

BUSHWALKING

Scouts SA Bushwalking Safety Standards and Procedures are based on the Scouts Australia practices, which are in harmony with the Australian Adventure Activity Standard (AAAS) and it's related Core and Bushwalking Good Practice Guides. Where Leaders require additional information or clarification of policy, they should in the first instance refer to Scouts Australia Adventurous Activities Framework, the AAAS, or the BC Bushwalking.

The Australian Adventure Activity Standard, Core Good Practice Guide and the Bushwalking Good Practice Guide can be viewed via the web site here: <http://AustralianAAS.org.au/>

SECTION PARTICIPATION

Joey Scout	Cub Scout	Scout	Venturer Scout	Rover
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts should not carry a pack containing equipment for an overnight hike. Joeys and Cubs can take part in consecutive day walks, with their personal non-essential and camping equipment transported between the overnight campsites.



SCOPE

Bushwalking can be on or off trails, in diverse environments including urban, coastal, mountain, outback and remote regions. The duration of walks may be short walks (one to a couple of hours), half day, full day and long (multi-day) walks.

EXCLUSIONS FROM SCOPE

- Travel across snow or ice, using specialist alpine equipment (snowshoes, crampons, ice-axe or skis). *[refer to the Alpine activity requirements]*. Please note that bushwalking in areas where occasional snow falls occur is covered in this section but *Leaders shall refer to the Alpine activity requirements*.

BUSHWALKING – LEADER REQUIREMENTS

Trail Type	<i>Australian Standards 2156.1-2001: Walking tracks</i>	Leader Skill Set /Qualification	Applicable areas for the purposes of Scouting activities:
 Controlled	Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, Class 4	BOS, Level 1, Guide Controlled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heysen, Lavender, Walk the Yorke trails State Forests and National Parks Areas less than an hour from outside assistance.
 Intermediate	Class 5	Level 2, Guide Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All areas listed in Controlled Untracked bushland alpine areas (above 1300m) between 1st November and 30th April Areas more than an hour and less than 3 hours from outside assistance.

<p>◆ Uncontrolled</p>	Class 6	Level 3, Guide Uncontrolled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All areas listed in Controlled and Intermediate. ▪ Alpine areas (above 1300m) in autumn/winter outside the boundaries of a ski resort ▪ Desert areas such as the Northern Flinders Ranges, Ngarkat Conservation Park or Little Desert National Park ▪ Any bushwalk in South West Tasmania and The Central Plateau ▪ Areas more than three hours from outside assistance
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Table 1 - Bushwalking Leader qualifications required for each bushwalking Terrain Grade

BUSHWALKING – LEADER QUALIFICATIONS

Bushwalking Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3

Scouts Australia offer Bushwalking Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications to provide youth members and adult Leaders with the necessary training to plan, prepare and lead bushwalks in the environment applicable to the qualification. Youth members can obtain the Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications.

Level 1 Bushwalking

Delivered as part of Basic Adult Leader Training, Basic Outdoor Skills (BOS) or a Level 1 Bushwalking Course. Allows a member to lead a Bushwalk over controlled (tracked) terrain. The minimum age of the Leader shall be 14 years of age.

Level 2 Bushwalking

A Bushwalking qualification for Adult and Youth Members which allows a member to lead a Bushwalk over intermediate (untracked) terrain. The minimum age of the Leader shall be 14 years of age.

Level 3 Bushwalking

A Bushwalking qualification for Adult members which allows an adult member to lead a Bushwalking activity over uncontrolled terrain.

Bushwalking Guide Qualifications

Guide level qualifications would normally be held by Activity Leaders responsible for organising larger events within the Branch or supervising section activities. (For example, Bushwalking Guides will normally be used to support the higher stages of the OAS program. Guides are appointed by Branch.

Bushwalking Guide Qualifications allows an adult member to lead or supervise a Bushwalking activity over the specified terrain types:

- Bushwalking Guide – Controlled
- Bushwalking Guide – Intermediate
- Bushwalking Guide – Uncontrolled

Adventurous Activities Leader Endorsement

Upon completion of relevant Training Package Units, Leaders may then seek endorsement by completing the AA4 form for their particular level of training. Each level (Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 & Guide) requires an individual form.

This endorsement must then be supported by the Branch Commissioner - Bushwalking and the Assistant Chief Commissioner (Adventurous Activities). The endorsement must then be renewed based on competency and currency every 2 years.

A5 - Activity Leader

The Activity Leader can be a registered youth member or a registered adult member of the Branch. For many adult led bushwalks the Activity Leader may also be the Leader in Charge. The Activity Leader could also be a member of the community who holds SIS Outdoor Recreation Bushwalking qualifications and the relevant branch mandated training for working with youth.

