



THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

The Scout program is fundamental to the success or failure of the Section. The program must reflect the interests, goals and inspirations of the Scouts who participate.

Scouts must be involved in the planning and review of their program if it is to be relevant to them.

Section Councils are essential for Scouts to perform checks and balances on the level of engagement, control and direction they have in the program and Section overall.

In the Scout Section, the Scouts should be leading the way, setting the agenda, and running the meeting, while adult Leaders should be supporting and providing guidance as necessary. In the Scout Section there is a significant crossover in leadership, with youth members at times being completely autonomous from the adult Leaders.

The Section Council should occur regularly (at least once every 4 to 6 weeks) so that all members feel engaged with the creation and implementation of their program. These don't need to occur in a formal setting. Sometimes it can be very beneficial for the Section Council to be held outdoors.

SCOUTS SECTION COUNCILS FACTSHEET

The duties of the Section Council (with ability-appropriate support from Leaders) may include:

- Planning and reflecting on activities, programs and events with some guidance from adult Leaders
- Ensuring that the whole Section is following the concept of Youth Leading, Adults Supporting
- Discussing the Scout Section's application of the Scout Method and ensuring there are checks and balances on this
- Working together each year to make a Section Code that all agree to follow
- Solving problems and issues as they arise
- The collaborative coordination of inter-Section events
- Supporting all youth members in the Section in their Scouting Journey
- Discussing and endorsing the award of significant badgework such as the peak award.
- Setting a clear standard of behaviour and supporting all Section members in maintaining it
- Constantly reviewing the performance of Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders

To help make your Section Council as successful as possible you could do the following:

- Have clear guidance from the person leading the meeting (who should be a youth member)
- Prepare and follow an agenda for the meeting (which may depend on the age of the members, and the formality and location of the meeting)
- Ensure there is engagement and participation from all members present
- Record all the creativity, decisions, discussions and reviewing that occurs in our meeting
- Have appropriate support from adult Leaders or mentors from other Sections, especially when the meeting needs specialist knowledge or advice (but which shouldn't give all the answers so that the Section Council still has to work together to come up with a solution)



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