



Welcome to our Group.....

Information for Families

Welcome to Happy Valley Scout Group. We look forward to a long and happy association with your family. Scouting exists because people such as yourselves want to make the individual training & development that scouting is famous for available to your children.

Scouting is a movement started by Lord Baden Powell in 1908. Scouts has led the way in developing a sense of community among its young participants & their families through youth focused activities both indoor & outdoor. These programs are community orientated and are aimed at promoting social cohesion together with others.

Happy Valley is 1 of 12 groups which make up the 'Hills to Coast' District of the Scout Association – SA Branch.

ABOUT SCOUTING

Scouts learn amazing things by doing. Better still they choose what they do and take things safely at their own pace in a supported environment. Our program of active learning encourages life skills such as...

- Leadership
- Resilience
- Confidence
- Working with Others

Scouting leads the way in outdoor activities for today's youth.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP

Here at Happy Valley, we have a commitment to quality scouting and to your child's physical, mental, social, spiritual & emotional development. We believe that development is best served when Leaders & Parents are in partnership.

All our leaders are volunteers and generously give their time because of their passion and commitment to our core values. With your support we allow them to focus on the children's needs and not the logistics of running and maintaining the group.

By everyone contributing just a little we don't need to rely on the help of a few to continue supporting the group. Some parents assist by serving on the Parent Support Committee, others prefer to assist in a practical way such as maintaining or fixing facilities or equipment, some parents undergo training as Adult Leaders to assist on camps and other activities.

COME TRY FOR 3 WEEKS FREE!

We offer a 'Come-n-Try' for the first 3 weeks. When arriving you will be asked to register via the online scanning system. Once scanned there will be a 'link' sent to proceed with registration. During this time your child is covered by the Scout Association – SA Branch Insurance. After the initial 3 weeks you will be asked if your child would like to continue.

ON JOINING

Upon deciding to join they will be invested. The investiture ceremony is one of the most important ceremonies in Scouting. It marks a person's formal acceptance into their group. To join Parents/guardians will need to complete two things...

- The online membership registering him/her with the Scout Association – SA Branch
- Happy Valley Scout Group membership form or a paper application form

UNIFORM

On the night of your child's investiture, he/she will be required to wear the appropriate uniform which consists of the following...

- ❖ A Section Shirt (The colour of the shoulder panel indicates what section you are a member of)
 - ... Tan for Joeys
 - ... Yellow for Cubs
 - ... Green for Scouts
 - ... Maroon for Venturers
- ❖ Navy or Bone Pants
 - ... Bone pants are the official uniform, but navy is acceptable.
 - ... For any formal occasions bone pants are required to be worn.
- ❖ A Group Scarf & Woggle
 - ... These will be presented during the investiture ceremony along with badges for the shirt.
- ❖ A SUN SMART wide brim hat or bucket hat.
 - ... Caps are not acceptable headwear.
- ❖ Neat, closed toe activity appropriate footwear is required.

During the winter months a navy jumper and/or navy trackpants can be worn.

During the summer months navy or bone shorts are fine.

Please NO bright coloured clothes or school uniforms are to be worn.

The uniform is required to be worn to all weekly sessions & events unless otherwise stated by the Section Leaders.

Exurbia is the exclusive supplier of Scout Uniforms in South Australia, for your convenience you can purchase your complete uniform online at the following link...

- <https://exurbia.com.au/product-category/scouting/uniforms-and-clothing/>

Or at the Exurbia Shop, 134A, The Parade, Norwood, S.A. 5067.

Second-Hand uniforms may be available at times, please ask Section Leaders.

A Group T-Shirt & Hoodie are available to purchase.

*Please note these are not part of the official scout uniform, so purchase is entirely up to each family. These can be worn for informal events when the uniform is not required to be worn.

Order Forms are available from Section Leaders.

SECTION NIGHTS & TIMES

YUNGALA **JOEY** UNIT (5yrs-8yrs) – Tuesday 5.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

PATHFINDER **CUB** UNIT (8yrs-11yrs) – Tuesday 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

JIKARA **SCOUT** UNIT (11yrs – 15yrs) – Wednesday 6.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

WAREKILA **VENTURER** UNIT (15yrs – 18yrs) – Thursday 6.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

DROP OFF & PICK UP

On your child's section night, it is asked for the safety of your child that parents/guardians, please, accompany your child into the hall to sign in, this assists Section Leaders making sure your child has arrived safely. **DO NOT DROP THEM** in the carpark or at the door and leave. When picking up your child please **COME INTO THE HALL** to collect them. NO child will be permitted to exit the hall without a parent/guardian. If you have made other arrangements for pickup, please, let the Section Leaders know beforehand. It is important also, to let your Section Leaders know if your child **WILL NOT** be attending, as this is being courteous to Leaders.



