

INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING EVENTS

Parent Guide





Scouts
AUSTRALIA

A Scouts Australia Publication

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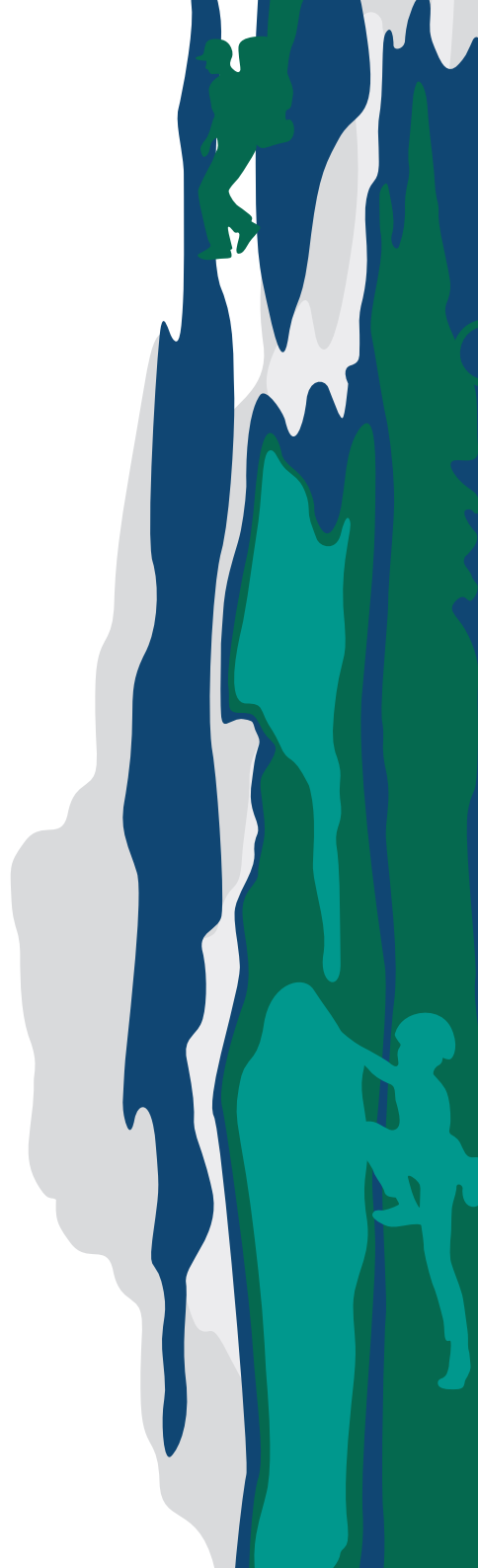
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Introduction

Overseas Travel

We are very excited that your child has applied to attend an International Scouting event!

International Scouting events are a life changing experience for all young people. They will meet new friends, visit new locations and try many new things.

For many participants, this experience may include travelling overseas without family for the first time. As a result, there may be many unknowns about the journey ahead.

This guide is designed for you to gain an understanding of the expectations in supporting your child to gain the most benefit from their participation in the Australian Contingent.

If you still have questions... at the back of this guide you will find answers to several Frequently Asked Questions. If you have other concerns, please contact the Contingent Leader.

The Australian International Team

Personal Preparation

Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience

Now that your child has decided they would like to participate in an International Scouting event there are some things you can do to help them get “prepared” for this adventure of a lifetime!

Preparation for your child’s overseas experience will differ from event to event, Scout versus Venturer Scout and your child’s previous experience travelling overseas. The following sections may not all apply to your situation but it is worthwhile reading them all.

This could be the first time your child has travelled overseas by themselves and they may be a little unsure of what to expect.

If it is the first time your child has travelled without you it is only natural you are going to have some concerns as well. Rest assured that the adult volunteers that are accompanying your child are all very experienced and have usually attended many other Scouting events and a lot of them are parents as well, so they understand your concerns!

Always feel free to reach out to the Contingent Leader or contact other parents you may know from your child’s Scout Group for any hints or tips on how you and your child can both prepare for this trip.

You may have been overseas as a family many times, but this experience

will be very different. If your child has never been overseas or perhaps never even been on an aeroplane within Australia, they may have many questions and concerns that should be considered.

