



PROCEDURE

Alpine and Snowfield Activities SOP



Issued with the authority of the Chief Commissioner
and Chief Executive Officer of Scouts Australia NSW

Chief Commissioner signature		Chief Executive Officer signature	
Sponsor	Deputy Chief Commissioner – Activities, Training, Fellowship		
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Alpine and Snowfield Activities

SOP

1 Philosophy

Alpine and snowfield activities are covered by Scouts NSW Adventurous Activities procedures. The requirements that are common to planning and conducting *any* type of adventurous activity are covered in [POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy](#). The additional requirements that are specific to Alpine and snowfield activities and are described in the following procedure.

Therefore, when planning and conducting any Alpine and snowfield activity, it is necessary to refer to [POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy](#) as well as this specific SOP. Should contradicting requirements be found in these documents, the more stringent standard shall apply.

2 Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Refer to [POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy](#) for roles and responsibilities.

3 Conduct of Activities

In addition to the requirements of [POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy](#), the following **additional** requirements apply to this activity;

- 3.1 Snowfield areas are defined as regions of mountain country where snow or blizzard conditions exist or can be reasonably expected to exist.
- 3.2 The term 'Alpine' and 'Snowfield' activities describes bushwalks, snow shoe touring, snow-boarding, resort telemarking, tobogganing, downhill skiing and cross country ski touring. These SOPs may apply to other forms of Snowfield activity as authorised by the Chief Commissioner or delegate.
- 3.2.1. Scouts NSW may make interim or short term designations of Snowfield areas based on local knowledge and prevailing weather conditions and forecasts. An example could be areas around the Blue Mountains when heavy and protracted snowfalls are predicted over a number of days.
- 3.2.2. Backcountry
- Within the boundaries of Barrington Tops National Park during the months of May to October inclusive. During this time the area is considered an Alpine walk as defined by the bushwalking rules.

- Within the boundaries of the Kosciuszko National Park except for areas defined in exclusions.

3.3 Exclusions – Activities conducted in the following areas are exempt from this SOP.

- Within the Municipal or designated boundaries or immediate vicinity of occupied and operating Towns, Villages or Resorts.
- Within 500 metres of any public road which is open to conventional vehicular traffic at the time of the activity.
- The areas utilised for activities when under the direct control of commercial operators who accept responsibility for the participants. An example would be ski resorts.

3.3.1. All bushwalks within Kosciuszko National Park, including day, overnight and multi day walks are covered by the Bushwalking SOP when they occur:

- During the months of November to April inclusive, and
- Following advice regarding current and expected conditions from Kosciuszko National Park.

3.4.2 These SOPs shall not apply to commercially conducted activities. Before participation in any commercially conducted snowfield activity, the Commercial Activities Policy should be consulted.

3.4 Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts, or Scouts are NOT permitted to camp overnight in the areas covered by these SOPs in the months of April to October inclusive.

3.5 All back country activities must have sufficient equipment for an unplanned overnight stay.

3.6 During all downhill activities (excluding tobogganing) in residential snowfield areas, the wearing of an approved snow/ski helmet is mandatory.

3.7 The wearing of a helmet whilst engaged in cross-country skiing in backcountry areas is recommended.

3.8 Additional information regarding safe conduct of Alpine activities can be found at <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/alpine-safety>

4 Equipment

4.1 Refer to *POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy* for equipment requirements including navigation equipment and supplies.

5 Ratios and Party Sizes

In addition to the requirements of *POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy*, the following **additional** requirements apply to this activity;

5.1 Youth section parties must not be less than five.

- 5.2 The minimum party size for the safety of groups undertaking any expedition into back country areas for snow related activities shall be five.

6 Qualifications

- 6.1 Refer to *POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy* for Qualifications requirements.

7 Incidents

- 7.1 Refer to *POL 36 Adventurous Activities Policy* for Responsibilities and expectations for reporting incidents, including for if a serious incident occurs.