

## **Dear Parents and potential Venturers,**

We at 1<sup>st</sup> Ermington would like to welcome you to the Venturer Section. The purpose of this letter is to explain how we run things here at Ermington and to get you “in the loop” with our Unit.

### **How Venturers Works**

Venturers are a section of the Scout Association of NSW for 14 – 18 year olds. Venturing is about learning through experience. The Unit works on the premise that youth members of this age are developing independence and identity. As members of the Unit, Venturers have access to a range of opportunities within a structured environment. The main aspects of this environment are an opportunity to create and participate in events and achieve personal goals in a way which assists with the development of identity and independence while cultivating personal habits of leadership and success. The main aspects of the system are:

**1. The Scout Law and Promise and the policy and rules of Scouts NSW and Scouts Australia.**

These provide a context for the operation of the Unit and the activities covered by the Unit.

**2. The Unit Constitution**

The Unit's basic rules are set out in its constitution which all prospective and current members must agree to. This constitution is a basic agreement for individual participation in the Unit and must be accepted by all members prior to joining.

**3. Unit Council**

The Unit Council is a group of Venturers elected from within the Unit. They meet most months to manage the Unit. Venturing is very much about developing the Venturer's skills in running their own program.

**4. Unit Program**

The Venturers design their own program which must include a mix of fun activities, fundraising, the award scheme, adventurous activities and participation in events and opportunities organised by the Scout Association at a range of levels.

Depending on the level an event is run at, other Venturers and Scouting people will be involved in activities. For example, our Unit is part of the Greater Western Sydney (GWS) Region which runs from Ermington to Blackheath. Region activities could involve Venturers from Units anywhere in the GWS Region.

Most activities are however run at the Unit level and are detailed in the Unit Program on our website.

**5. Leaders and Leadership**

Venturer Leaders are volunteers who support the Venturers in the running of their Unit. The Unit runs strongly along mentoring lines under the guidance of the Leaders who have two functions:

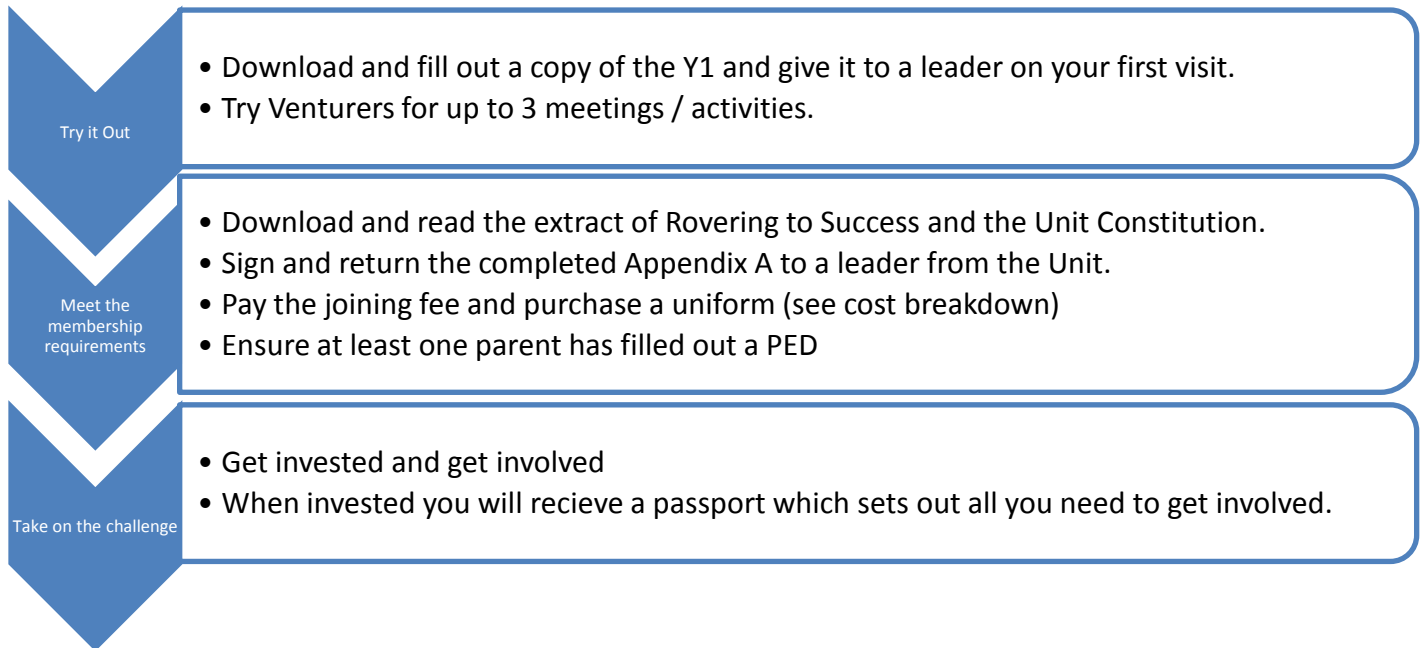
1. To facilitate and encourage youth members in achieving / doing the activities they want to achieve in a safe, appropriate and legal way.
2. To manage, and where necessary, veto decisions and actions of individuals or the Unit where they are inappropriate in a Scouting context.

Leaders predominately work through the Unit Chair and members of the Unit Council. Supervision is based on a mix of trust, responsibility and direct involvement. Different levels of direct supervision take place in different contexts. For an activity to go ahead, Leaders must be satisfied about the quality of organisation of each activity.

## The Venturer Award Scheme and Adventurous Activities

All Venturers are encouraged to participate in the Venturer Award Scheme. There are three stages in the award scheme which is explained on our website. In most cases, Venturers already have pastimes which can be used to complete some activity areas. Participation in the Unit program will complete others. Please have projects submitted to Unit Council on a V1 form (see our website) before the activity is started. Venturers also have the opportunity to participate and become certified in Bushwalking, Rock, Water, Alpine, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid and Flight Activity Areas.

### How to Join our Unit



### Participation

Our program is posted on our website. When we are involved in activities away from the hall or outside our regular time we must have an A1 form which is signed by the Venturers parent. These are on the website beside the Activity details and contain details of the activity. The A1 sets out your consent for your son or daughter to participate in the activity.

### Parent Involvement

In order to facilitate the involvement of our Venturers and maximise the opportunities available to them we need you to make yourself available to help us with transport and/or minimal supervision contexts like fundraising. If all parents pitch in and help out we can make this an irregular occurrence which benefits the greatest number. Please indicate on the Y1 form if you are prepared to help with either or both types of activities.

### Contact Us

Our website address is <http://www.ermingtonscouts.asn.au/>. Once there select the Venturers tab and navigate to the pane marked INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS.

The VSL is Chris Lummis (known as Blue Tongue). He can be contacted via email at [venturers@ermingtonscouts.asn.au](mailto:venturers@ermingtonscouts.asn.au) or on 0430 175 382.

### Contact You

To make it easy to keep you informed, please provide us with up to date contact details on our Units Y1 form.