In a lot of ways, an International Scouting event will feel the same as any other local camp. There will of course be a lot more people, they will be in a strange country and living on a day to day routine with many other people from all over Australia and the World. This can be quite intimidating for some children who are perhaps not as confident or mature as others in their age group.

You may need to ask yourself “how can I help my child to be ready to travel overseas without me?” Consider if your child is mature, responsible, resourceful, willing to ask for help, aware of what’s going on around them and most importantly, able to follow instructions.

Remember, as excited as your child may be, they may be nervous too. Talk with them about what is going to happen and what is expected of them during the trip.

Please reassure them that every Scout adapts to new environments at a different pace. Some Scouts may seem to be fitting in quicker and appear to be having a great time, and that is not unexpected. There is no shame in telling someone you are

sad or you are missing your parents. Please encourage your child that it is perfectly okay for them to reach out to one of the adults if they need to talk to someone about this.

It is very important that they talk to the Adult Leaders if they have any concerns or are struggling. They are there to help and want to ensure that everyone enjoys this experience.

Every event that is run by Scouts Australia is always required to have a very thorough Risk Management Plan. Before the Contingent even departs, there has been many months or years of planning that has gone into the event.

There are many scenarios that the Contingent plans for that are very unlikely to occur, but we include these so as to be prepared. Please rest assured that the planning is very thorough to ensure you child has a safe and enjoyable experience!

Orientation Days

O-Days

Most large Contingents will host a series of Orientation Days (O-Days) in major capital cities prior to departing Australia.

The Orientation Day is an important opportunity for representatives of the Australian Contingent Team to meet participants and distribute merchandise for the event.

A presentation will normally be given reviewing all of the important information for the event. It is normal for all of this information to have been included in previous editions of the Contingent Bulletins. However, a physical presentation is an important opportunity to learn the emphasis of certain details, and ask questions wherever there is uncertainty.

Travel Expectations

Travelling as part of a Contingent

The Contingent will travel to and from the event together. You will be required to drop your child off and pick them up upon their return at the nominated airport. The Contingent will check in as a group and after going through Immigration and Security, they will be expected to keep together at the gate until they are asked to board the plane.

Seating on board the aircraft is normally assigned by the airline. Allocations may be arranged alphabetically or by Patrol and the Contingent has no influence in this decision.

Please remind your child that they will probably not be seated next to their existing friends, and that instead, this is a great opportunity to meet new friends before they even reach their destination!

Behavioural Expectations

Members of the Australian Contingent are representing their families, their Scout Groups and their country when travelling overseas. It is therefore very important that all Scouting members live by the Scout Promise and Law and commit to being a worthy ambassador of Scouts Australia.

All children react to new situations in different ways. It is important to let the Contingent Leader know if your

child has some particular tendencies when faced with things outside their comfort zone. They and other members of the Contingent can then help with strategies that will assist your child.

Bad behaviour is never tolerated at any International Scouting event so it is important that your child understands that if they don't listen to instructions or step outside the boundaries set by the Contingent, there will be consequences.

Attending an International Scouting event is a privilege and not the time for any child to push boundaries or display unacceptable behaviour.

There is zero tolerance to bullying and harassment at all International Scouting events.

It is never acceptable for any child to use a situation not going "their way" as an excuse to misbehave or start disrespecting other members of the Contingent.

All Youth Members are expected to act in accordance with the acknowledged principles of the Scout Association. Should your child detract from the required standard of behaviour, they may be returned home at your family's expense (including the travel cost of any adults escorting your child).

Health and Hygiene Responsibilities

Toilet and washing facilities at overseas events may be very different to what is available at Australian events. For example, a squat toilet may be common in some countries in Asia, and communal showering may also feature in some countries.

Participants can usually expect to be sleeping in shared tents during their event, and good hygiene is therefore important. This includes bathing, cleaning teeth, using deodorant and washing clothes.

Regular use of showers is a mandatory expectation during every overseas journey and is an important necessity in maintaining good health and hygiene whilst away.

Facilities for washing clothes will usually be provided by the Contingent and experience at doing laundry at home (especially hand washing clothes) before departing overseas is a useful skill that should be encouraged.

Spending Money

All meals, accommodation, transport and programmed activities are included in the Contingent Fees advertised. Spending money is only required for snacks and souvenirs.

Participants therefore do not require any spending money to attend an International Scouting event.

