



**Scouts**  
QUEENSLAND

# Active Scouting Active Communities





Young people in Queensland have been participating in Scouting for over 110 years. Boys and Girls aged 5-25 learn life skills and responsible independence through a program of outdoor-focused activities.

The Scouts Queensland Strategic Plan is focused on growing the movement to better deliver the Aim and Principles of Scouting for more young people, their families and their communities. Growth in youth membership will be delivered through the provision of safe environments, quality programs and events, and genuine leadership opportunities. The strategy supports the continued implementation and utilisation of technology to reduce administrative burden and empower our Leaders.

Scouting offers young people a program of adventurous activities that contribute to their personal growth, provides leadership development opportunities, develops resilience, and prepares them for the challenges and opportunities of a 21st century global community.

This document highlights how Scouts Queensland supports Queensland communities now and in the future.



Scouts Queensland has  
232 Scout Groups with  
members residing in every  
Queensland Electorate





## Strengths

The Scouting Youth Program has recently undergone a major review driven by young people. This determined a need to provide a stronger focus on Outdoor Adventure Skills from age 5-25. Members of Scouts Queensland will continue to be active in their local communities while being involved in a wide range of outdoor activities.

The Outdoor Adventure Skills offer young people of all ages, the opportunity to experience and then pursue activities of interest in the great outdoors. Whether it is hiking, camping, SCUBA, sailing or climbing, members may choose to gain basic skills across a broad range of activity areas, or they may pursue a small number of activity areas to a higher skill level.







## Opportunities

Great opportunities exist to activate whole communities through partnering Scouts Queensland with Schools. Delivering Scouting within a school environment allows young people to develop in a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities in a convenient location. Through this, community members gain opportunities to explore their local area and develop skills far beyond the usual reach of extra-curricular activities outside of a classroom.





# Scouts Australia Institute of Training

Scouting not only provides opportunities for young people, but offers life long learning opportunities to all members through it's enterprise Registered Training Organisation, Scouts Australia Institute of Training (SAIT (No. 5443)).

SAIT was established in August 1996 with the primary purpose of enabling members of Scouts Australia, who have completed the relevant components of the Youth Program and Adult Training & Development, the ability to seek, through a Recognition of Prior Learning process (RPL) externally accredited qualifications. These qualifications range from Certificate II to Diploma in the areas of Outdoor Recreation, Business, Leadership and Management, Coordination of Volunteer Programs and Creative Industries.

In 2018, Scouts Queensland provided its members with qualifications to the commercial value of \$612,696, as a benefit of membership and program participation.

These programs are delivered by volunteers through the normal weekly program, major activities and through the Scouts Australia Adult Training and Development program.





# Community Facilities

Scouts Queensland operates 286 facilities across 13 Regions in Queensland, 33 of which are campsites. Our buildings, parkland, campsites and water activity centres help us deliver our program that builds resilience in our young people and in their communities. These facilities also support the wider community and often serve as a local hub in rural Queensland.

Scout Groups are responsible for the long-term future of their facilities and fundraising for maintenance and improvements.

Targeting strategic investment and upgrades to existing Scout facilities revitalises the Group, leading to membership growth and creates a positive impact on the surrounding community.

In order to achieve greater impact of Scouting in communities, new and existing facilities in growth areas require upgrades to the facilities to enable an increase in capacity.

To our members and the wider community, Scout facilities are a place to call home. They provide stability to youth members, that in turn develops a sense of identity.





# Disability Access to Facilities

As a diverse organisation, it is important that accessibility is a priority not just in our programming. We cater to individuals of all abilities and often open our facilities to the community, ranging from toddler groups, special interest groups and organisations who represent seniors. We take seriously our responsibility as a trusted manager of community assets and want to ensure our facilities are accessible to everyone. Many of our aging facilities need significant upgrades in order to be fully accessible which is primarily achieved through limited grant funding.





# Inclusive Scouting

Scouting's Youth Program is fun, challenging, adventurous and inclusive. We value the diversity of our members, including gender, sexuality, race, religion and ability.

We run an annual Scout camp called Agoonoree each September partnering with Girl Guides Queensland to host 80 young people with additional needs or who are otherwise disadvantaged for a week of outdoor adventure and patrol challenges.

We offer specialist training to our Leaders through partnerships such as with Autism QLD to ensure youth of all abilities are able to engage in our weekly program.



A survey of young people in 2015 aged between 14-17 years by Demos\* partnered with Scouts, found that participation in 'non-formal learning' activities outside of schooling play a vital role in developing character attributes and social and emotional skills in young people. These attributes not only reinforced academic learning but had significant positive influence on various later in life outcomes ranging from health, wellbeing and careers.

The same survey was conducted with 1,172 Scouts ages 12-25. The results consistently reported young people who's 'non-formal learning' activity was Scouting reported significantly stronger character attributes and social and emotional skills than other non-Scouting young people surveyed.

