

2.4 - YOUTH HELPERS

1. This statement should be read in conjunction with National Policy and Rules referring to Youth Helpers in the Joey Scout, Cub Scout and Scout sections. It also applies to Rover Youth Helpers who may be appointed to work with Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts or Venturer Scouts.

Training and Status

2. All applications for appointment as a Youth Helper must be submitted on the appropriate form.
3. Applicants must successfully complete a Youth Helper program as determined by the relevant Section Commissioner.
4. Youth Helpers are not to be considered as Leaders-in- training.
5. Youth Helpers, who are not current members of Scouts Australia, may be invested and become a member of a Group after probationary service as a Youth Helper of three months from the date the application is received in the Branch Office.
6. All Youth Helpers, over the age of 16 years, must hold a current Working with Vulnerable Peoples Card.

Appointments, Certificates and Badges

7. The appointment of a Youth Helper is made by the Branch Executive Committee on the recommendation of the Group Leader, Region Commissioner and Appointments Committee. The recommendation for appointment as a Rover Youth Helper also requires the endorsement of the Branch Rover Council.
8. When training and probationary service is completed, the Appointments Committee shall review the application and make a recommendation to the Branch Executive Committee.
9. The Certificate of Appointment will be issued by the Branch Office and signed by the Chief Commissioner.
10. Resignations shall be recorded on the Certificate with a suitable endorsement and be signed by the Chief Commissioner.
11. The Branch Office shall arrange for despatch of Certificates to Group Leaders for presentation to Youth Helpers, or by the Chair of the Branch Rover Council in the case of Rover Youth Helpers.

Activities - Permitted

12. A Youth Helper may:
 - a. attend meetings of the Section in which the appointment is made;
 - b. play an active role in ceremonies;
 - c. instruct in any of the subjects in the Training Scheme and pass test work, but only with the approval of the Leader appointed in charge of the Section;
 - d. assist by preparing gear and equipment for games and activities;
 - e. conduct games under the supervision of an appointed Leader;
 - f. attend appropriate training functions such as Seeonees, Kanyanas and Mindaris;
 - g. be a regular visitor at the Group Council (with the prior approval of the Group Leader);

- h. attend ACT Branch functions, such as Palavers and Annual Meetings; and
- i. undertake e-learning training for the Section to which they are appointed and participate in Adult Leader Training Courses in the year prior to their 18th birthday.

Activities – Not Permitted

13. A Youth Helper may not take charge of a Section or any part of a Section at any time.

Rover Youth Helpers

14. The following additional requirements for appointment as a Rover Youth Helper are:
- a. Rover Youth Helpers are over the age of 18 and are legally adults with a consequent “Duty of Care” responsibility and are accountable for their actions. They are therefore to be subject to the same checks (police checks, referees reports etc) as are adult Leaders and must hold a Working with Vulnerable People Card;
 - b. The age limits for Rover Youth Helpers are 18 years and over to assist the Joey Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Sections and 21 years and over to assist the Venturer Scout Section;
 - c. Rovers may assist a Section for a maximum of three months without being required to complete the Youth Helper program. This is to aid those Leaders who require interim assistance with their Section while another Leader is found; and
 - d. The Rover Youth Helper must be able to assist in instructing in the award scheme.

Termination of Appointment

15. The appointment will terminate automatically on the person reaching the age of 18 years or, in the case of Rovers, leaving the Crew.

AUTHORITY

16. This policy or amended policy was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 21 September 1983, 25 June 1997 and 25 May 2011 and 26 April 2018.