If a family chooses to provide spending money for their children, Scouts Australia recommends a maximum of \$A10 per day. This is more than adequate for a drink or ice cream or other snack every day. Unused money can easily be accumulated for special and more significant souvenirs.

Neither the Australian Contingent nor the Adult Leaders travelling with the Youth Members will accept responsibility for managing the spending patterns of your child.

If at any time your child loses their Debit Card or is unable to access spending money, they need to talk with the adults at the event who can assist with alternative funds.

Travel Insurance

Scouts Australia has an extensive travel insurance policy for all members of the Contingent. A copy of the policy is available on our application system.

Flying for the First Time

For many Contingent members, travelling to an International Scouting event may be their first time on an aircraft - or at the very least, the first time travelling overseas without their family.

It is important to discuss the expectations of travel with your child before they arrive at the airport. Understanding the check-in process, security screening, luggage restrictions and quarantine requirements can be very helpful at anticipating the travel experience and avoiding any concerns.

Delays and waiting in queues are inevitable at the airport and when travelling long distances to new countries. You should reassure your child in advance that patience will be important. The Contingent Management Team will be monitoring the travel arrangements of the entire Contingent and the Troop Leaders will be helping to distract the participants with any unexpected waiting.

The allocation of the seating on the aircraft is up to the airline, they usually do this alphabetically or in the order the actual tickets were issued. Contingent members are encouraged to make new friends with the other participants seated next to them.

If your child is prone to motion sickness, it is recommended that you speak with your doctor or pharmacist to discuss strategies or medications

that may reduce the effects of air travel. This may be especially useful should the flight encounter turbulence.

Similarly, if your child has difficulties with equalising their ears with changes in pressure, this should also be discussed with your doctor to avoid any unnecessary discomfort when descending on each flight.

Passports/Visas

All participants will require a valid passport to attend an International Scouting event. Typically, the passport will require an expiry date that is at least 6 months after the date they are due to return to Australia. Any variations to this expectation will be communicated by the Contingent Leader.

Passport details are entered into the Scouts Australia On-Line Event Management System (OLEMS).

If passport details are not available at the time of application, or if a new passport is issued before departure, it is essential that updated details are added to OLEMS as soon as they are received.

If a Visa is required, you will be responsible for organising this. The Contingent Leader will provide advice in the Contingent Bulletins.

Do not leave it until the last minute to obtain a Passport or a Visa!

Purchasing of Gear

A suggested list of what to pack will be provided by the Contingent Leader in one of the Bulletins that will be emailed out in the build-up to the event departing. The suggested gear list will be very much dependent on the type of event and what time of year the event is being held. No doubt your child will have already attended local Scout camps so will already have an idea of the “core” items to pack.

The Contingent Leader will also give you guidance on purchasing a tent if this is required. Most events will provide a tent for participants to share.

Hiking Packs

Some Contingents will issue a wheeled travel bag (or similar) and a small backpack. For other events a hiking backpack may be required. The Contingent Leader will however provide clear instructions about what is provided by the Contingent and what needs to be supplied by the participant.

Sleeping Bags

The most suitable sleeping bag to take on a Contingent will be determined by where the event is to be held and the weather that is expected for the time of year.

Footwear

Sturdy walking shoes are recommended for all International Scouting events. Additional shoes for boating or other activities will be notified by the Contingent Leader.

Rain Jackets

It is highly recommended to invest in a very good quality rain jacket, especially if your child is travelling to a country that will have high rainfall whilst they are there. If you require advice on where to purchase one, please ask the Contingent Leader. In some of the larger Contingents, a rain jacket may be part of the merchandise on offer.

Hats

Widebrim hats are recommended for all International Scouting events. Some Contingents may include a hat as part of the merchandise provided. Baseball hats do not provide enough protection as most of the events will be outdoors.

If the event is being held in a cooler climate, a beanie may also be part of the merchandise available or it will be suggested that you pack one of your own.

Child Protection

Safe from Harm

The safety of all Youth Members is the highest priority of Scouts Australia.

All Contingent members should have knowledge of the content of the Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy and Prescribed Procedures.

Buddy System

When attending International Scouting events, it is a requirement that all Youth Members observe the buddy system at all times.

