



Venturer Unit Council

Kurri Kurri Unit Constitution



1. Name

The name of the Venturer Unit shall be Kurri Kurri Venturer Unit and shall be referred to in this constitution as “the Unit”.

2. Objectives and Aims

The objectives and aims of the Unit are to:

- a) Provide unit members with friendship and a sense of belonging.
- b) Provide experience in working with a purposeful group and the opportunity to exercise leadership.
- c) Provide appealing activities designed to cater for the needs, interests and capabilities of members.

3. Membership and Membership Qualification

The Unit is open to all males and females between 14 and 18 years of age.

To be invested as a Venturer Scout, the prospective member (unless previously a Scout who holds the Venturer Scout Link Badge) must satisfy the following Membership qualifications:

- a) Know, show an understanding of, and be prepared to accept, the Scout Promise and Law.
- b) Participate in at least three unit activities or meetings (at least one of which shall be outdoors).
- c) Be accepted by the Unit.

All members, and all prospective members prior to acceptance in the unit, are expected to read and provide written acceptance of all conditions contained as part of this Constitution.

New members are expected to complete their Venturing Skills Award within three months of joining. Scouts who have completed the Campcraft Target at Adventurer level may be considered for Recognition of Prior Learning. In some instances it may be necessary or desirable to ask the Youth Member to demonstrate these skills at an appropriate time.

All members are expected to attend a Unit Management Course within the first year of membership.

All members are expected to have completed the Venturer Award after approximately 18 months of service as a Venturer Scout.

All members are expected to attend a Leadership Course within the first two years of membership.

An Associate Venturer is a young person who may wish to join a Unit and who remains an Associate Venturer Scout until invested. The maximum time as an Associate Venturer Scout will be 3 months from the first meeting or activity. Associate Venturer Scouts should pay participation and activity fees as nominated by the Unit Council. Association fees are not payable. A sponsor for the Associate Venturer Scout must be appointed by the Unit Council to act as mentor and teacher. An Associate Venturer Scout must not participate in Region or Branch activities.

4. Meeting Nights

The Unit will meet each Sunday day night during school terms from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Scout Hall unless otherwise specified in the Unit Program.

The Scout Hall address is at the Cnr. Victoria & Barton Street, Kurri.

5. Unit Council

The Unit Council is tasked with running the Unit, both the daily and weekly operation of the Unit, and its long term planning.

The Unit Council will:

- a) Plan and operate a balanced program that meets the needs and the aspirations of all Unit members.
- b) Manage unit finances including the keeping and maintaining of accurate records.
- c) Be responsible for unit membership and recruitment.
- d) Ensure the unit has a reliable method of communication to unit members, unit leaders, the District/Region Venturer Scout Council and the group.
- e) Ensure that the unit constitution is reviewed and updated by the Unit-in-Council on an annual basis.
- f) Ensure the unit conducts regular fundraising activities.
- g) Be responsible for the management of unit equipment.
- h) Be responsible for the operation of the Award Scheme within the unit.
- i) Ensure representation at the District/Region Venturer Scout Council by the unit.
- j) Apply Unit policy in order to maintain an agreed standard of behaviour that is consistent with the Scout Law and Promise.
- k) Set a date and conduct unit elections for Unit Council positions.

Unit Council elections will be conducted every six months at the commencement of second and fourth school terms. A secret ballot will be conducted for each position on the Unit Council with a majority vote of invested members required for successful election. The Venturer Scout Leader shall have the casting vote. No member shall stand for the same position for more than two consecutive terms.

The Unit Council shall consist of the following office bearers:

- a) Chairperson
- b) Secretary
- c) Treasurer
- d) Equipment Officer
- e) Scout Troop Liaison Officer
- f) Other roles as determined by the Unit-in-Council.

NB. The role of Scout Troop Liaison Officer may be adopted by an existing office bearer whenever the Unit membership is less than 15.

The duties and responsibilities of these office bearers are published in the Venturer Scout Handbook.

At least two elected members of the Unit Council together with at least one Adult Leader shall be nominated to attend each District or Region Venturer Scout Council.

The Venturer Scout Leader forms a part of the Unit Council providing advice and assistance to elected members and ensuring the effective operation of the unit.

The Unit Council shall meet approximately monthly. Meetings will be scheduled at the Scout Hall one hour prior to a normal weekly meeting. The quorum for the Unit Council shall be a simple majority of elected members.

6. Unit-in-Council

A Unit-in-Council is where all the Unit members come together to discuss issues relating to the management of the Venturer Scout Unit. A Unit-in-Council can be organised from time to time whenever it may be deemed necessary for the whole unit to get together. This may be to cast a vote, discuss a special issue that the Unit Council has been unable to resolve or to 'brainstorm' with members of the unit for program ideas. A Unit-in-Council is normally chaired by the Unit Chairman, supported by the Venturer Scout Leader. A simple majority of financial members must be in attendance before any decisions are made during a Unit-in-Council.