Scouting gives young people opportunities for personal challenges which creates a sense of self-worth. The community of Scouting reduces feelings of isolation through a network of trusted adults and peers and by providing well-rounded role models, for young people and adults alike.



# Improving Mental Health, Social Skills, Resilience

\*Birdwell, J. (2015). Learning by Doing – Demos. [online] Demos. Available at: <http://demos.co.uk/project/learning-by-doing/>



Scouting makes a difference to the lives of young people and this claim is now evidenced through systematic and rigorous multi-country research.

A 2018 Resilient Youth Australia survey of young people aged 5-17 found that Scouts, compared to non-Scouts the same age, consistently report higher levels of resilience, feeling more secure in themselves and their communities, are more engaged in their education and have better mental health.

Developing self-worth, led by trusted adults and upheld by role models (both youth and adults) creates a sense of connectedness and a common goal within their community.





# Sustainable Development Goals

Our Youth Program is written to align with the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure we maintain our operational responsibility of aligning strategically with these goals and embedding the sustainable practices into our program.

This is delivered through the new Special Interest Areas of the program that encapsulate the SDG's and encourage our youth members to try new things and expand their interests.

The Special Interest Areas are:

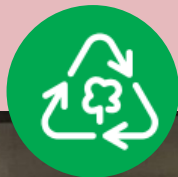
Creating a  
Better World



Arts and  
Literature



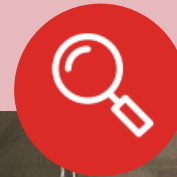
Environment



Growth and  
Development



STEM and  
Innovation



Adventure  
and Sport





Scouts Queensland is actively involved in the Container Recycling Scheme all the way down to a Group level. Many of our Scout Groups work with their local communities and families to collect and recycle containers for change. Not only is this a great opportunity for our members to learn about responsible waste practices but is a great fundraising tool for our members, meeting environmental goals.