In other words, all Youth Members must always have at least one other Youth Member with them when outside of their designated sleeping area. This is important, even during toilet visits during the night, in case of an emergency (especially in non-English speaking countries).

Minimum Adult Requirements

All Adult Members are required to submit a current Working with Children Clearance at the time of applying to attend any event.

All Adult Members are also required to have completed online training in Child Safe Scouting.

Two-Deep Leadership

When adults are supervising and conducting Scouting activities involving Youth Members, it is important that an adult is never alone with an individual Youth Member.

Any individual conversation needing to be out of hearing, must still be conducted in sight of other members.

At least two adults should be present at all activities, except in unexpected, unusual and unforeseen circumstances. This requirement is to protect youth as well as adults and is referred to as “Two-Deep” leadership.

Exploring Cultures

Unique Experience

Scouting presents a unique experience to learn new activities from different cultures. Participants are encouraged to attempt every activity with enthusiasm no matter how different they may be compared with Australian programs.

Participants should commit to actively engaging in the entire cultural experience on offer. In doing so, every Youth Member must demonstrate respect and maturity at all times.

Parent Consent

Whenever facilities or procedures at international venues are different to Australian expectations, informed advice is provided to participants and their parents/guardians before departure (e.g. whenever separate showers for Youth Members and Adult Members are not available, whenever communal saunas or bathhouses are planned to be used as part of the program, etc).

Age of Consent

Age of Consent varies considerably from country to country. The Australian Contingent Leader will inform participants and parents/guardians of these differences and ensure that an appropriate enforcement of the most responsible rules (Australia vs overseas) is applied for the purpose of the Contingent (e.g. communication may be required when homosexuality is prohibited in a specific country, when the legal age of consent is higher than in Australia, when the drinking age is higher than in Australia, etc).

Welfare Support

Safety

The safety of all Youth Members is the highest priority of Scouts Australia.

Ensuring all participants have access to appropriate food, water and shelter is of paramount importance.

To assist our adult volunteers to support your child, it is essential that all medical details and emergency contacts are updated in the online registration system whenever a change occurs prior to departure.

Participants are also reminded to tell someone if they have a problem, are sick, or just not having a good day. Our volunteers can help your child if they tell us, we cannot help them if they don't tell us.

Medical Incidents

If a medical incident occurs, all necessary first aid will be provided to the participants.

The Australian Contingent Leader or other representatives of Scouts Australia will communicate with parents whenever a serious medical incident occurs requiring hospitalisation or medical treatment.

There is no requirement to communicate individual first aid treatments such as bandaids.

First Aid

The delivery of basic first aid is a responsibility of the Patrol. Every Patrol will have at least one qualified first aider and a suitable first aid kit available.

Every Patrol has an Adult Leader who is responsible for supervising the first aid response. If a medical incident is more severe than can be handled by a basic first aid kit, additional medical assistance will be sought within the local Sub Camp or nearest First Aid Post.

Any medical incident that requires escalation beyond the Troop will be reported to the Australian Contingent Team for continued management.

Medications

It is your responsibility as the parent/guardian to ensure that your child has a sufficient supply of any medication they need to take on a daily basis. Scouts Australia recommends talking with your doctor to confirm that the medication is allowed into the destination country. It is also a requirement that they take any prescriptions with them on the trip to ensure that replacements can be obtained should the need arise whilst overseas.

Any medications that will be required during the flight must be packed in their carry-on luggage and it will be the child's responsibility to make sure they take it when required.

You may need to help them work out what times to take the medication due to time differences, especially if the flight is a long one and it will impact on the times they usually take specific medication each day or if it needs to be taken with food.

Please ensure when completing your child's application that you inform the Contingent Leader of what the medication is and the reason your child takes it. The more detail you provide, the better prepared the Contingent will be and this can save a lot of stress and anxiety for your child and the Contingent should an incident occur while overseas.

An International Scouting event is not an occasion for your child to take a "medication holiday". The intensity of the itinerary whilst overseas and the unfamiliar routine can significantly increase the stress on your child, and maintaining normal medication intake may be critical to ensuring their safety and wellbeing.

Your child will be responsible for taking their own medication. It is therefore imperative that they understand how important it is to keep taking their medication while they are away and if they feel unwell at any time, they must inform their Troop Leader or one of the Contingent Management Team.

On larger Contingents, a dedicated Health and Welfare team will also be available to follow up with your child and ensure that any management plan is fully implemented.

