

SKI TOURING

State Leader, Ski Touring – Roger Harrop, state.skitouring@scoutsvictoria.com.au

The State Ski Touring Team exists for several complementary purposes:

- To provide Scouts and Venturers opportunities to learn snowcraft and safe travel on snow and ice
- To support Scout Groups either in the planning and/or technical leadership of their own ski-touring trips
- To encourage Leaders of all Scouting Sections to develop their activity skills to lead ski touring parties
- To provide training opportunities for development and assessment of snowcraft and ski-touring skills
- To provide a pool of experienced Ski-touring Activity Leaders, across Victoria, for advice and support
- Act as Examiners for Ski tour Adventurous Activity Proposals within Venturer & Queen's Scout Award Schemes

Undertaking Ski touring Activities for Awards

Venturers who wish to conduct a ski tour, snowshoe hike or snow walk as their Queen's Scout Award Scheme Adventurous Activities Expedition need only have the Participant Qualification. However, the examiner must be a suitably experienced Activity Leader qualified to the level appropriate to the location and duration of the expedition proposed. Ski touring team members are prepared to act as examiners to Venturers wishing to undertake snow-based activities for Outdoors or Expeditions Awards.

A few "CAUTIONS" associated with Scouting Ski-tour Activities

The State Ski Touring Team does not recommend the Mt Feathertop, The Razorback, Mt Bogong or The Bluff areas for ski tours, other than with one or more Level 3 qualified ski tour Leaders and Scout-to-Leader ratios that constitute a very strong party.

The Ski Touring Team website

The Scouts Victoria website includes a listing of ski touring events in the coming year under Activities and Events > Activities > Ski Touring > Events, with their details and any related documents. It also has a number of resources under the Resources page, such as driving in alpine conditions, risk analysis, weather forecast sources and equipment available for loan.

Leader Skill Requirements for Undertaking Ski Touring Trips in Scouting

No Ski-tour Leader Qualification is required for Resort-based Trips for snowplay, tobogganing, or downhill skiing within an alpine resort boundary.

Recommended Leader/Participant ratios:

- One Section Leader or parent for every five (and part thereof) participants
- No ski-tour qualified Leader required is required to be in attendance

If a group intends to ski beyond snow-play areas or the resort boundary the organising Leader must:

- Be currently qualified to at least Level 1 Ski Touring Leader standard; and
- Undertake a formal Risk Assessment of the activity proposed (being particularly conscious of his or her ability to recognise and assess the risks) and
- If in any doubt, refer to the State Leader Ski Touring:
 - i) to discuss what you intend and to provide some technical input into the planning process, and/or
 - ii) to request a qualified ski-tour Leader to assist in the trip planning, and/or
 - iii) to participate within the trip as an extra Leader, supplying on-snow technical and snowcraft skills



Approaching Stirling Summit

Leader Qualifications for Ski Touring Trips

Four levels of Leader Technical Skill Qualification which are relevant to Adventurous Ski-Touring Activities; all of which are available to both adult and youth members. The qualifications levels are outlined below.

Participant Supplementary Qualification (Basic Skiing Skills)

This provides a Scouts Australia qualification in the skills of skiing and is available to adult and youth members 12 years and older. The training offered is in basic cross-country skiing technique allowing safe over snow travel. Scout and Venturer Leaders with substantial on-snow experience can have their prior learning and/or current competencies recognised, while new Leaders can be trained to a basic level of competence on one of the Basic Skiing Skills days.

*Note: The following higher levels of Scouting-recognised qualifications in ski touring leadership within Australian alpine areas, apply to the Adult Leader in Charge.
(Youth members 14.5 years and older may apply to have technical skills to these levels of competency but cannot be recognised as an Adventurous Activity Leader until the age of 18 years (an SIS requirement).)*

