

## “Heroes”

Dear Parents

This year's ScoutHike is promising to again be a lot of fun for your Scout, and we are pleased to invite your Scout to be there! This is an event designed to give Scouts an opportunity to test themselves in the skills they have acquired in an exciting and adventurous way. The following information outlines things you need to either do, or know about, relating to your Scout and ScoutHike.

### 1. What the Scouts do at ScoutHike:

We are expecting approximately 700 Scouts at ScoutHike this year, our 16<sup>th</sup> ScoutHike, and plans are looking really good for activities and the overall management of the event.

All Scouts will be under the immediate control of their Patrol Leader as they move from their designated Sleep Points, attending up to 25 Activity Points, and finally to the Finish Point.

The Sleep Points and Activity Points are no more than approximately 30 minutes apart (walking) and are managed by Scout Leaders. We have technology and procedures to alert me if a Patrol has not checked into any Activity Point or Sleep Point within a specified timeframe, and there is an action plan to then search and locate the late Patrol.

Each Patrol consists of between four and eight Scouts, and can include boys and girls. Usually the minimum number for a hike is five (5), in my role as the Regional Commissioner for Scouts I have approved the use of a reduced minimum number to four (4) as there is no appreciable increase in risk to Scouts as Leader assistance is no more than approximately 30 minutes away.

The activities this year are based on the Scout Award Scheme with the theme of 'Heroes'. Each activity is being reviewed on Saturday morning to ascertain that all activities are within a reasonable level of safety given the environment and nature of the event.

### 2. Departure Information:

- a. Patrols from Sydney North and South Met will travel by organised buses to ScoutHike. Other Regions will be making their own transport arrangements. Patrols close to the boundary of Sydney North and South Met may choose to travel by organised bus by contacting myself and making arrangements to join one of the organised bus.
- b. All the buses will leave from the Departure Point as advised to the Patrol Leader by email approximately one week prior to the start of ScoutHike.
- c. You will need to get your Scout to the designated departure point **by 7.15pm at the latest** on the Friday night – *this is your responsibility*.
- d. The buses will leave at the planned departure time. If you miss the bus, you will need to make your own arrangements to get your Scout to ScoutHike.
- e. Your Scout **must** have handed to their Patrol Leader their completed Activity Notification Form prior to getting on the bus. This form is available from your Scout's Patrol Leader.
- f. *Please note* that independent travel from Regions where buses are organised is actively discouraged for a variety of reasons including safety, traffic management and arrival coordination.

### 3. Activity Notification Forms:

Parent of every youth member attending ScoutHike will receive from their Patrol Leader a copy of the **Activity Notification Form Part 1** and **Part 2**. Parents are to retain Part 1 and after completing Part 2 pass it to the Patrol Leader of your Scouts ScoutHike Patrol.

At the Bus Departure Point the Bus Captain will check that every Scout has a completed Activity Notification Form Part 2 and that form is with the Patrol Leader. **No form, no go.**

The Activity Notification form will stay with the Patrol Leader during ScoutHike. If the youth member needs assistance, the information is readily at hand. If the youth member is removed from the Patrol then the form will be taken directly to, or travel with the youth member to, ScoutHike Head Quarters at which time I will retain the form.

Our objective is to keep the information on the form with the youth member so that if help is required, then the information on the form is readily available by those offering assistance.

#### 4. **Medical Information:**

If your Scout has special health or medical needs, or serious allergies that we should know about, please document and pass this information to your Scout's Patrol Leader prior to boarding the bus. This information will travel with the Activity Notification Form Part 2 as outlined earlier.

In addition, feel free to *also* send this document, together with associated treatment or other things we should know about, either by email, fax or post to me so that I receive it **no later than the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009**. This information will be held at ScoutHike Head Quarters and accessed only by our Head Quarters First Aid Team, a medical Doctor, myself, or my deputy, and only referred to if needed. It will be destroyed upon my return to Sydney after ScoutHike.

#### 5. **Returning Home:**

- a. On Sunday following the Awards Presentation, the buses are scheduled to depart around 2.45pm, arriving back to where you dropped off your Scout. Actual arrival times will depend on traffic and location.
- b. Our Leaders who return on the buses also have their families come to pick them up. Sadly some parents take over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour to arrive to pick up their Scouts, this often leads to tension in Leader's families as they sit around waiting for you. This often results in a greater reluctance for Leaders to volunteer their services next time. Your Scout will have lots to tell you when they get back, therefore it is very important that you are there waiting for them, so they know you missed them and are keen to hear all about their adventure.

Photographs and video images may be taken of Scouts at ScoutHike and these may be used to promote ScoutHike and Scouting in the future.

One last thing. I need your assistance please to ensure that matches, lighters, or anything else capable of creating a flame/fire is **not** taken to ScoutHike by your Scout. Such items are **totally prohibited** from being in the possession of any Scout at ScoutHike for a number of safety reasons. Any Scout found to have these items will cause their Patrol to be disqualified and removed from ScoutHike.

It's now time to sit back and watch your Scout pack their own pack, plan to get them to the Departure Point by 7.15pm, and plan your relaxing weekend! If you have any enquiries at all about ScoutHike, please do not hesitate to contact me *before* the 27<sup>th</sup> of April.

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Yours in Scouting



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