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To: All adult members and supporters
2022

22 February

REMEMBERING THE PAST; BUILDING THE FUTURE

Dear Scouts, Leaders and Supporters,

Today we mark the birth of our Founder, Lord Baden-Powell. He first started the Scouting movement in 1907, and it is remarkable to reflect that over a billion young people have experienced Scouting around the world since then. It is the largest and longest running youth development organisation in the world.

You may also be aware that 2022 is the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who has been a friend and supporter of Scouts for longer than most of us could possibly remember.

She became a Girl Guide in 1937 and the 1st Buckingham Palace Company was formed not long after.

Today, the Duchess of Cambridge is the joint President of the UK Scouts Association, having been a Patron since 2021.

As Her Majesty celebrates 70 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth, it feels appropriate to recognise not only her contribution, but those of everyone who has given their time, skills, energy and passion, with service and dedication that has kept our wonderful Association as relevant to today's young people as those of the past.



The contribution each one of our members makes has a significant and positive impact on the lives of young people across NSW. We estimate the economic benefit to our local communities through Scouting is more than \$10 million each year. Thank you for the brilliant work you do in helping our youth members develop confidence, resilience and leadership skills. And in turn, learning that giving back to their community can change people's lives for the better.

We always find that adults gain enormous value from their involvement in Scouts, especially those directly involved in supporting young people.

I've learned new skills since joining Scouts that I enjoy. It's brought out something I never knew I had.

Section Leader, Sydney North

Although today is about recognising some extraordinary legacies of service, it is also important that we keep looking forward and focusing on how we can continue to deliver valuable services to today's young people.

Scouts has been great therapy for me as I've been able to continue through some difficult times.

Assistant Leader, South Met

In our membership, we have adults who've given decades of service to Scouts, and others who've been able to help out for a year, possibly two.

Sometimes it may appear that we only value those who've been with us for years. That's not true.

We all get involved in our Scout Group. I have a busy job, but I always find time to help. Every bit makes a difference.

Parent, GWS

We love having adults who are able to help out in whatever capacity they can. Our best performing Groups find opportunities for almost all the parents to participate, whether they're joining an activity, teaching a skill, helping with Hall bookings, organising transport from a camp or writing an article for the local paper.

To build the future, we need all these wonderful adults to help in whatever way they can.

Thank you to everyone for your service.

You are setting firm foundations for the young people across NSW to build valuable skills, and in the future, they too will champion the benefits of service and dedication in their own local communities.

Yours in Scouting,

Neville Tomkins OAM JP
Chief Commissioner
Scouts Australia (NSW Branch)

Youth Safety in Scouting

Scouts Australia NSW is committed to operating as a youth safe organisation and implementing youth safe policies and practices in accordance with the elements of a child safe institution outlined by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse report entitled Creating Child Safe Institutions.

Remember

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, CEO, State Commissioner (Youth Protection & Issues Management) or the Manager of Safeguarding Youth, Issues Management and Research at the NSW State Service Centre. To make a report you may use the [online youth protection form](#), call 9735 9000 or email YouthProtectionTeam@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Imminent Danger

If someone is in danger NOW, the matter should be reported directly to NSW Police on 000. Where a report is made to the Police, you must also subsequently notify Scouts NSW State Office.

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