are subsidised by the group and although are not compulsory, they are highly recommended especially for camps and activities.

## Fees and Finances

A Scout Group is entirely self-funded. Whilst every effort is made to keep costs as low as possible, the following gives an idea of what we need to pay for. Whilst not cheap, Scouts represents exceptional value for money given the breadth of personal development and fun, that our youth members gain from it, as well as the fact that we run the program all year during school term (and sometimes during holidays as well!), not just a season.

There are opportunities to get involved and reduce your family's scouting costs. First and foremost, the Group Support Committee is our cohort of active parents, whose main function is to support the Group Leader with the administration of the group and seek funding and fundraising opportunities. These can be for a specific purpose such as major equipment, general scouting costs such as fees and camps, or major events such as Jamborees.

Please refer to the separate document for the current fee structure. There are 2 parts to the fee structure with a Group Fee payable directly to the group and a Branch Fee payable directly to Scouts WA.

### **Scout Fees are made up of two parts:**

**Group fee:** is due before a youth member is invested. This covers group equipment, most activity costs, hall running costs, purchase and replacement of equipment, building and contents insurance and consumables such as badges, gas, globes, ropes and everything else.

*and*

**Branch Fee:** - Scouts WA (branch) will be billed directly by Branch once your child is invested. This fee is for the first child in a family, and for additional siblings discounts apply. The bulk of this fee is used by Branch to cover personal insurance of members, as well as Branch admin and membership of worldwide scout movement.

### **OTHER COSTS:**

Group fees cover nearly 40 nights of activities in a year at the hall or nearby location. As Scouting is an outdoors-based program, there will regularly be pack holidays, weekend camps, hikes and other outings that your child will want to attend - usually around one per term.

The cost of these activities is an additional expense but you can be assured we aim to keep the price to a minimum. For example, a Cub Pack camp, held approximately once per term, will typically cost around \$50, covering camp fees and meals (Sometimes more depending on activity costs – probably less than a trip to the movies for the family). Parents will also be asked to assist with transport to and from such activities.

While the camping equipment needed by each section varies, your child should have some basic personal gear. This includes:

- A sleeping bag suitable for winter, outdoors.
- A bed mat (not stretcher), blanket and pillow
- A dilly bag (cotton or breathable drawstring bag) containing an unbreakable knife, fork, spoon, bowl, plate & mug.
- A day pack (backpack) and water bottle (750mm or larger)
- A personal first aid kit and head torch
- A duffel or similar clothing bag the child can carry on their own

Scout Leaders are all volunteers from the community, often parents of Scout aged children, who have an interest in helping young people to develop to their full potential. Leaders are put through a rigorous selection and training process including working with children check, full police and referee checks. They are then supervised and trained fully before being able to work with young people on their own. All uniformed leaders must commit to role-modelling the Scout Promise and Law, and to full compliance with Scout's robust child protection procedures.

Parents who assist on a regular basis (more than once a term) or wish to attend an overnight activity as a parent helper are required to obtain a Working with Children check. The group leader or section leader will need to complete part of the form before you can attend a post office agency to process the form and can take around 4 weeks to obtain at a cost of around \$11.00.

## What is expected of parents?

Since Scouts is a voluntary organisation, we rely heavily on parent support. If you are not prepared to give support where you are able, you should reconsider your decision to have your child join. The support given will depend on the individual circumstances of each family. Areas in which help is regularly needed are:

1. **Transport** - Help is needed in transporting the children to various outings and activities.
2. **Helping with Fundraising and Community Events** Throughout the year, there are a few events where our Scout Group assists the local Community. We also have other fundraising which typically only need each family to help out a couple of times a year.
3. **Assisting with running meeting nights.** - Leaders can regularly do with an extra pair of hands, eyes and ears, while in Joeys, parents play a vital role in maintaining an effective adult/child ratio.

With all sections, parents may be asked to help pack up from time to time. We are very fortunate to have access to the meeting place we do, and must return it at least as clean as we find it each meeting night. Similarly, with camps and other outings, the activity finishes when all the gear is packed away, ready for next time. This is not only fair on everyone but is an important part of teaching accountability to our youth members.

If we call for a little extra help, it is good to know that there are parents willing to assist.

