



## **PURPOSE**

Safe Camping requires that the Activity Leader has considered the following requirements and implemented these best practices in both their planning for and in the implementation of the Activity.

The provisions contained in this Practice Note, should be read together with SCOUTS South Africa's Safe Scouting Policy.

Please note that Practice Notes and any appendices associated with the Safe Scouting Policy are operational in nature and may change from time to time as required. Any changes will be communicated through the structures of SCOUTS South Africa, and the most up to date version will always be available on the national website.

## **PROVISIONS**

### **1.1 General Rules**

- 1.1.1 All camping activities require an approved permit and suitably qualified and trained Activity Leader.
- 1.1.2 All camps require a camp programme to have been prepared in advance. A draft of this programme must be submitted with the application for an Activity Permit.
- 1.1.3 Any camp requires in the planning to identify the nearest hospital or clinic and a means to transport the participants there in the event of an emergency.
- 1.1.4 The menu planning for a camp should take account of the welfare of the participants, their dietary or cultural requirements as well as the resources to prepare the proposed menu items safely and hygienically.
- 1.1.5 The planning must ensure that all of the necessary equipment for the safe execution of any planned programme activities is available and in working order.
- 1.1.6 Separate accommodation (in either tents or rooms) is to be provided for Youth Members of different genders.
- 1.1.7 Adults may not share tents or sleep in the same room with Youth Members of whom they are not the parent or legal guardian. In the event of everyone sharing a large hall, adults should not sleep in close proximity to Youth members.
- 1.1.8 Where a Camping activity (i.e. Troop camp or similar overnight activity) includes members of more than one gender, there should be at least one male and female adult present at all time. These adults are not required to be either warranted or the Activity Leader.
- 1.1.9 Where a Youth Member is the responsible leader for a Camping activity involving more than one gender (i.e. a Patrol Camp or similar overnight activity), and there are no adults present, then the parent / legal guardian of each participant must be made aware of this and must give their consent for the activity to take place.



## **1.2 Meerkat Camping**

- 1.2.1. Meerkats may only engage in camping activities when a parent or authorised adult is present with them for the duration of the Activity.
- 1.2.2 Meerkats are allowed to participate as a day visitor to other Branch Camping Activities in the presence of their parent(s), or legal guardian.
- 1.2.3 Each Meerkat Den Camp must be limited to a maximum of 2 nights away including travel time.
- 1.2.4 Each Meerkat may attend a maximum of 2 Den Camps in a calendar year, provided the total number of nights away should not exceed 4 and there is at least 4 weeks between camps.
- 1.2.5 The Activity Leader of a Den Camp including Meerkats must hold a current Meerkat Camping License. If the Activity Leader is not the Warranted Den or Assistant Den Scouter, then another Scouter who is a Warranted Den or Assistant Den Scouter must be present at all times during the Activity.
- 1.2.6 The venue selected for a Den Camp including Meerkats must have suitable, clean permanent shelters or weatherproof marquees large enough to accommodate all Meerkats and family members in case of wet weather.
- 1.2.7 In the case where accommodation is under canvas, each family should be accommodated in their own tent.
- 1.2.8 In the case where accommodation is in permanent structures, these should provide adequate space for each family to sleep separately. Consideration must be given to the provision of suitable ablutions for the duration of the Activity.
- 1.2.9 All campsites to be utilised for Den Camps, including Meerkats, must be approved by the Support Team Member Meerkat programme assigned to assist the DC or the RTC Meerkats, as part of the specialist endorsement of the Activity Permit.

