



# Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

## Guidance for our volunteers

Scouts Australia are deeply saddened and share our condolences at the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Head of State of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Royal Patron of Scouts Australia. Scouts in Australia and in all Commonwealth countries mourn her loss and commemorate the legacy of her service.

Scout Groups, Districts, Regions and Branches should consider appropriate communications in line with the Australian national plans.

## Scouts Australia communications

Communication messaging at this time will be thankful, respectful and measured. Content will focus on commemorating her outstanding example of service, encouragement and kindness to young people. It should also focus on her positive legacy for the future, in supporting so many young people to gain skills for life.

The Scouts Australia website [www.scouts.com.au](http://www.scouts.com.au) will soon share a video tribute to Her Majesty. This can be shared and linked to from other Scout websites and communications.

The Chief Commissioner of Australia will also write to the Governor-General and Chief Scout of Australia to extend his condolences on behalf of all Scouts in Australia.

The homepage of [www.scouts.com.au](http://www.scouts.com.au) will be updated with a background colour palette and image choice that is appropriately respectful whilst avoiding any images of celebration or jubilation that might feel at odds with the official period of mourning.

Scouts Australia social media channels will pause all planned content so that new activities and programs are promoted after the mourning period. For the next 10 business days, Scouts Australia social content will recognise the support of the Queen and her contribution to Scouts and public life.

All other planned communication campaigns to the public or members will be paused as we focus on communications responding to the Royal changes, unless related to essential topics of safety and child protection.



## Supporting your members

Wherever the Australian flag is on display at Scouting venues, that flag must be flown at half-mast following the announcement of death until the day of the funeral.

Our Patron would not have wanted young people to miss out on skills for life. Where it feels appropriate, it is encouraged that planned experiences for young people continue, adding moments of reflection to activities so they can be delivered in a respectful way.

Careful consideration should be given to the types of events and activities that go ahead, especially on the day of the announcement of her death, and on the day of the funeral. The decision is a local one and should reflect local circumstances and the public mood.

Your members may appreciate reassurance on the appropriate local activity during the mourning period in the immediate days following her death.

Those volunteers involved in running activities with young people during this time should consider the impact the news may have on some people and emotions that may be triggered in young people.

Branches may wish to playback personal memories of Her Majesty The Queen supporting Scouts through your communications with members.

States and Territories will likely organise local books of condolence which may present an opportunity for youth members to support, alongside fellow uniformed youth organisations.

## Scout Promise

There are two versions of the Australian Scout Promise. Individuals may select which version they wish to make.

On the day following the death of the Queen, the new King will swear an "accession declaration" oath. From this day onwards, there will be a single change required in the Australian Scout Promise from "Queen" to "King" as shown below.

<i>On my honour</i>	OR	<i>On my honour, I promise</i>
<i>I promise that I will do my best</i>		<i>To do my best,</i>
<i>To do my duty to my God, and</i>		<i>To be true to my spiritual beliefs,</i>
<i>To the <b>King</b> of Australia,</i>		<i>To contribute to my community</i>
<i>To help other people,</i>		<i>and our world,</i>
<i>And to live by the Scout Law.</i>		<i>To help other people,</i>
		<i>And to live by the Scout Law.</i>

This change to the Australian Scout Promise acknowledges the change in the Head of State of the Commonwealth of Australia and remains unaffected by the confirmation of any Royal Patronage.

## Royal Patronage

The Scout Association UK is engaged with the Royal Household to reinforce the strong desire for continuity and respect for tradition.

The announcement of any Royal Patronage would be likely to occur in the five business days after the official mourning period concludes.

Many Scouting venues would have a photo of the Queen on display, and it is suggested that this is retained until the new Patron of Scouts Australia is confirmed. Should a Royal Patronage be accepted, it is anticipated that official images of the King would be available from the electorate office of local Senators and Members of the House of Representatives as 'nationhood materials' through the "Constituents' Request Program".



## **Queen's Scout Award**

Any Venturer Scout Peak Awards that are already recorded as approved at the Branch will retain the name of Queen's Scout Award, irrespective of whether they have been presented to the recipient.

The processing of all new Queen's Scout Award applications are now paused.

The renaming of the Award will be confirmed upon confirmation of the next Patron of Scouts Australia. The processing of Venturer Scout Peak Awards under the new name will resume on the first business day after the announcement of the next Patron.

The existing Queen's Scout Award emblem is a stylised image of the St Edward's Crown that is traditionally used for the coronation of British monarchs. Should a Royal Patronage be accepted, and should the award therefore become the King's Scout Award, the emblem will remain the same.

## **Contingency**

Should a Royal Patronage be denied, Scouts Australia will need to identify a new Patron for the national association. In this situation, a replacement name for the Venturer Scout Peak Award will be required, and a new badge emblem will need to be designed.

## **Media enquiries**

Please direct any media enquiries to our media line 03 8543 9898.

*Approved by: Aaron Wardle, International Commissioner of Australia, 9 September 2022*

