



**The Scout Association of Australia
Western Australian Branch**

Youth Membership Policy

Version: 1

Date: 14/12/2010

Author: M Thomas

No: MP-03

1. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- define the entry criteria for persons under the age of 18 joining *The Scout Association of Australia, Western Australian Branch (Scouts WA)*; and
- detail the issuing of a Certificate of Youth Membership.

This policy applies to all people under the age of 18 applying to join Scouts WA as a Youth Member.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

Youth Membership Definition:

Youth Membership of Scouts WA is defined in its Rules of Association. That definition of Youth Member is consistent with the provisions for Youth Membership, defined in the *Policy and Rules of The Scout Association of Australia* as:

Youth Member means a young person within the age ranges defined by the Scout Association for each Section and who is registered by the Branch as a member of the Scout Movement.

3. YOUTH MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Youth Membership of Scouts WA consists of two stages; Pre-Invited and Invited Members. All other young people engaged in the Scout program are classified as Visitors and are not Youth Members.

VISITOR (Non member category)

Definition:

A young person who is invited to attend a meeting or activity to experience the Scout program as it applies to that person's age group. Although there is no specific limit as to how many occasions a young person can attend as a Visitor, it is expected that it should only extend over a period of three to four weeks.

Entitlements:

1. A Visitor is not covered by Scouts WA's Personal Accident Insurance Policy.
2. A Visitor is not entitled to wear the Scout uniform.
3. A Visitor may participate by invitation in normal Scout program meetings and local Group run events but may not participate in District or Branch events.

YOUTH MEMBER

Definition:

A young person, who has consented to join Scouts WA. Their parent or guardian has agreed to the terms and conditions of youth membership of Scouts WA, has signed the *Application for Youth Membership Form (M1)* and paid the membership fee.

The date that a parent or guardian signs the M1 form and pays the membership fee is, on acceptance of their membership application by Scouts WA, the date recorded as the date at which the young person became a Youth Member of Scouts WA. Once a Youth Member, that person is covered from that date by Scouts WA's Personal Accident Insurance Policy when engaging in activities conducted under the Scouting program.

Entitlements:

1. Youth Member is entitled to wear the Scout uniform **but without badges**.
2. A Youth Member may participate in all program meetings, including local, District and Branch events and activities that are open to Youth Members of that age group.

YOUTH MEMBER - Invested

Definition:

A young person, who has satisfactorily completed pre-investiture training, which normally takes between four to six weeks after becoming a member, who has formally made the Scout Promise, appropriate to the section they are joining and has been invested as a Youth Member of the worldwide Scout Movement.

Entitlements:

1. An Invested Youth Member will be issued a Certificate of Youth Membership.
2. An Invested Youth Member is entitled to wear the Scout uniform with the appropriate badges for the Section they are joining as well as their Group Scarf.
3. An Invested Youth Member may participate in all program meetings, including local, District, Branch, National, and international events and activities, that are open to Youth Members of that age group.

4. CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

All invested, registered, and financial Youth Members will be issued a Certificate of Youth Membership by Scouts WA.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Scouts WA is responsible for reviewing this policy every 3 years.

6. APPROVALS

No	Document Process	Person Responsible	Date Approved	Signature
1	Draft Preparation	Martin Thomas – Exec Manager	7/12/2010	M. Thomas
2	Review	PJ Axford – BC, Planning, Policy and Review	7/12/2010	PJ Axford
3	Approval	CCC	26/10/2010	L. Lucas
4	Approval	Board	14/12/2010	P. Walton

This Policy has complied with all necessary approvals and is accepted as the *Youth Membership Policy* for Scouts WA.

Signature:Peter Walton..... Date:.....14/12/10.....

Chair, Board of Scouts WA