If you have any concerns, please speak with the Contingent Leader well in advance of the journey to ensure appropriate management plans can be implemented.

Dietary Restrictions

The Australian Contingent has very little control over the menu provided to participants at overseas events. However, every event will have alternative foods on offer and the Australian Contingent also has the ability to source additional ingredients with sufficient advance notice.

When allergies or other dietary restrictions are reported to the Australian Contingent in their application, these requirements are notified to the event organisers so that they can cater for our participants.

If your child is not eating sufficiently, they must communicate to the adults at the event so that extra food can be provided. Letting a parent know that they are not eating enough does not resolve the issue!

If your child has a problem, they need to talk directly with their Troop Leader or the Contingent Management Team.

It is important to remember that every culture and every country will have different local foods that may be an entirely new experience for your child. Every participant is encouraged to try these new meals and maybe even find a new favourite food!

Trialling different foods at home before heading overseas is also a great strategy for expanding your child's taste palette and encouraging a behaviour of experimentation.

Research meals on the internet for the destination country and practice cooking these meals at home!

Portion size is another tactic when adapting to new foods. Encourage your child to have a small serving of new foods rather than saying no altogether. Consider mixing different flavours to disguise less popular foods. And follow the example of locals. They will always know the best meals in their local culture!

Mental Health

An International Scouting event can be a very demanding and challenging experience for all members.

Participants are away from their family and friends and are operating to a schedule that is not their normal routine. This can be a significant challenge for some members.

Participants must be reminded to drink water regularly and get adequate sleep. Youth Members and Adult Members alike need to take every opportunity for rest and relaxation to ensure they have the energy to complete any extended itinerary.

Past experience has shown that there are lots of “hidden disabilities” and the Contingent would expect any parent/guardian to fully inform them if your child suffers from any conditions.

You may think that it isn't worth mentioning as you can control it at home, or perhaps you are concerned that if you do say something, your child will then become ineligible to attend the event. Please be assured that this is simply not the case.

The reason we need to know about these kinds of special needs is so we can manage them while we are travelling with your child. It could be something as simple as your child having dyslexia and struggling to complete an arrivals card and being too embarrassed to ask an adult or perhaps even a friend to help them.

A lot of children are also very secretive if they have diabetes or epilepsy due to the fact that if they did have a medical episode in front of the rest of the Contingent they could be bullied or teased afterwards.

In reality, any perceived embarrassment can be avoided with adequate preparation if these conditions are reported to the Contingent Leader well in advance of the journey.

What's more, education of these conditions can help to normalise the experience and allow other participants to recognise symptoms and provide the early support necessary to avoid a major health incident.

Inclusion Opportunities

Accessible Events

Scouts Australia aims to ensure that every Youth Member has an enjoyable overseas experience and has great memories that they will remember for a lifetime.

Making a decision on the most suitable International Scouting event can be difficult if you have a child who has special needs.

Scouts Australia does however coordinate opportunities to a wide range of different overseas events. It is therefore important to consider which event is most suited to your child's interests, abilities and individual needs.

You may also be aware that all of the adult supporters that travel with us to overseas events are volunteers and they will not necessarily have any experience with special needs. Organisers do however strive to have different events that all Scouts can participate and enjoy regardless of their abilities. Nonetheless, some individual activities will likely have restrictions, including prior experience, minimum qualifications, or a specific age range.

The organisers of overseas events typically set a minimum participant age and the Contingent Leader has no discretion to approve exemptions from these requirements. For example, the World Scout Jamboree has a minimum age of 14 years.

When considering a particular event, parents are encouraged to contact the relevant Contingent Leader or the International Office for more information.

Wheelchairs and Mobility Aids

The Australian Contingent will do their best to accommodate any member requiring use of a wheelchair or mobility aid provided that all information is fully disclosed in the event application.

It is important to provide details of the type of wheelchair or mobility aid to be used to assist the Contingent Management Team with coordinating arrangements for flights and buses during throughout the itinerary. Our volunteers will work closely with the airlines and other transport providers to ensure all members are provided with the extra assistance they require.

Most events involve a lot of walking around the site and to and from all of the activities, and frequently includes grassed or uneven terrain. Therefore, the more information we can pass on to the event organisers, the more support we can arrange with access to the event.