7. Unit Finances

Subscription fees are to be paid on a term basis and is currently set at \$65.00 per term, but varies due to increase and decline of members. This payment covers the Annual Branch Registration and Insurance Levies as well as an allocation to section funds and is due at the beginning of every term.

All monies will be collected and recorded by the Unit Treasurer. The Venturer Scout Leader will arrange for these monies to be forwarded to the Group Treasurer for banking.

Members who fail to pay the subscription fee by the end of the term are answerable to the Unit Council. Following discussions with the Unit Council, members may subsequently be suspended from participating in unit activities until payment is provided. Members who still fail to pay the subscription fee within a time agreed by the Unit Council will have their membership terminated.

All activity fees will be collected and recorded by the Unit Treasurer. The Unit Treasurer will arrange with the Activity Leader for any payments to be processed. The Venturer Scout Leader will arrange for a cheque to be supplied by the Group Treasurer for any expenses.

Unit finances will be supported through fundraising activities in accordance with Scout policy.

All purchases made with unit funds must have the approval of the Unit Council and be endorsed by the Venturer Scout Leader.

8. Unit Program

The Unit Council will publish an annual calendar of major events at the beginning of every year, and a term program of weekly activities at the beginning of every term.

The Unit will not specialise in any one activity, and will attempt to explore all activities available to Venturer Scouts.

Consistent non-attendance at Unit activities will be classified as inactive membership. Members are expected to notify the Unit Chairperson and/or the Venturer Scout Leader of any absence from the Unit Program.

Unit members are permitted, and encouraged, to join with activities hosted by other Venturer Scout Units. Prior to attending such activities, the member must notify the Unit Chairperson and/or the Venturer Scout Leader.

The Unit shall endeavour to arrange one visit or joint activity with a local Scout troop every term. Furthermore, older Scouts shall be invited to all appropriate unit outings and activities and be encouraged to undertake the Try Venturing Award.

Unit members are encouraged to attend all Group, District and Region events.

Unit members are encouraged to establish informal groupings from time to time to undertake specific projects of common interest. The composition of special purpose teams and the appointment of Activity Leaders should be endorsed by the Unit Council.

Unit members are encouraged to pursue all activities as prescribed by the Venturer Scout Award Scheme. The requirements for all badges are covered in the Venturer Scout Record Book.

Attendance at all activities outside of the immediate vicinity of the Scout hall requires Part 1 of the Activity Notification Form to be completed in its entirety by the parents or guardians of all attending participants and returned to the Activity Leader before the activity commences.

9. Unit Property

All Unit equipment remains the property of the Venturer Scout Unit.

All Unit equipment is made available to all fully subscribed members. Unit equipment can be borrowed by Unit members, after arrangement with the Equipment Officer.

The purchase or replacement of equipment may only be approved by the Unit Council following a discussion on the needs of the unit.

All Unit equipment is to be treated with respect, in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Any damage is to be reported to the Equipment Officer immediately. It is recognised that normal wear is an expected result of use on Scouting activities. Should the nature of the damage be assessed as misuse or from deliberate harm, compensation for repairs or replacement may be demanded by the Unit Council in accordance with current retail cost.

Personal equipment remains the responsibility of the owner and no liability for repair or replacement will be met by the Unit.

10. Rules of Conduct

All members must abide by the Scout Law and Promise.

Venturer Scouts are not permitted to smoke or consume alcoholic drinks at Scouting meetings, activities or any other function they attend as a representative of the Scout Movement or whilst in Scout uniform. Possession or use of alcohol, tobacco products or other illegal drugs by any Venturer Scout will result in the product being confiscated immediately and may lead to removal from the event. Any Venturer Scout involved in illegal activities may be reported to their parents and/or the relevant authorities.

Close relationships formed between Unit members are to be pursued outside of the Unit and must not be allowed to affect the functioning of the Unit Program.

Mixed genders are not permitted to share a tent on overnight Scouting activities. When communal sleeping facilities are used (e.g. hall, cave, etc) there should always be a clear physical separation between males and females and between adult and youth members.

Whenever Venturer Scouts with provisional driver licences will be assisting to transport members *during* an activity or meeting, the Activity Leader must advise this fact to parents in their activity notification and parents must have the option to indicate in writing that they don't want their child to travel with a P-plate driver. Parents should instruct their child appropriately, and the Unit should take *reasonable* steps to ensure that all members comply with any instruction given.

11. Uniform

The official uniform of this unit shall be that prescribed by NSW Branch in accordance with the Policy & Rules of Scouts Australia.

Full Scout uniform must be worn to and from all meetings at the hall, all official Scouting functions, and all Scouting activities, unless otherwise advised by the Activity Leader. At all other times the Unit scarf shall be worn.

12. Alterations to the Unit Constitution

Proposed amendments to the Unit constitution shall be distributed to all Unit members no later than 14 days prior to a meeting of the Unit-in-Council.

Proposed amendments to the Unit constitution may only be passed with a two-thirds majority of the invested members of the Unit. The Venturer Scout Leader has the right to veto any decision to amend the Unit constitution if such decisions are contrary to official Scout Association policy and procedures.