A5 – Leader in Charge

The Leader in Charge is to have completed the relevant Section specific Basic Training, hold the relevant Bushwalking qualification for the terrain grade as detailed in Table 1 and hold current Bushwalking competency.

BUSHWALK ACTIVITY PLAN

The level of detail of the planning documentation required should be tailored based on the grade of the walk, participant skill level, expected environmental conditions and the Risk Assessment of the walk.

Planning and Pre-Trip Documentation

The Activity Leader shall prepare the following documentation and submit along with A5 before undertaking any Bushwalking Activity:

• A5 Annex-A Bushwalk Plan	• Minimal Impact Plan
• Activity Plan	• First Aid Kit
• Navigation Plan	• Emergency Strategy
• Risk Management Plan	• Transport Logistics
• Participant and Group Gear List	• Weather Forecast
• Menu and Water Sources	• Communications Plan
• Budget	• Bushwalking Logbook

Table 2 - Bushwalk Plan Documentation Requirements

There are two suitable bushwalking planning templates available on MyScout which may be used to assist Leaders to prepare planning document.

Permissions – Interpreting the A5 Form

Approval for all activities that include bushwalking is to be sought using the [Application for Authority to Conduct an Activity \(A5\)](#) and your bushwalking planning documents.

Activity Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible for organising all elements of the bushwalk including planning and preparation, leading the activity and follow-up reporting.• Prepares all documentation and plans in accordance with the requirements detailed in this Safety Standards and Procedure and any additional requirements of Scouts SA.• Where a Youth Member is planning the bushwalk, they will liaise with the Leader in Charge or Bushwalking Guide who will support and assist where necessary:• Youth Members are required to hold the appropriate Bushwalking Qualification or equivalent for the level of bushwalk being undertaken.
Leader in Charge of Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides mentoring and support for Youth Member led expeditions.• Supports the Activity Leader as applicable in the preparation of all documentation and plans.• Takes overall responsibility for the activity and a Duty of Care for the group.• Required to hold relevant Leader of Youth and Bushwalking Qualifications for the level of bushwalk being undertaken.
Qualifications (GL/DC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performs a MyScout record check and confirms that the Youth Members and Leaders listed on the A5 form hold the required qualifications for the area of the planned bushwalk, have currency (Bushwalking Log Book examination) and are current members of Scouts SA.• Appropriately assessed the risk involved as part of the planning

	process.
Program (PSL/BC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately assessed the risk involved as part of the planning process. • The activity meets the aims and goals of the OAS program.
Adventurous Activity (BC Bushwalking or Delegate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves all youth led bushwalks • Confirms and approves bushwalks occurring in Intermediate and Uncontrolled environments comply with all relevant Safety Standards and Procedures. Where an activity is covered by multiple SS&P, BC Bushwalking should consult with responsible, activity specific BC's regarding the activity.

Table 3 - Roles and Responsibilities for A5- Application for Authority to Conduct an Activity

Each Adult Leader listed in Table 3 must have a minimum of three (3) days to provide their approval. Leaders are then expected to request any required amendments at the earliest opportunity.

If travelling interstate, prior approval shall be obtained from the SA Branch, via submission at least two (2) months prior of the Application for Approval to Camp or Travel Interstate (T1) form.

Group Size

For walking groups, there should be a minimum of 4 and maximum of 20 members. This is necessary to balance safety and environmental impact. Where there are more than 10 people, groups should be split into smaller parties of 4 to 7 members. For bushwalks with Adult Leader participation, each walking party shall have a minimum of 2 Leaders.

Ratios

Trail Type	Duration	Ratio	Leader Minimum
● Controlled	Overnight	2:20	2
■ Intermediate	Overnight	2:17	2
◆ Uncontrolled	Overnight	2:17	2

Table 4 – Qualified Bushwalking Leader to participant ratios for bushwalking terrain grades

For all Controlled bushwalks it is preferred that two qualified leaders attend the activity. Where this is not possible, a responsible person can assist with the activity but there must always be one qualified/trained Leader as a minimum as detailed in Table 1, and the responsible person should hold a current First Aid qualification. For all youth activities the responsible person must hold an Adult Helper appointment as a minimum.

For all Intermediate and Uncontrolled bushwalks there should be at-least two Leaders, with both Leaders being qualified as detailed in Table 1.

First Aid

At least two members of the team should have a current Provide First Aid (HLTAID003 or equivalent) qualification for controlled and intermediate environments and Wilderness First Aid (SISOOPS305 or equivalent) qualification for uncontrolled environments.

Enquiries to

Branch Commissioner Bushwalking
bc.bushwalking@sa.scouts.com.au

Document Approval and Review

This document was approved for release at the September 2020 Chief Commissioners Council. To be reviewed within 6 months of approval (March 2021).