

## YOUTH SAFETY IN SCOUTS NSW – THE ROLE OF PARENTS

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Scouts NSW places the health, safety and wellbeing of youth as its highest priority. To achieve this, Scouts NSW requires help from parents. Whilst steps are taken to advance the safety of youth, parents' engagement is required to enhance the current requirements.

The [10 Child Safe Standards](#) are directly relevant to Scouts NSW activities and are an ongoing and developing requirement. We need your assistance to help us keep our youth safe. Part of this is educating and engaging with you, as parents, to inform and improve.

### KEY ACTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. **Two adults present**

Also referred to as Two-Deep Leadership. This requires there to be two adults present and overseeing/running events and activities at all times. Leaders can be out of hearing but can never be out of sight from each other unless exceptional circumstances arise (e.g. serious injury). This principle applies at all times – including all online and electronic communications. It is **never** acceptable for a single Leader to be texting, emailing or talking with a youth member via any type of electronic communication one-on-one. There must always be a second Leader or adult involved.

2. **Transportation of youth members**

This links in with the two adults present requirement above. Leaders are **not** able to transport any youth to and from meetings and events unless:

- a. there is another adult present; or
- b. there is **at least three** youth in the vehicle AND each parent of each youth member has provided written permission for the **one** Leader to transport their child. This permission is to be activity by activity.

Unfortunately, there has been a steep increase in parents seeking Leaders to transport their children in conflict with this requirement. The standard is imposed for everyone's protection and safety. Leaders at Scouts NSW must comply with this standard, regardless of whether they are close family friends, neighbours or extended family. History has shown it is the most-trusted people that are most likely to break such trust. It is thus requested that parents consider arranging an alternative option for the child's transportation if they cannot collect their children.

3. **Late pick up**

When parents are late to pick up their child, this places extra requirements on the





Leaders present. In line with the two adults present requirement, it is not acceptable that one Leader stays behind and waits for the parents to arrive; it is necessary for **both** Leaders (or a Leader and an adult helper) to stay behind until the parents arrive. Some instances have shown that parents can often take up to two hours after the closure of the activity to arrive. This is not appropriate and places unreasonable expectations on people's already committed time and personal lives. In the instance that your child is not collected within 30 minutes of the end of an activity, the Leaders will be directed to take the child to the local police station until their parents are able to collect them.

### **Do you have any concerns about someone's conduct?**

If so, please navigate to the Scouts NSW website and enter your concerns via **Know it. Live it. Log it.** at this address: [scoutsnsw.com.au/log-a-matter](https://scoutsnsw.com.au/log-a-matter)

### **Communication**

How can we better communicate with you as parents about upcoming workshops or training activities and general updates on the Child Safe Standards? We understand people get overburdened with emails and Facebook. Please let us know by emailing [youthprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:youthprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au).

### **Any questions or suggestions?**

Please email to [youthprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:youthprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au).