Level 1 – Restricted Day Ski Tour Leader

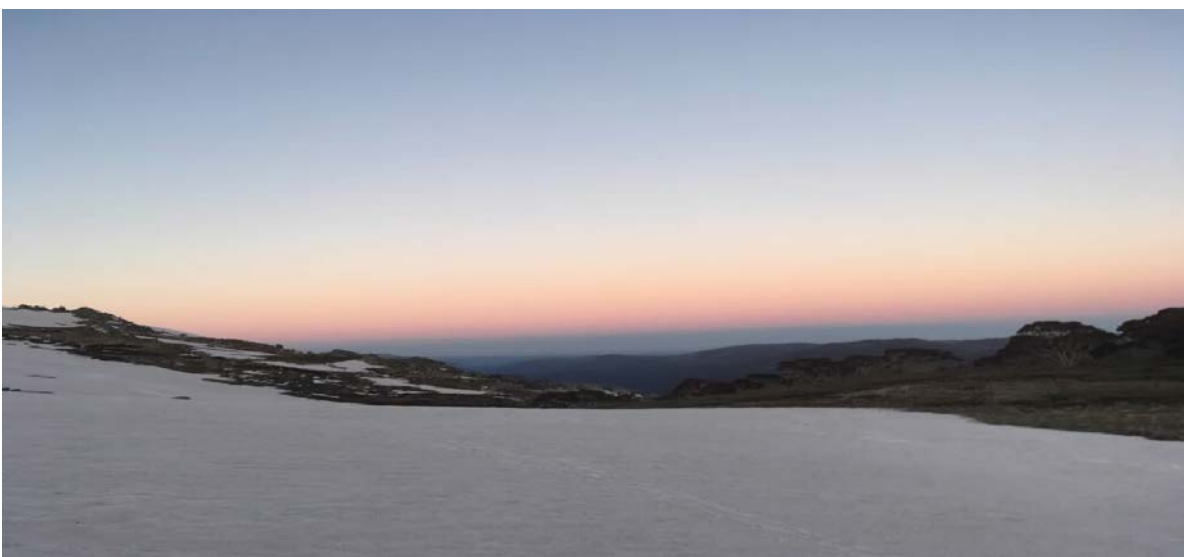
- Allowed to plan and lead single day tours on marked trails in patrolled areas during daylight hours. *(Lake Mountain, Mt Buller, Mt Stirling, St Gwinear, Mt Baw Baw, Mt Hotham/Dinner Plain, Mt Buffalo, Falls Creek)*
- The recommended leader-to-participant ratios for ski-tours to these areas are one Level 1 ski-tour qualified Leader per Party; plus one Section Leader or snow-experienced parent for every five (or part) participants.

Level 2 – Day Ski Tour/Restricted Overnight Leader

- Allowed to plan, lead and manage ski tours:
 - of one day's duration in non-patrolled areas during daylight hours.
 - of two days (one night's) duration in patrolled areas or immediately beyond the resort boundary. *(JB Plain/Paw Paw Plain, Heathy's Spur area, Mt Stirling, Lake Mountain, St Gwinear, Mt Baw Baw)*
- The recommended leader-to-participant ratios for ski-tours to these areas are one Level 2 ski-tour qualified Leader per party; plus one Section Leader or snow-experienced parent for every five (or part) participants.

Level 3 – Overnight Ski Tour Leader

- Allowed to plan, lead and manage ski tours of more than two days duration in non-patrolled areas. *(Baw Baw plateau, Mt Loch, The Razorback, Pretty Valley area, Bogong High Plains, The Fainters, Mt Feathertop, Mt Bogong, The Bluff)*
- The recommended leader-to-participant ratios for ski-tours to these areas are at least one Level 3 ski-tour qualified Leader per party; plus one Section Leader or snow-experienced parent for every five participants.



Evening Light

Ski Touring Leadership Courses

Pre-requisite Skills: Prior attendance at one of the Basic Skiing Skills (XC Introductory) days or demonstrable on-snow experience are necessary to attend any ski-tour Leader training course.

Remaining Current: Ski Touring Leaders are required to keep a log of touring trips for re-accreditation every three years and must continue to be active in ski-touring to remain current and be re-accredited at the level of competence trained and/or qualified for.

Level 1 – Ski Touring Leader (Basic) Course cost: \$25

One day on-snow training and assessment - designed to cover ski touring practice and group management, over and above simple skiing techniques. This level of Leader Qualification can be undertaken in two ways.

- Attendance at a start-of-season scheduled training day as a group skills-building exercise - focusing on planning of on-snow activities, ski and snowshoe-based mobility, group-management on-snow and risk management.

Individuals attending the training day are required to bring or hire their own skis/stocks/boots, to travel to the location and cover any resort entry charges and trail-head fees. Bring everything you would need for a day in the snow, including hat, sunnies, sunblock, spare gloves, water, high-energy nibbles and your lunch too.

