

SAFETY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

for outdoor and
adventurous activities
in the Scouting Program

Revised 2013

IMPORTANT

The requirements contained in this Handbook are the minimum requirements to be adopted for each and any activity.

These Safety Standards and Procedures pertain to all Leaders of Scouts Australia (SA Branch) and Leaders and/or helpers may be directly liable if these minimum standards have not been met in the planning and in the conduct of activities.

This document must be read in conjunction with all Scouts Australia (SA Branch) risk management policies as listed in the Scouts Australia Risk Management Register.

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All previous editions are now obsolete and shall
be destroyed.

FOREWORD

Dear Leader,

For over 100 years, Scouting has been an important and successful part of our community.

We continue to provide an exciting program which helps young people to develop, Emotionally, Spiritually and Physically. The Scouting Method is the basis of this success, involving as it does:

Increasing self government in successive age groups;

Commitment to a code of living;

Provision of a wide range of attractive, constructive and challenging activities including opportunities for adventure and exploration both indoors and outdoors;

Provision of opportunities for leadership and responsibility;

Learning by Doing;

Activity in small groups;

An Award Scheme which encourages participation in its full range of activities; and recognition of individual achievements.

A major part of the success of our Scouting Method, and a hallmark of truly successful Groups, is that all of the above points are important; no one part stands without the others. But the key is the provision of a wide range of attractive, constructive and challenging activities, including opportunities for adventure and exploration both indoors and outdoors. It is these activities which maintain the interest of the young people and keep them involved, particularly when they are served with a large helping of fun. These activities allow young people to explore their limits and to take some risks in an environment which is supportive and safe and minimises the danger to participants.

This **Safety Standards and Procedures Manual** is designed to help you provide such activities. It is not intended to restrict you, or deliberately make activities more difficult. Rather, it sets minimum standards which ensure that our Youth Members are able to enjoy safe and exciting and fun filled activities. It should, in fact, make life easier for you. By outlining standards and procedures, it gives clear boundaries within which to work, without having to be concerned about what is legal or meets current national outdoor recreation standards. Further it describes which equipment meets minimum standards and is safe for our Members to use. Put simply compliance with these instructions mitigates risk and therefore removes the requirement to conduct formal risk analysis, in most cases

Equally important however, is that adherence to these standards and procedures ensures that you, the Leader, will be fully covered by the Scout Association's Public Liability Insurance policy. Failure to follow these standards places you at risk should accidents occur.

I encourage you to use the information contained in this document, to provide more exciting, challenging and adventurous and fun filled activities for your Youth Members - that is, to enhance the Scouting experience for everyone

Yours in Scouting

Chris Bates
Chief Commissioner
Scouts Australia (SA Branch)