Management Plan

Any members with special needs should provide a management plan to the Contingent Management Team for their reference.

A management plan could include a medication timetable that you have prepared with the help of a medical professional that will help your child and the adult volunteers to understand how to schedule medications whilst overseas.

It is very easy for any child to get very involved in all of the activities that are available, such they are distracted from taking their medication. For this reason, a documented management plan is essential to provide a clear reminder of upcoming doses.

On larger Contingents, a dedicated Health and Welfare team will also use the management plan to follow up with your child and ensure that the plan is fully implemented.

A management plan is also useful for emotional or psychological conditions. Having details of known triggers and techniques for helping your child to remain calm will assist them to enjoy the event experience. For example, this advice can sometimes reduce the severity of a panic attack if the warning signs are detected early enough.

It is important that any management plan has been trialled at home before the event.

Daily schedules frequently change at large events, and combined with the jetlag of long distance travel, this can create anxiety for some children. Ensuring your child is prepared for change is important.

Carers

Some Youth Members require a dedicated carer to fully participate in an International Scouting event.

Where a child requires a carer, contact should be established with the Contingent Leader as early as possible to discuss arrangements.

Carers are required to be a registered member of Scouts Australia, have a Working with Children Clearance and complete all mandatory training in line with all other adult volunteers.

Communication

From Your Child

Whilst your child is overseas, DON'T PANIC.

Youth Members are typically so excited by the activities on offer at the event, that they forget to write or call to their friends and family back in Australia.

Reminders from parents to post updates online is detrimental to the welfare of your child!

Over 70% of welfare incidents at recent international events involved anxiety resulting from the guilt caused when parents back at home sent messages to their child highlighting the lack of communication.

Participants suffering from these welfare incidents frequently become withdrawn from the program and/or reduce food and water intake resulting in dehydration and illness especially where there was no pre-existing concern.

The best advice is to wish your child an enjoyable event and encourage them to talk about their experiences when they return to Australia.

Problem Solving

If your child does have a problem, they need to talk directly with their Troop Leader or the Contingent Management Team.

For example, if your child is not liking the food available, they need to talk with their Troop Leader. Every event has alternative foods on offer. If your child is not eating sufficiently, they must communicate to the adults at the event so that the extra food can be provided. Letting a parent know that they are not eating enough does not resolve the issue!

If a Youth Member has lost their Debit Card or is unable to access spending money, they need to talk with the adults at the event who can assist with alternative funds.

Contingent Bulletins

The Australian Contingent will publish important information in a series of Bulletins or Newsletters.

Contingent newsletters may be issued every few months or at other convenient times.

Bulletins often provide reminders for specific actions to be completed. These tasks may include upcoming payment deadlines.

It is essential that all participants and their parents read and re-read all Contingent Bulletins when they are published and again immediately prior to departure.

Common Considerations

Communication

Many problems begin with a misunderstanding. These are best avoided by your child being open and honest and discussing what is bothering them as soon as any issues arise.

Home Sickness

Most Youth Members will feel homesick at some stage and it is important that you discuss this with your child before they depart and offer some strategies that will be able to help them deal with this whilst they are away from the family environment.

The best advice is to wish your child an enjoyable event and encourage them to talk about their experiences when they return to Australia.

Some of the common triggers are family events that come up while they are away such as family birthdays or other events the family will be doing while they are away, and the child can feel disconnected. They could even be struggling with being separated from their best friend.

If you do receive a phone call or a message via social media from your child that they are struggling and they are homesick, it is important for you to reassure them that it is perfectly normal to feel like this but as you are many miles away, they are best to talk

to one of the Adult Leaders who can then put some strategies in place to help them combat their feelings.

If your child alludes to the fact that they have been battling with this for a few days, it would be very useful for you to make contact with the Contingent Leader and brief them on the situation. They can then put the available strategies into place to support your child.

Spending Money

If at any time your child loses their Debit Card or is unable to access spending money, they need to talk with the adults at the event who can assist with alternative funds.

Loss of Photos

This is usually related to the loss of a phone. The loss of photos can be devastating to your child as they are all the memories of things that they have done whilst away (and often for many years before).

Consider ensuring that you have utilised the “cloud backup” feature of your child’s phone and that they know how to use it. By doing this, the loss of the phone (whilst not good) will not be devastating.

