



## Sun Protection Policy

### PURPOSE

An essential component of the Scout program is participation in outdoor activities and, as a consequence, there is a risk of over exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UV) and sunburn. The purpose of this policy is to minimize the risk associated with exposure to the sun as part of Scouts Victoria's duty of care to all those involved in its programs.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to Leaders and Adult and Youth Members, as well as employees, volunteers and contractors, when participating in a Scouts Victoria event or activity. Sun protection measures should be used for all outdoor activities whenever UV levels are three or higher – typically from **mid-August to end of April**. Sun protection measures should also be considered for snow and water activities where reflection increases UV exposure. Personal circumstances of members should be taken into consideration when applying this policy.

### CONTEXT

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Exposure to the sun's UV during childhood and adolescence is associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life.

### POLICY STATEMENT

It is Scouts Victoria policy that all those participating in outdoor Scouting activities and events be aware of the need for adequate sun protection and avoid too much UV exposure by using a combination of sun protection measures. Leaders are to encourage and support Youth Members develop independent sun protection skills.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

#### *Person in charge (of activity)*

- To assist with the implementation of this policy, leaders are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the free [SunSmart app](#) or at <[sunsmart.com.au](http://sunsmart.com.au)>.
- As part of the planning process, assess the availability of shade and, where necessary, provide temporary shelter.
- Advise all participants in the activity of the need to bring appropriate sun protection items such as headwear, sunglasses, protective clothing and sunscreen.
- Make sure sunscreen is available during the activity.
- Monitor the use of protective measures by participants during the activity, especially their use by Youth Members, and regularly reinforced and promote 'SunSmart' messages.

#### *All participants in an outdoor Scouting activity*

- Bring and use appropriate sun protection items including headwear, sunglasses, protective clothing and sunscreen.

#### *Leaders and Adult Members*

- Set an example to Youth Members of appropriate 'SunSmart' behaviours.

## **Event Organiser**

- Ensure that any clothing merchandise for an event is SunSmart and has appropriate UV protection.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Provision of Shade**

- The availability of shade is to be considered when planning outdoor activities. Where it is likely that insufficient shade is available, and it is practical to do so, temporary shelters are to be provided.
- Shade or temporary shelters are to be provided where there is expected to be queuing or waiting.
- Where possible, outdoor activities should be conducted in the shade.

### **Protective Clothing**

- All Youth Members and adults are to wear a hat that protects their face, neck and ears (for example, a broad brimmed or legionnaire hat) whenever they are outside in the sun. Where it is not safe or practical to do so, other protection must be provided.
- All Youth Members and adults are to wear suitable protective clothing when outside in the sun (for example, collared shirts, not singlets).
- When swimming, Youth Members and adults are to wear suitable protective clothing (for example, rash vests or t-shirts and shorts).
- Any official Scout merchandise (e.g. for jamborees or other major events) should be SunSmart and have appropriate UV protection. T-shirts should have collars and sleeves and hats should be provided.
- Where practical, close fitting, wrap-around sunglasses should be used.<sup>1</sup>

### **Sunscreen**

- Youth Members are to provide their own SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum sunscreen for outdoor activities.
- The person in charge of the activity must also supply SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum sunscreen for the use of Youth Members and adults.
- Sunscreen should be applied 20 mins before going outdoors and re-applied every two hours if outdoors.<sup>2</sup>
- Leaders are to actively remind Youth Members to apply sunscreen at regular intervals and monitor the use of sunscreen.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**SunSmart:** *Best practice for sun protection as per Cancer Council of Victoria (see below)*

**Leader:** An adult holding a Certificate of Adult Leadership in the Scout Movement.

**Adult Member and Youth Member:** As defined by 'Policy 3.1 Members' of Policy and Rules 2014 (National Council of the Scout Association of Australia).

**Event organiser:** Leader in charge of a Scouting event.

**Hat:** A wide brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat that shades the face, neck and ears.

**Protective clothing:** clothing made from densely woven fabric that covers as much skin as possible e.g. covers chest and shoulders – not singlet tops and includes t-shirts or rashies for swimming

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<sup>1</sup> The Cancer Council recommends that Sunglasses should meet the Australian Standard AS:1067

<sup>2</sup> The Cancer Council recommends 1 tsp of sunscreen per limb for proper application.

**Shade:** This can be natural (e.g. trees with dense foliage), built (e.g. verandah or rotunda) or temporary (e.g. umbrella or tent)

**Sunscreen:** SPF 30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen.

**Sunglasses:** Wrap-around style and meet the Australia Standard (AS1067)

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS, REFERENCES**

Extreme Weather Events Policy

The Cancer Council of Victoria's 'SunSmart' website ([www.sunsmart.com.au](http://www.sunsmart.com.au)).

## **ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments to this policy.

## **PROCEDURE OWNER**

State Commissioner Risk and Safety. Email: <[sc.risk@vicscouts.asn.au](mailto:sc.risk@vicscouts.asn.au)>.