Fee Structure

SCOUT ASSOCIATION - SA BRANCH ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE

\$165.00 per member (a separate invoice will be emailed out to families each year as of joining date).

* Please note as of April 1st 2025 the registration fee will rise to **\$180.00** per member.

The Scouts SA registration fee covers a portion of the cost of essential services & behind-the-scenes operations to ensure members can enjoy Scouting now and into the future. The fee provides services such as volunteer support & administration for members & properties across all Scout Districts. The fee also covers the provision of services such as youth safety, risk management, members services, grant facilitation processing, training administration, accounting services, financial & statutory compliance, lease management & property compliance, marketing & communication activities, and the management & upgrading of IT systems such as MYSCOUT, the Branch membership system.

SA GOVERNMENT SPORTS VOUCHER PROGRAM

The Sports Voucher program is a SA Government initiative that assists families in meeting the costs of their children's sports & recreation activities. Currently 2 x \$100 vouchers can be combined to put \$200 towards one activity under the same provider (e.g. Scouts SA Annual Registration Fee). Alternatively, 2 x \$100 vouchers can be split between two different providers where a maximum of \$100 can be put towards each activity. This great initiative helps to make Scouting more accessible & affordable for everyone by contributing some or all of it to the Branch registration fee.

Every child living in South Australia in Reception to Year 9 is eligible for 2 x \$100 Sports Vouchers each calendar year. Please note, once a Sports Voucher has been redeemed, the voucher value cannot be reimbursed as cash, nor can it be transferred to another child. The voucher cannot be refunded back.

How does it work? Parents apply for the Sports Voucher on behalf of their child. The voucher is specifically intended to assist the Branch registration fee. Scouts SA Head Office staff manage the application & voucher approval process with Sports Vouchers directly. Once approved, the voucher will be applied to the next round of Branch registration fees due for the child.

PLEASE NOTE: Sports Vouchers need to be applied by parents through the link via Scouts SA – Q Store.

- <http://qstore.sa.scouts.com.au/promote/sports-vouchers/>

To use your Sports Vouchers for Scouting, please fill out the application provided on the link. You will need to provide the child's scout membership number, date of birth, first & last name, as well as Medicare number or visa card number to proceed...

YOUTH & ADULT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

With rising pressures due to increase in the cost of living, Scouts SA have developed the Member Hardship Fund aimed at assisting current & prospective youth & adult members to be able to afford the cost of Scouting.

Families can apply via their Group Leader/Leader in Charge/Treasurer to have a youth member's annual Branch registration fee paid for, by providing evidence of financial hardship. From time-to-time financial support may also be made available to cover youth participation in a major event or other opportunities as advertised by Branch SA.

JOINING FEE

\$125.00 per child once only
(Includes 1 term of membership)

This is a onetime fee payable to the group when you first join. PLEASE NOTE: The Group Subscription Fee IS NOT charged as well. The joining fee includes 1 term of membership.

The breakdown for the fee is as follows...

- ❖ \$70.00 joining fee (includes 1 term of membership)
- ❖ \$25.00 for a Group Scarf & Woggle
- ❖ \$30.00 for Section Record Books

You will then be separately invoiced for the Scout Association – SA Branch, registration fee of \$165.00 (goes to the Scout Association – SA Branch). You may wish to apply for the Government Sports Voucher to be used for Scouts SA Registration only.

- * Without the joining fee and scout registration payment your child is no longer covered by the Scout Association Insurance and will not be invested, therefore, unable to attend.

GROUP SUBSCRIPTION FEE

\$130.00 per child per school term
(Sports Vouchers CANNOT be used for Group Subscription fee)

What does the Group term fee cover? The Group term fee covers a range of essential elements crucial for the smooth functioning & sustainability of the Scout Group. This fee incorporates hall rental fee (where applicable), supports cleaning & maintenance services, utility & insurance costs. Additionally, achievement pathway badges to recognise & celebrate the achievements of our youth members are included in the fee, along with activity resources required to deliver an exciting & interesting program each term.

There may be other small costs during the term for activities like camps, sleepovers, patrol activities, hikes & other excursions. We try to keep these to the very minimum such as purchasing the necessary food or hiring of equipment etc. Our wonderful leaders already donate so much of their free time and at times fund activities out of their own pocket. Whilst we greatly appreciate their generosity this isn't something we want them to do.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Payments can be made by CASH or ELECTRONIC TRANSFER payable to HAPPY VALLEY SCOUT GROUP

- Cash, please place your payment in a sealed envelope with name & unit clearly marked & hand to the Section Leader.
- Please DO NOT send cash payments through the post.
- Electronic Transfer payments can be made to... **First Happy Valley Scout Group**
Bank: nab BSB: 085-210 Account Number: 169380141

Receipts will be emailed in due course after payment.