# Container Recycling Scheme

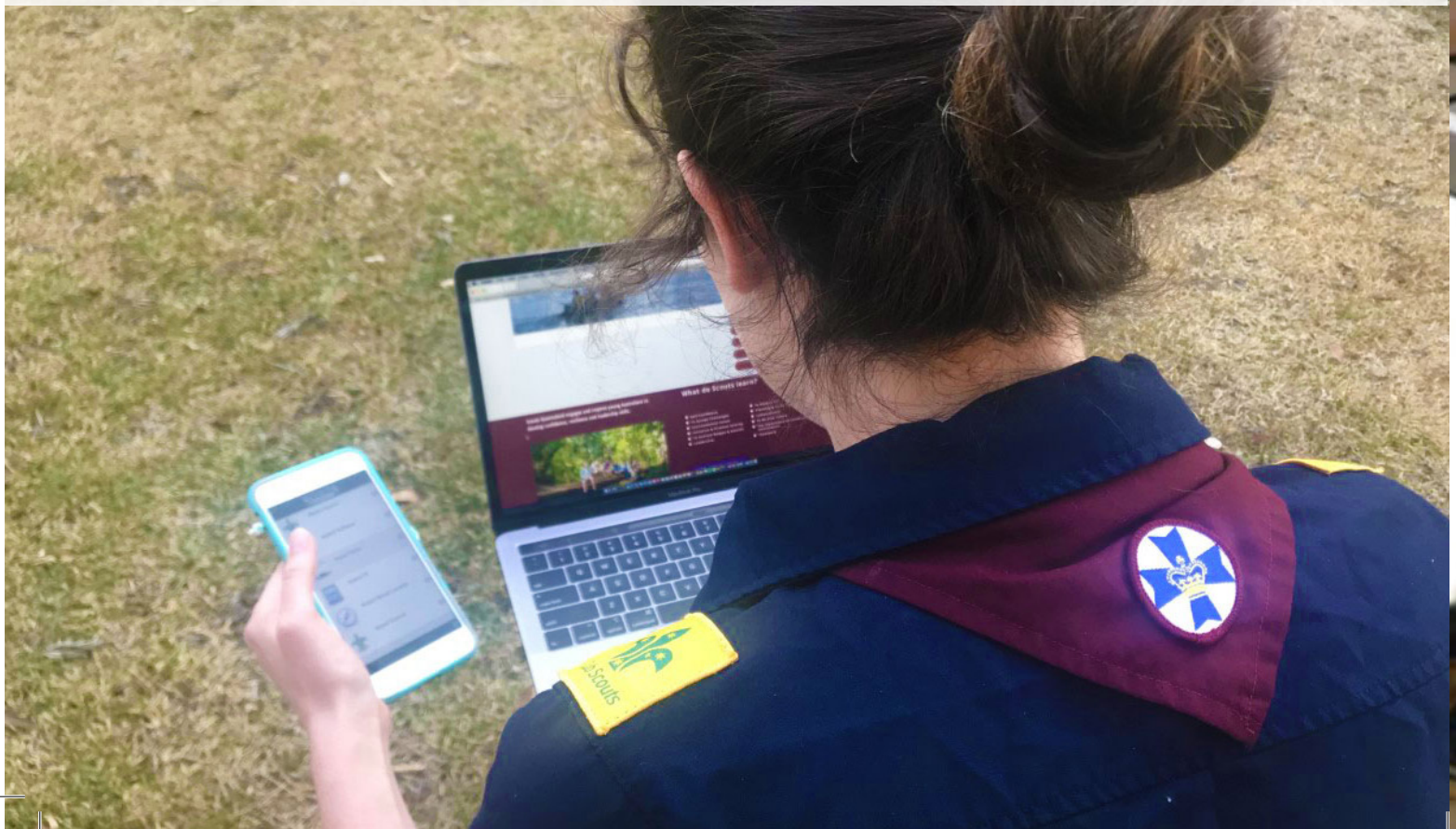


# Technology in Scouting

Technology is a core principal of our Strategic Plan and as such, continues to be a focus for Scouts Queensland. The right technology provides us tools to streamline the management side of Scouting, allowing us to focus on delivering great experiences for our members.

Office 365™ has provided Scouts Queensland with a robust and scalable communications and information-sharing platform. This platform has allowed communication across our State to be more flexible, reliable and inclusive, connecting our teams and enabling the implementation of our New Youth Program.

CareMonkey™ is another significant technological advancement taking place in Scouts Queensland. This program streamlines the recording of health records and parental permission for activities. For Leaders, this has had a significant impact on time management and the streamlining of risk management processes, offering our Leaders a smoother process when it comes to real-time access of member health information, without having to rely on paper documentation.





# STEM and Innovation

Scouting aims to educate our youth members to become well-rounded citizens for the future world. In our Youth Program we recognise STEM is an ever growing industry, so our youth can choose to participate in the Special Interest Area STEM & Innovation. This gives youth members the opportunity to invent, design and build gadgets; engage with IT, apps, programming and robotics; experiment in the sciences and more with the support of our trained volunteer adult Leaders.

All Scouts in Australia have been asked by NASA to participate in a unique competition to help scientists from NASA, Geoscience Australia, CSIRO and others to validate satellite based land cover data by taking a variety of photos in their local environments. This information will be used to monitor and report on the Global Sustainable Development Goals.





# Scouting for Families

As an all year round activity, the cost of Scouting to families is far less than other popular sports and outdoor recreation activity options for young people. Scouts Queensland strives to ensure that cost is not a barrier to participation and engagement in our program. A small team of staff in the Branch Support Office work to support Scout Groups and members in attaining grant funding support including Fair Play Vouchers to assist with costs.





# Adult Volunteers

Across our volunteer positions which encompass Section Leaders, Commissioners, Committee Members and Parent Helpers, the number of volunteer hours invested in delivering the Scouting program equates to over 950,000 hours per annum.

Based on Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for the hourly rate applied to volunteering, we deliver in excess of \$39 million in services to the Queensland economy each year.





# Australian Jamboree

In 2025, Queensland has the opportunity to host the next Australian Jamboree (AJ). This event will see up to 10,000 Youth members and an additional 3,500 adults from across Australia and the world come together for 10 days of adventure, challenge and fun. When Queensland hosted the 2013 Australian Jamboree, the event brought in excess of \$12 million to Maryborough and the wider Queensland community. What is more difficult to measure however, is the multiplier effect this investment continued to provide the Queensland economy.

If Queensland wins the bid for AJ 2025, this event will require infrastructure development, investment in transport, tourism and facilities and planning over the next five years that is likely to bring a similar investment to that of the 2013 Jamboree to the Queensland economy.





# World Scouting

Across the globe there are 52 million Scouts in 170 countries, making us a part of the world's largest educational youth movement. For our Queensland members, this means endless opportunities to get involved in something bigger than their immediate community.

In July 2019, 109 Scouts from Queensland joined an Australian Contingent of 692 people, led by a Queensland Leader to attend the World Scout Jamboree in North America. This adventure saw more than 45,000 Scouts from 152 countries gather for 10 days of culture, tolerance and understanding in West Virginia.

Scouting not only benefits our local communities but creates a better world.







**Scouts**  
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1800 Scouts  
[scoutsqld.com.au](http://scoutsqld.com.au)



Scouts Queensland is a Child Safe organisation with zero-tolerance for any harm, abuse or neglect. We value the diversity of our members, including gender, sexuality, race, religion and ability. Visit our Child Safe webpage [scoutsqld.com.au/about-us/child-protection-safety/](http://scoutsqld.com.au/about-us/child-protection-safety/) for more information.