**1. Joining the Group Support Committee** - This is not a very onerous task – but the more hands we have, the better we can make the experience for our youth. The Group Support Committee plays an important role in the group – supporting the Group leader to provide administration and resources (financial, equipment, materials, leader recruitment) and for the section leaders to provide an awesome Scouting program. From time to time the support committee will require parent assistance to attend busy bees at the hall or participate in a fundraising activity. It is expected that all families will make an effort to attend or contribute when requested – as we are all volunteers.

- Fundraising - Fees will never cover all the costs associated with running a Scout Group. We have ongoing need for major equipment purchase and fundraising for major events.
- Maintaining equipment – Group Quartermaster
- Managing Financial records – Group Treasurer
- Organising Group activity shirts, sewing of scarves.
- Grant applications
- Promoting the Group in the local community and many more!
- Group Committee is an ideal way to help out if you don't have the time or inclination to become a uniformed leader.

**2. Becoming a uniformed leader** - Leadership of Youth Members is not for everyone, but if it interests you, please speak to any one of the current leaders. They will tell you that they get just as much fun out of it as the kids, plus a very real sense of achievement in doing something worthwhile for the community.

Remember, there is no such thing as a professional Scout Leader. Most Leaders used to be just a mum or dad like you, but the Scout Association provides wonderful training that turns laymen into leaders -and without leaders, we, wouldn't have a Scout Group for your child to join!

Please also be aware: if we ever ask you personally to consider becoming a uniformed leader, it is because we need help, AND we have reason to believe you are suited!

## What to expect?

Now, what's in it for you and your child? You can reasonably expect that your son or daughter will be in the hands of capable and caring leaders who have a commitment to providing a stimulating and interesting program designed to assist children to develop into self-reliant and responsible members of the community.

Scouting was started by Robert Baden-Powell to cater to children's sense of adventure and love of independence and to channel these characteristics into appropriate activities that will equip them later in life.

Leaders take the task of fulfilling the aims of Scouting very seriously. We undertake to take every reasonable care of your child when you entrust him or her to us, and to do our best in partnership with you, to help your child to develop to his or her full potential.

We all undertake thorough and ongoing training, and we give freely of our time and efforts to enable us to do this. We would not do it unless we were convinced of the value of Scouting in the lives of our children.

We hope that after your child has been with us for a short time, you will be likewise convinced!

### COMMUNICATION:

As outlined above, each section has a leader who monitors emails, and sends program and information for the section activities to parents/carers. We also share information through our closed group Facebook page so we recommend joining the closed group for members and families as well. You'll be asked security questions when joining. If you like or comment it will be more likely to show up in your feed and you won't miss things. (Note there is also a separate public Darlington Scout Group Facebook for us to share information occasionally with the public and for people to find us). We will also endeavour to send a newsletter via email every term with the group activities.

### JOINING:

Please complete Y1 and H1 forms. Please fill and return these as soon as you can, and before your child attends their first meeting. They can be filled electronically, or printed and scanned. Please return to [membership@darlingtonscouts.com](mailto:membership@darlingtonscouts.com)

Please read the Scouts WA Child Protection policy (attached separately or available at [www.scoutswa.com.au](http://www.scoutswa.com.au)), that applies to all adults (leaders and parents) in Scouting. Strict adherence to this policy is mandatory. When dropping off youth to the hall or an activity, they must be brought to the door. Please verify that there are a minimum of 2 adults available to supervise the activity – ***you may be asked to stay until another adult arrives***

Your youth member will need a uniform of a shirt for their section with an optional Scout belt. Apart from that, dark blue shorts or trousers, a hat, and decent enclosed shoes appropriate to the activity are required. Scout uniform (as well as other optional items like a scout branded hat, jumper etc), can be purchased from <https://scoutshop.com.au/> Also keep an eye out on Gumtree and Facebook Marketplace. From time to time we have second hand shirts available as well, please check with your leader.

Upon commencement, the group will provide a scarf, activity shirt and badges for youth. Additional activity shirts are

available for \$45 for short sleeve and-\$50 for long sleeve each for existing members. These shirts are subsidised by the club and although are not compulsory, they are highly recommended especially for camps and activities..

We will do everything we can to avoid or minimize waiting time for children. Waitlist priorities are children of Leaders, children with siblings in the Group, and then length on the waitlist.

For further information or for copies of referenced H1, Y1 forms and current child protection policy please contact the group membership officer. [membership@darlingtonscouts.com](mailto:membership@darlingtonscouts.com)