

# SCOUTS AUSTRALIA YOUTH PROGRAM POLICY



## INTRODUCTION

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*“Since its foundation (Scouting), has been a non-formal educational movement. The Scout Programme is the procedure through which our Movement implements its educational purpose.” - World Scout Youth Program Policy*

In March 2015 Scouts Australia formally adopted the World Scout Youth Program Policy (being the policy text contained in Conference Document 8, now known as the World Scout Youth Programme Policy, endorsed by the World Scout Committee, at the 40th World Scout Conference, Slovenia 2014).

While Scouts Australia has existing policy and rules that relate to the purpose, content and delivery of the Youth Program, in 2017 it was acknowledged that the organisation did not have a stand alone Youth Program Policy.

This policy is designed to provide a clear link to the World Scout Youth Program Policy and without duplication or conflict adapt parts as required to suit the Australian context.

## DEFINING STATEMENT

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The Scout Association of Australia has adopted and supports in full the World Scout Youth Program Policy. The policy guides the purpose, content and delivery of the nationally governed Youth Program.

## DEFINITION OF THE YOUTH PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup>

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The Youth Programme in Scouting is the totality of the learning opportunities from which young people can benefit (What), created to achieve the purpose of Scouting (Why), and experienced through the Scout method (How).

The Policy applies a broad definition of the concept of Youth Programme, covering the totality of the experience of the young person, i.e., during all their life within Scouting, which comprises:

- Why – the educational objectives, in accordance with the purpose and principles of the Movement.
- What – all experiences and situations that young people can learn from, both organised and spontaneous, i.e., the learning opportunities.
- How – the way in which it is done, i.e., the Scout Method.

### WHY:

#### THE PURPOSE OF SCOUTING AND ITS EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

*“The Youth Programme is the means through which Scouting contributes to the empowerment of autonomous individuals and the holistic development of active global citizens for the community.” - World Scout Youth Program Policy*

The program exists to help develop young people in the areas of personal growth, to develop them as active citizens involved in their local, national and global communities.

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<sup>1</sup> World Scout Youth Program Policy

The Areas of Personal Growth (AoPG) are also commonly referred to as the SPICES. The Youth Program aims to develop young people in the following areas; Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Emotional and Social where all of these areas help the individual's character development.

## **WHAT:**

ALL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN SCOUTING FROM WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BENEFIT

"The Youth Programme encompasses all learning opportunities that young people in Scouting encounter: camping and outdoor activities, community service and community development projects, achieving progressive goals or standards symbolised by proficiency badges, games, ceremonies, patrol and troop life, etc. Learning opportunities are the instances in which young people have the potential to gather and process knowledge, to develop attitudes and skills that will help develop their individual character. The Youth Programme is therefore not about the activities per se, but rather about the learning opportunities that activities can offer within Scouting fundamentals and shared values." - World Scout Youth Program Policy

Getting involved in what Scouting has to offer means that children, adolescents, and young adults are engaged in;

- a diversified and inclusive program
- a variety of activities that challenge all abilities, and is personal
- a program that is values based
- an environment with a focus on non-formal learning opportunities, and playing
- an experience that has well defined outcomes for individual development
- opportunities to have a voice, be independent, and be well supported

We achieve this through a diverse program of activities that are fun, adventurous, challenging and inclusive.

## **HOW:**

USING THE SCOUT METHOD

*"Scouting is based on the concept of self-education. This acknowledges that each youth member is a unique individual who should take responsibility for their own development. The young person is the primary actor in the educational process. The Scout Method is the structured framework, which is designed to guide and encourage each young person along this path of personal growth." - World Scout Youth Program Policy*

The learning process is achieved through a unique method of delivery. Scouting uses a particular educational method through which youth develop and learn. It is the Scout Method that makes Scouting truly unique.

The Scout Method is made up of 8 elements. No one element of the Method is more important than another, and different elements will feature more prominently through different activities and experiences. The Method should be featured in all that we do, and its use should be made apparent to both adults and youth. It's important that Scouts are aware of how Scouting is contributing to their development.

The 8 elements of the Australian Scout Method are as follows;

- Community involvement,
- Learning by doing
- Nature & the outdoors
- Personal progression
- Promise & Law
- Small team system
- Symbolic framework
- Youth leading, adults supporting

## KEY PRINCIPLES FOR THE YOUTH PROGRAMME<sup>2</sup>

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The Youth Programme should:

- Have young people at its centre
- Be about education
- Develop active citizens
- Be locally adapted and globally united
- Be up-to-date and relevant
- Be open to all
- Be attractive, challenging, and meaningful

## AGE SECTIONS

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The program is broken down into 5 sections. This:

- Helps cater to the changing developmental needs of youth;
- Promotes personal progression;
- Ensures young people are at the centre; and
- Builds a supportive program environment.

Not everything in the program is limited to these sections, or to the local area. In fact, taking part in activities beyond the 'home' Unit is encouraged to help youth broaden their horizons, particularly from adolescence.

## SUMMARY

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The Scouts Australia Youth Program is fun, challenging, adventurous and inclusive, it focuses on the development of individuals across the areas of personal growth and uses the Scout Method as its prime delivery tool. Scouts Australia is committed to delivering one nationally consistent Youth Program that is both in line with and complimentary to the World Scout Youth Programme Policy.

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<sup>2</sup> World Scout Youth Program Policy