Loss of Personal Belongings

This is not an unusual problem on many events and the Contingents do have processes in place to help avoid a lot of anxiety for the person who has lost something.

Mobile phones unfortunately are very easy to misplace and there is a lot of grief from a child who has taken many photos of their trip using their phone and then the phone is lost.

Rest assured, we can assist in sharing photos to your child and assist them if they need to contact you advising that the phone has been misplaced.

It is suggested to avoid sending your child to any international event with a "state of the art" mobile phone. As we always reiterate at all our Orientation Days to all the participants, please do not bring anything on the trip that you cannot afford to lose.

Participants are reminded not to bring valuable items to any overseas event. No responsibility will be accepted by the Australian Contingent for any electronic devices. "If you can't afford to lose it, don't bring it!"

Sickness/Injuries

Rest assured that if your child gets sick or injured on the trip, they will be well looked after. Scouts Australia has prescribed procedures established to ensure all participants receive appropriate care for all emergencies.

Every Contingent has experienced First Aiders who can assist with scrapes and cuts and other basic first aid injuries that happen.

If your child is required to attend a hospital, you would be notified as soon as practical after consideration of time differences. The event hosts will have procedures for transporting your child to hospital should this be required and they will be accompanied by Adult Members from the Contingent.

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ'S

Can our child travel independently?

Independent Travel is strongly discouraged as the event experience starts from being dropped at the airport in Australia and finishes when you pick your child up at the same airport.

In very rare situations the Contingent Leader may agree to independent travel but this is on a case by case basis and must be for both directions with a direct relative present in the destination country on both arrival and departure. One way independent travel is not allowed.

Can we visit our child at the event?

This depends entirely on the organisers of the event. Whilst most events do allow visitors, there may be restrictions on the days or where you can visit on the site.

Will my child be left alone at any stage?

When attending International Scouting events, it is a requirement that all Youth Members observe the buddy system at all times.

Youth Members must always have at least one other Youth Member with them at all times.

Does my child get to choose what Patrol they are put into?

No. They will not be able to choose which Patrol they will be allocated, however Contingents will try to put at least two youth from the same Scout Group together if at all possible.

How is it worked out who my child will be sharing a tent with?

Each Patrol will be allocated enough tents for all Patrol members to share. Youth Members from the Patrol (of the same gender) will normally be able to select their tent partners.

If siblings are travelling together, can they share the same tent and be in the same Patrol?

Whilst Contingents will try to put at least two youth from the same Scout Group together if at all possible, family members are usually allocated to different Patrols.

Can my child sit next to a friend on the plane?

The allocation of the seating on the aircraft is up to the airline, they usually do this alphabetically or in the order the actual tickets were issued. Contingent members are encouraged to make new friends with the other participants seated next to them.

What happens to my child's passport when they get to the event?

Normally passports are collected from the participants (including adults) on arrival at each location and are stored securely by the Contingent Management Team.

The passports are handed back when required to transit airports or country borders. They will be recollected each time until arrival back into Australia.

Whilst your child has possession of their passport it is strongly recommended that they ALWAYS keep it in the top pocket of their uniform shirt. They must not put it into the seat pocket. Usually the Flight Leader will ask to see everyone's passport as they disembark to ensure that no passport has been left behind.

Can our child self-administer their own medication?

If your child self administers their own medication at home then this would be encouraged at the event.

If my child loses their medication on the trip, what happens?

The Contingent Team will coordinate for replacement medication to be supplied where required. This is why it is imperative that your child travels with their prescriptions.

Will my child need any particular vaccinations?

With regard to Vaccinations and Immunisations, individuals are strongly encouraged to seek medical advice from their own medical practitioner.

Should a vaccination ever be mandatory for a specific country, this will be communicated by the Contingent Leader.

What is an Agoonoree?

An Agoonoree is a camp dedicated to Scouts with special needs.

The word "Agoonoree" is an extension of "Agoon", a term originally coined by Scouts from The Netherlands and derived from the Greek word, "agon", which means a struggle or special effort to work for something special. The first Agoonoree was held in The Netherlands in 1949 and the second Agoonoree was held in the United Kingdom in 1958.

The Agoonoree provides an opportunity for ALL Scouts and Guides, and especially those with special needs, to gather and enjoy a wide range of activities and make new friends.



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