

## 10.3 - OVERNIGHT ACTIVITIES FOR JOEY SCOUTS

### INTRODUCTION

This statement covers Sleep-overs , Group Camps and Mob Family Camps; the only kinds of overnight activities considered suitable for Joey Scouts. Attention is drawn to Policy Statement 10.5 Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug and Other Substance Use.

The central purpose of any SCOUT activity should be to contribute to the personal development of the participating youth members; and this is best achieved by the Scout Method - learning by doing and activities in small groups.

Leaders in the Joey Scout Section are expected to prepare Joey Scouts for the wider program of Scouting by including Sleep-overs, Group Camps or Mob Family Camps in their Mob programs.

### SLEEP-OVERS

Duration of a Joey Scout Sleep-over is, at the most, 24 hours. A Sleep-over is overnight and should include meals and activities. If the majority of the Mob have had little experience of being away from home overnight, then a Sleep-over is a good way to introduce the Joey Scouts to such activities.

#### Program

The Sleep-over program must be relevant to the overall Joey Scout Program and should include special activities not normally done during Mob meetings. The program may include a “Scouts’ Own” where appropriate.

The program theme must have both wet and dry weather activities to allow for all weather contingencies and should be fun to do.

The Sleep-over program needs to be clearly posted, providing information for all participants.

It is suggested that the Joey Scouts themselves share the responsibility for generating jobs and rules necessary for the Sleep-over, e.g. setting tables, clearing dishes, washing up routines etc.

#### Supervision

The adult leadership team to youth member ratio must be at least **1:4**. Adults do not include Joey Scout Helpers.

An appointed Leader in the Joey Scout section must be in charge. This leader must have 12 months Mob experience, completed the Sleep-over module in basic training and have already planned and assisted with another Joey Scout Sleep-over / Group Camp; **OR** have had at least three years Mob experience; **OR** holds a Joey Scout Woodbadge.

There must be another appointed Leader assisting. This leader, while preferably from the Joey Scout section, can be appointed in another section.

The cooking team must be a separate group of people from the adult leadership team and should not be left in charge of Joey Scouts or program activities.

Joey Scout Helpers must not be left in charge of Joey Scouts.

## Location

Joey Scout Sleep-overs can take place in Scout Halls, community halls or similar venues with adequate sleeping, cooking and ablution facilities.

Joey Scout Mobs must not sleep in tents during Sleep-overs.

## Permission and Approval

A Notification of Activity form, as well as programming details and organisation of the proposed Sleep-over, must be completed and approved by the Group Leader, before the activity is announced to the Mob and parents are notified.

Fully completed Permission Forms signed by Parents (with emergency contact number for each Joey Scout) are required for each youth member participating in the activity. It is essential to have this information for the leaders and other helpers, particularly any medical or dietary information.

Necessary permits for activities such as open fires, fishing and fossicking must be obtained before the activity is started.

A kit list should be supplied to each family prior to the activity detailing items required for the Sleep-over. Leaders should list unsuitable items, which Joey Scouts should not bring to the Sleep-over.

## Safety Features

Ensure all medical, physical and dietary requirements are catered for. It is essential this information be provided before the Sleep-over so the leaders and other helpers can take appropriate action as necessary.

A qualified First Aider with a suitable First Aid Kit, must be present for the entire Sleep-over.

Leaders must have access to a phone during the Sleep-over for emergencies.

## **GROUP CAMPS**

Group Camps involving the Joey Scout Mob, Cub Scout Pack, Scout Troop and Venturer Unit (Rover Scouts included where possible) reinforce the family nature of Scouting. The Group Leader is responsible for Group Camps.

Joey Scouts may only camp with their parents, guardian or adult carer as part of the Group camp. If the parents or guardian of a participating Joey Scout are unable to attend, they must sign over permission and an Activity Permission Form to another parent or family who agree to look after their Joey Scout for the duration of the Group Camp.

Camping in tents during a Group Camp is permissible with parents, guardian or adult carer.

Group Camps involving Joey Scouts should normally be for one or two nights, never longer than three days (e.g. Friday night, Saturday and Sunday).

Programming should include opportunities for Joey Scouts to mix with other Group members and activities must be suitable and appropriate for Joey Scout members.

Supervised free time should be included in the program to allow youth members to rest and recuperate. Leaders and Helpers will also need rostered time off.

Requirements such as safety features, permission approval and programming are the same as for Sleep-overs. An evacuation plan, together with a map showing access to the camp site, must accompany the Notification of Activity Form and the notice to parents.

## **MOB FAMILY CAMP**

A Mob Family Camp embraces the "Scout Family" ideal and is a camp for Joey Scouts and their families. It is a unique opportunity to develop the Joey Scouts' social living skills and positive self-image as well as providing Joey Scout Leaders an opportunity to get to know their Joey Scout families.

Suggested duration for a Mob Family Camp is up to 2 days with an overnight stay.

### Supervision

In a Mob Family Camp, emphasis is placed on the whole family attending. The Joey Scout must be accompanied by at least one parent, guardian or adult carer, although whole family attendance should be encouraged.

An appointed Leader in the Joey Scout section must be in charge. This leader must have 12 months Mob experience, completed the Sleep-over module in training and have already planned and assisted with another Joey Scout Sleep-over / Group Camp; **OR** have had at least three years Mob experience; **OR** holds a Joey Scout Woodbadge.

There must be another appointed Leader assisting. This leader, while preferably from the Joey Scout section, can be appointed in another section.

### Location

Mob Family Camps should be held in established camp venues with adequate indoor Sleeping, cooking and ablution facilities.

Joey Scouts can camp in tents during a Mob Family Camp. Joey Scouts must sleep in the family environment, not in a tent with other Joey Scouts

Supervised free time should be included in the program to allow youth members to rest and recuperate. Leaders and Helpers will also need rostered time off.

Permission and Approval, Safety Features and Program are the same as for Sleep-overs. An evacuation plan, together with a map showing access to the camp site, must accompany the Notification of Activity Form and the notice to parents and the Group Leader / Scouter in Charge .

### AUTHORITY

This policy statement was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 28 July 1993 and amended on 28 July 1999.