- Attending as a Leader and demonstrating the required skill levels on a XC Intro training day, on ski trips arranged as part of your own Scout or Venturer programs, or at the IGLUTE Introduction to Snow camping weekend in early August.

Level 2 – Ski Touring Leader (Intermediate) scheduled in consultation with candidates. Course cost: \$50

Two consecutive days training on-snow with snow-camping, scheduled as ski-tours consisting of youth members led by the trainee Leader, accompanied by one or more State Ski touring Team members. These training and assessment weekends will be scheduled in consultation with individual Leaders who express interest in gaining a Level 2 qualification.

Alternatively, adult members who display the necessary skills in the course of scheduled on-snow activities can be invited to apply for a Ski Tour Leader qualification, subject to providing evidence of suitable experience.

Level 3 – Ski Touring Leader (Advanced) Scheduled in consultation with candidates. Course cost: \$50

To obtain the Level 3 qualification, extensive experience in a variety of snow country and conditions is required, assessed via a log of trips undertaken plus an observed assessment of ski touring and snowcraft skills over several ski trips.

The Intermediate and Advanced Practical Weekends are conducted as ski-tour trips led by the Ski-tour Leader being assessed, accompanied by one or more State Ski Touring Team members and enable an assessment of the Leader's ability to help their youth members to learn skiing and snowcraft, and manage a group of youth on a ski tour with differing degrees of experience and difficulty of terrain.



Settled into camp..

Scheduled Ski Touring Events for 2020

Date	Duration	Event Description	Location	Cost
Sat 11 th July	Daytrip	Intro to XC skiing	Lake Mountain	\$15 per youth
Sat 18 th - 19 th July	2 days - 1overnight	Gwinear Snowcamp	St Gwinear	\$15 per youth
Sun 19 th July	Daytrip	Intro to XC skiing	St Gwinear	\$15 per youth
Sun 19 th July	Daytrip	Intro to XC skiing	Mt Buffalo	\$15 per youth
Sun 26 th July	Daytrip	Intro to XC skiing	Lake Mountain	\$15 per youth
Fri 7 th - Sun 9 th Aug	2 days - 2 overnight	IGLUTE Snowcamp	Mt Stirling	\$50 per youth
Fri 14 th -Sun 16 th Aug	2 days - 2 overnight	Over the Dam wall	Heathys Spur area	\$15 per youth
Fri 21 st - Sun 23 rd Aug	2 days - 2 overnight	The Plains snowcamp	Paw Paw or JB Plain	\$15 per youth
Sat 29 th -Sun 30 th Aug	2 days - 1 overnight	Gwinear Snowcamp	St Gwinear	\$15 per youth
Fri 28 th - Sun 30 th Aug	2 days - 2 overnight	Pretty Valley Basecamp	via Falls Creek & McKay Road	\$15 per youth
Fri 4 th - Sun 6 th Sep	2 days - 2 overnight	High Snowcamp	Mt Stirling GGS Area	\$15 per youth

NOTE: We may ultimately need to vary dates depending on demand, prevailing snow situation or weather conditions.

As we can only accommodate groups able to provide their own transport & accompanying Leaders/Adult helpers, Leaders or their delegates should express their group's intention to attend to state.skitouring@scoutsvictoria.com.au on the *Scout Ski Touring Activity 2020 APPLICATION FORM* at Vicscouts > Activities & Events > Activities > Ski touring > Events The (unpublished) Registration Link for the event will be forwarded to the organising leader to pass through to the youth members planning to attend, to enable them to register individually.

Costs of Skiing Skills Training Days: \$15 per youth participant as cost recovery for our team member's attendance.

Scouting groups attending any of the skiing skills development days will need to:

- These skills days are designed to teach basic skiing technique and staying comfortable/safe on-snow.
- Bring everything you would need for a day in the snow: including hat, sunnies, sunblock, spare gloves, water, high-energy nibblies and your lunch too.
- Hire your skis, boots and stocks or snowshoes en route to or at the training location (usually \$30-40pp per day)
- Come as a self-contained group in your own vehicle & snow chains – we do not provide transport for individuals.
- pay the resort-entry fees (around \$55 per vehicle) at the resort entry gate (except at St Gwinear or at JB Plain or Paw Paw Plain - both between Hotham and Dinner Plain resort where entry is free)

Visit: www.scoutsvictoria.com.au/activities-events/activities/ski-touring/