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## Sam Marinovich, receives Queen's Scout Awards for Brookvale/Curl Curl unit

Meet the northern beaches' teenager who followed in his mum's footsteps into the Scouts and has now made a name for himself after snaring one of its most prestigious awards.



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When he was a little boy Sam Marinovich's mum urged him to become a Scout. She had spent years as Girl Guide and went on to be named a "Queen's Guide", a great honour, for her outstanding activities in the movement.

Sam, from Beacon Hill, joined the Brookvale/Curl Curl Unit when he was 12. Now at 18, he is one of a select few young Scouts in NSW to receive the prestigious Queen's Scout Award at a ceremony at NSW Government House.

To achieve this honour, what's known as a "Venturer Scout", those aged 14 to 17, must be able to set a goal, plan how they will achieve this goal, and organise a team to help overcome difficulties to complete their ultimate task.

For Sam, his desire to test his leadership and organising skills, after two years of Covid lockdowns and disruptions to organised outdoor activities, spurred him on to make his mark.



*Samuel Marinovich, 18, received the Queen's Scout Award from the Honourable Andrew Bell, Administrator of the Government of the State of NSW. Picture: Supplied*

The Queen's Scout Award is designed to help expand the interests and knowledge of Venturer Scouts and encourage them to "look wide" and to give them valuable life skills.

Sam decided to organise, and lead, a group of scouts on a four-day trek through some of the most inhospitable parts of The Blue Mountains — through the bush between Leura and Mt Wilson.



Samuel Marinovich, 18, followed in his mum's footsteps into the world of Scouting. Picture: Supplied

The St Luke's Grammar School student, studying for his HSC this year, also created an online chat room and concentrated on building up his skills with ropes and knot tying.

And it's not Sam's first honour with the Scouts. In 2019 he was presented with the Australian Scout Award, earned by Scouts who have achieved their Adventurer Cord, and have demonstrated their leadership abilities.

To be named a Queen's Scout, a Venturer Scout must be able to "set a goal; plan progress towards that goal; organise their self and others; and maintain the determination to overcome difficulties and complete the task".

According to Scouts NSW chief commissioner Neville Tomkins, Sam, and 19 others achieved those tasks this year.

“Completion of the Queen’s Scout Award is a major milestone in a Venturers Scouting journey and carries an outstanding reputation within Scouting and the wider community,” Mr Tomkins said.

Samuel said joining the Brookvale/Curl Curl unit was a great way to make friends for life who were “always on some sort of adventure”.

“I enjoyed it from the moment I first entered the Scout hall.”