

# The Group Leader

The **Group Leader** is the appointed person in charge of the Group. He/she is the **key** Leader of a Group. His/her role is managerial: the Leader of a team of adults.

A Group Leader must be prepared to accept the responsibility of leadership and be prepared to share this responsibility by delegating the actual management of the various Sections to the Leader in charge of them. He/she must impress on all Leaders that they are members of one team, with the Group Leader as leader, with one common aim - to help each other with the development of young people.

## Group Leader

The functions of a Group Leader are:

### Youth Program Development:

- a) accept responsibility for the welfare, progress and training of young people within the Group.
- b) develop the Group to its maximum potential and increase membership to make Scouting available to more young people in the community
- c) ensure that the training program for young people is delivered in accordance with the performance and safety standards of the Association.

### Leadership Needs:

- a) ensure that the Group is adequately staffed by trained, competent, committee Leaders.
- b) monitor and assess the performance of Leaders in the Group, and take action to enhance the quality of leadership in the Group.
- c) undertake personal development training, especially that offered through the formal Adult Leader Development Program of The Scout Association.
- d) recommend the appointment, transfer, retirement and cancellation of appointment of Leaders in the Group, in accordance with branch procedures and rules.

### Scouting Fundamentals:

Ensure that the Group operates in accordance with the aim, Principles, Policies and rules of The Scout Association of Australia and the Branch.

Problem Solving:

- a) participate in the resolution of disputes in the Group in accordance with conflict resolution procedures of the Branch.
- b) utilise the support and assistance that is available to Groups by the Association and the community.

### Effective Communication:

- a) develop and encourage a friendly atmosphere in the Group so that new members and their families feel welcome. encourage the formation and effective operation of a Group Committee and serve on it.
- b) encourage effective communication between Leaders in the Group, and chair the Group Council.
- c) co-operate with and maintain good relations with other youth organisations in the community, particularly the Girl Guides Association.
- d) develop good relations with community leaders to enhance the community perception of Scouting.

### Recognise Performance:

Recommend the granting of awards to youth members, Leaders and supporters of the Group.

### Rovers:

- a) develop a sound working relationship with the Rover Crew.
- b) negotiate with the Rover Crew, the terms and conditions under which the Group makes available the facilities of the Group to the Rover Crew.

### Group Leader's Visit

One of a Group Leader's duties is to visit all Sections in the Group on meeting nights and at camps and Pack Holidays. It should be a **visit**, not an inspection, by an interested, friendly Group Leader. It gives the Group Leader an opportunity to meet the youth members and observe the Leaders in action. This will enable the Group Leader to see if the activities are being well conducted, that the members and Leaders are working together with the **Scout spirit**, learning by doing and, above all, **having fun**.

It is optional as to whether a Group Leader should give notice of an intended visit to a Section. Try both methods and compare the results.

The Group Leader should set a personal example by arriving punctually and wearing the correct uniform. The following points should be looked for during the visit:

- a) number in attendance at the meetings (compared with known number in the Section)
- b) punctuality of opening and closing the meetings
- c) discipline - watch for undue rough play
- d) award scheme progress

- e) suitability of the program: does it contain
  - instruction
  - variety
  - action
  - purpose
  - surprise
  - FUN
- f) delegation of responsibilities to assistants
- g) Section records

Keep a record of Section visits to supplement your memory.

The Group Leader is often invited to run a game, address or tell a story to the youth members, so always **BE PREPARED**.

### General

The Group Leader is the maker or breaker of the Group. Relationships with the Section Leaders, Group Chairperson, Parents and District personnel will set the pattern of relationships between all the people involved.

A good Group Leader should be prepared for all eventualities - the inevitable Leader resignation, arguments between Leaders, youth problems and disagreements between uniformed and non-uniformed personnel.

The Group Leader's greatest task is **involvement of people**  
to be leaders  
to be administrators  
to be supporters - financial or otherwise.