

## 10.3 - OVERNIGHT ACTIVITIES FOR JOEY SCOUTS

### Introduction

1. This policy covers Sleepovers, Group Camps, Mob Family Camps and Mob Camps; the only kinds of overnight activities considered suitable for Joey Scouts.
2. Attention is drawn to Policy Statements 10.5 Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug and Other Substance Use, 10.8 Risk Management, 10.9 Reporting of Actual or Suspected Abuse of Youth or Children and 10.10 Child Protection Policy.
3. All adults present at overnight activities for Joey Scouts must have a current ACT Working with Vulnerable People card
4. Appropriate male/female youth and adult male/female sleeping arrangements are to be maintained in accordance with National/Branch policies.
5. The adult leadership team to youth member ratio for all overnight activities for Joey Scouts must be in accordance with National Policy and Rules and may be higher where the risk assessment identifies that additional adult presence is required. Adults do not include Joey Scout Helpers.
6. The Joey Scout age group encompasses a wide range of developmental stages and capabilities, Joey Scouts should be provided with all appropriate encouragement and support suitable to the individual to progress in their development and independence.
7. 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.
8. Leaders in the Joey Scout Section are expected to prepare Joey Scouts for the wider program of Scouting by including Sleepovers, Group Camps, Mob Family Camps or Mob Camps in their Mob and Section programs.
9. Leaders in the Joey Scout Section may call on leaders from other Sections to provide the required expertise and experience to deliver these overnight activities for the benefit of Joey Scouts.

### Sleepovers

10. 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

11. The Sleepover 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.

12. The program theme must have both wet and dry weather activities to allow for all weather contingencies and should be fun to do.
13. The Sleep-over program needs to be clearly posted, providing information for all participants.
14. 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

15. 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 overnight activity; OR have had at least three years Mob experience; OR holds a Joey Scout Wood Badge.
16. There must be another appointed Leader assisting. This leader, while preferably from the Joey Scout section, can be appointed in another section.
17. 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.
18. Joey Scout Helpers must not be left in charge of Joey Scouts.

### Location

19. Joey Scout Sleepovers can take place in Scout Halls, community halls or similar venues with adequate sleeping, cooking and ablution facilities.
20. Joey Scouts may sleep in tents as an adjunct to the Sleep-over subject to meeting of all the other requirements.

### Permission and Approval

21. 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, Scouter-in-Charge or appropriate Commissioner, before the activity is announced to the Mob and parents are notified.
22. 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.
23. Necessary permits for activities such as open fires, fishing and fossicking must be obtained before the activity is started.

24. 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 to bring to the Sleep-over.

### Safety Features

25. 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.
26. A qualified First Aider with a suitable First Aid Kit, must be present for the entire Sleep-over.
27. Leaders must have access to a phone during the Sleep-over for emergencies.

### **Group Camps**

28. 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.
29. Joey Scouts may sleep in tents with their parents, guardian or adult carer as part of the Group camp or in tents under the policies relating to Mob Camps.
30. Group Camps involving Joey Scouts should normally be for one or two nights (e.g. Friday night, Saturday and Sunday).
31. Programming should include opportunities for Joey Scouts to mix with other Group members and activities must be suitable and appropriate for Joey Scout members.
32. 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.
33. Requirements such as safety features, permission approval and programming are the same as for Sleepovers. 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**

34. 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.
35. Suggested duration for a Mob Family Camp is up to 2 days with an overnight stay.

### Supervision

36. 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.
37. An appointed Leader in the Joey Scout section must be in charge. This leader must have 12 months Mob experience, must have completed the Sleep-over module in training and should have already planned and assisted with another Joey Scout overnight activity OR have relevant camping training OR have had at least three years Mob experience OR holds a Joey Scout Wood Badge.
38. There must be another appointed Leader assisting. This leader, while preferably from the Joey Scout section, can be appointed in another section.

### Location

39. Mob Family Camps should be held in established camp venues with adequate indoor Sleeping, cooking and ablution facilities.
40. Joey Scouts can camp in tents during a Mob Family Camp. Joey Scouts may sleep in tents in the family environments or in tents under the policies relating to Mob Camps.
41. 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.
42. Permission and Approval, Safety Features and Program are the same as for Sleepovers.
43. 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.

### **Mob Camps**

44. A Mob Camp is a major step on the Scouting journey, developing character and independence in an outdoor setting. It is an opportunity to develop the Joey Scout's engagement in outdoor living and activities, develop social living skills and positive self-image.
45. Mob Camps should normally be for one or two nights, (e.g. Friday night, Saturday and Sunday).

### Supervision

46. In a Mob Camp, emphasis is placed on the Joey Scout's development and independence. While Joey Scouts requiring parental support may be accompanied by parents, guardians or adult carers, the Mob Camp should be structured to encourage Joey Scouts to develop their independence.

47. 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 overnight activity; OR have relevant camping training OR have had at least three years Mob experience; OR holds a Joey Scout Wood Badge.
48. There must be another appointed Leader assisting. This leader, while preferably from the Joey Scout section, can be appointed in another section.

### Location

49. Mob Camps should be held in established camp venues with adequate Sleeping, cooking and ablution facilities.
50. Joey Scouts may camp in tents during a Mob Camp. Joey Scouts may sleep in tents in the family environments or with other Joey Scouts and Scout Leaders subject to:
- compliance with the “two deep” policy;
  - compliance with other policies, rules and procedures;
  - ensuring, where reasonably possible that female adults are present where female youth members are present; and
  - ensuring, where reasonably possible that male adults are present where male youth members are present.
51. 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.
52. Permission and Approval, Safety Features and Program are the same as for Sleepovers.
53. 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**

54. This policy or amended policy was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 28 July 1993, 28 July 1999 and 22 August 2019.