## **1.3 Cub Camping and Pack Holidays**

- 1.3.1 Each Cub Camp or Pack Holiday must be limited to a maximum of 3 nights away including travelling time.
- 1.3.2 At the request of the Activity Leader, and with the approval of the Support Team Member Cub Programme assigned to support the Group, a 7-year-old may attend a Cub Camp or Pack Holiday, where this is considered to be of benefit to the individual concerned.
- 1.3.3 A Cub who is under 8 years old may not normally attend Cub Camps or Pack Holidays, except as a day visitor and with the approval of either the Activity Leader or the Cub Camping License Holder and only in the presence of their Parent or Guardian.
- 1.3.4 A Cub who is at least 8 years of age may attend any number of Cub Camps or Pack Holidays, provided that the total number of nights away in a calendar year does not exceed 6 and there is at least 4 weeks between camps.
- 1.3.5 A Cub who has attained the age of 10 years may spend a maximum of 8 nights away in a calendar year.



- 1.3.6 The Activity Leader of any Cub Camp or Pack Holiday must hold a current Cub Camping License. If the Activity Leader is not the Warranted Pack or Assistant Pack Scouter, then another Scouter who is a Warranted Pack or Assistant Pack Scouter must be present at all times during the Activity.
- 1.3.7 There must be at least one Adult (which includes the Activity Leader) present for every six Cubs. These may be a Member of SSA, parents or adult family members who have agreed to assist for the duration of the camp.
- 1.3.8 Where Cubs are to be accommodated in tents, the venue must also have suitable clean, permanent shelters, or weatherproof marquees, large enough to accommodate all the Cubs, overnight in camp, in case of wet weather.
- 1.3.9 In the case of Pack Holidays, Cubs must be accommodated in suitable sleeping facilities like a Scout Hall, church hall, school, or other suitable building. Consideration must be given to the type of bedding provided, and the availability of suitable ablutions for the duration of the activity.
- 1.3.10 All campsites for Cub Camps must be approved the Support Team Member Cub Programme assigned to assist the DC or the RTC Cubs, as part of the specialist endorsement of the Activity Permit.

#### **1.4 Mixed Cub and Scout Camping**

- 1.4.1 Only with the specific permission of the SGL and upon the request of the PS, may Cubs be allowed to camp at the same time and place as Scouts.
- 1.4.2 All of the requirements for both Scout and Cub Camps, each with their own Activity Leader, are to be met for any camp involving both Cubs and Scouts.
- 1.4.3 The two camps will normally be run as separate Cub and Scout Camps, but with some common facilities and activities.

#### **1.5 Scout Troop Camps**

- 1.5.1 Troop Camps require the presence of a Warranted Scouter, with a 'full' rather than a Limited Warrant.

#### **1.6 Patrol Camps**

- 1.6.1 A Patrol Camp requires that the Patrol Leader has completed Discoverer and the following Challenges for 1<sup>st</sup> Class: Living Outdoors and Safety Awareness.
- 1.6.2 A Patrol Camp must have a means of contacting assistance and emergency transport should this be required.

#### **1.7 Family Camping**

- 1.7.1 Although Family Camping falls outside the normal programme of Scouting Activities, it is often a useful way to build camaraderie and spirit within the Scout Group.



1.7.2 Groups intending to arrange a Family Camp should note the following;

- Family Camps are governed by SSA Policies whenever there is a Warranted Scouter and families of other Members present, or the Camp is held on SSA property.
- The general rules for safe camping contained in section 1 apply, where applicable. For example, if families are responsible for their own catering and equipment, then those applicable rules do not apply.
- The Scouter responsible for the planning and running of the Family Camp, is required to apply for the Activity Permit. If this is the SGL, then the DC will review and approve the Activity Permit.
- While there is no specific Activity Permit for a Family Camp, only one Activity Permit is required to be completed, and not an Activity Permit per branch participating in the camp. It is recommended that the designated Activity Leader apply for the Activity Permit using either the Pack Activity Permit Application Form or the Troop Activity Permit Application Form.

1.7.3 No Meerkat, Cub, Scout or sibling will be allowed to attend a Family Camp without a parent / legal guardian or authorised adult family member being in attendance to accept full responsibility for their actions and safety.

1.7.4 The person responsible for the safety of Youth Members or any siblings who are not yet members, remains the parent / legal guardian. It is recommended that the Activity Leader makes this point clear in any communication or notices that are sent out before the Family Camp takes place.