INVOICING

An invoice will be emailed to families at the end of each term. Please help the cash flow budgeting by paying your account promptly by the due date. *Concession fee applies for families if parent/guardian is on the Parent Committee or a registered Parent Helper.

PAYMENT SUPPORT

If you are having hardships in paying group fees, we have a provision aimed at assisting current & prospective youth & adult members to afford the cost of Scouting. Families can speak to the Treasurer/Group Leader/Leaders to have a youth member's subscription fee payment easier to pay by payment plan, by providing evidence of financial hardship.



Communication & Cooperation

FUNDRAISING

Raising funds to support our Group & Youth programs is an important part of maintaining and growing our group. Fundraising accounts for approximately 20% of our total income and is an important source of funding for the group.

We run fundraising events throughout the year to try & maximise our returns – profits from fundraising go into important tasks of supporting our group in purchasing & maintaining new equipment, upgrading facilities & supporting the group and its members in general. We look forward to working together in helping fundraise and greatly value your support.

Fundraising is also a great way for parents to get to know some of the other parents in the group. As we generally have members from within our general location it can be a great way to meet people like small business owners or sole traders and make connections. Need your lawns mowed well you can probably find someone local who can help. 😊

Fostering this sense of community is a fantastic side benefit from getting together occasionally to fundraise and support the group and our kids.

PARENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE & LEADERS

The committee exists to manage the Scout Group, it supports the Group Leader & is responsible for...

- Maintenance of Group Property
- The raising of funds & the administration of the Group Finance
- Assisting in the recruitment of Leaders & other adult support
- Appointing sub-committees that may be required
- Fundraising
- Promoting & growing the Group

PARENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS & PARENT HELPERS

All Parent Committee Members & Parent Helpers are required to have a National Police Check & Working with Children Check as well as fill in a Scout Association SA Branch Membership Application (non-uniform role).

LEADERS

Our Leaders are National Police checked & have Working with Children check & are all fully trained, no prior knowledge is assumed, or necessary.

WANT TO EXPAND YOUR SKILLS?

Parents/guardians of youth members are welcome to become involved. Uniform, training, resources, program ideas, etc. are provided. There is no financial outlay in becoming a Leader, the Group pays for uniform & training.

You are required to have a current National Police Check & fill in the Scout Association SA Branch application form (uniformed role). Online training and 1 or 2 weekend training camps are to be completed within 12 months of signing your application.

Leaders will have to pay the annual Scout Association SA Branch Annual Registration of \$165.00.

* Please note as of April 1st 2025 the registration fee will rise to \$180.00 per member.

Please ask Section Leaders for further information.

COMMUNICATION

Join our exclusive FACEBOOK page a closed private group for Happy Valley Scout Group families ONLY.

Get MORE photos, MORE up-to-date information, & MORE communication with OUR Group.

- www.facebook.com/groups/Happy Valley (closed Private Group)

We make it a policy not to tag photos of youth members & follow strict media guidelines recommended by Scouts Australia & SA Branch.

The Group has a Mobile No.. **0489 217 453**

Please phone for any queries you have.

Unit Programs

These will be given to all youth members at the beginning of each Term.

Please keep them handy at home so you know what your child will be doing week to week and any additional requirements they might need. For example, during Summer there may be water play so appropriate clothing and footwear that can get wet would be required.

OPEROO (Online Forms and Medical Records)

Is an automation platform for online forms, medical records, consent forms, etc. used by the Group. Having up to date, accessible medical & emergency information to ensure participants safety is of the utmost importance. With this app our Leaders always have the most up-to-date information on hand and can be confident in their approach to any situation.

Operoo's security & privacy procedures mean information about your child is kept safe & confidential. Once your child becomes an invested member, simply wait & respond to the email sign-up invitation, it's that simple. An email link will be sent, then please follow the link to proceed.

YOUR EXPECTATIONS

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

Leaders take the task of fulfilling the 'Aim of Scouting' very seriously. We undertake thorough training & give freely our time & effort to enable us to do this. We would not do this unless we are convinced of the value of Scouting in the lives of your children, but, also for adults.

If you have any questions or concerns during your journey with us, please, feel free to contact your Section Leaders or the Group Leader.

Yours In Scouting

Sue Korner (Group Leader Happy Valley)