



Second Term of Scouting, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to Scouting in term 2, 2012. We have already held a number of activities over the Easter holidays, including a bushcare session, the 3-night Troop camp at Berrima Scout Camp (6 out of 8 scouts attending – great result, and a very good camp had by all).

This term we will be continuing focus on camping skills, as well as work towards citizenship badges. However, the Scouts need to remember that much of their work towards their citizenship badges (which they need to get their Pioneer badges - the first major badge in the Scouting award scheme, and necessary for any Scout wishing to attend a Jamboree) needs to be done outside of Scout meetings (often at home).

Although we have not yet finalised this term's activities, the following activities are certainties or in planning.

Saturday 28 April and Sunday 29 April: Overnight hike with 1st Murray Farm and 1st Rydalmere in the Royal National Park from Otford to North Era Beach and back the following day. Scouts (Gary Chen and Alexander Myers) are already locked in for this event and applications are now closed.

Friday 4 May to Sunday 6 May: Scout Hike (lightweight hiking/activity base event staged by Sydney North Region. Again, Scouts (Alexander Myers, Oscar Fan, Tanya Demlakian and Amelia McCann) are locked in for this event, and registrations are now closed. Alexander Myers has sent permission notes and further information.

Sunday 13 May: Troop Council (Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders only).

Saturday 18 May to Sunday 20 May: Parramatta District patrol leadership course. This is a training course being run by 1st Parramatta and 1st Winston Hills Scouts this year over the full weekend, with the Scouts camping on the grounds outside the Winston Hills Scout hall (same venue as last year). It is expected that Troop Council will elect to send Olivia Fan. A permission note is attached.

Saturday 2 June: Bushcare work with the Pemberton Street Bushcare group. Permission note to follow.

Sunday 3 June: Troop Council (Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders only).

Friday evening 8 June to Monday 11 June: Greater Western Sydney Region Jamborette. As some will recall, this is a great, fun, standing camp event held over the Queen's birthday long

weekend each year, and which the Scouts have always thoroughly enjoyed. I strongly recommend the Scouts participating in this one, during which they will also make friends with many other Scouts from the region, and especially other groups in the Parramatta District (as we camp as troops within District sub-camps). Fees for attendance (which do not include food or transport) are \$45 per Scout. The deadline for registering (and paying fees) is **25 May 2012**. **However**, if registrations are in by **11 May**, a \$5 discount per Scout can be obtained. I therefore recommend that we try and get numbers for this event (as well as permission notes and monies) in by our Scout meeting of **Thursday 10 May**. Permission note and Jamborette flyer are attached (and I apologise on behalf of the Greater Western Sydney Scouts Regions for the for the grammar/punctuation and date errors in the flyer).

Sunday 1 July: Troop Council (Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders only).

Saturday 7 July: Bushcare work with the Pemberton Street Bushcare group. Permission note to follow.

Late June/ July: The Scouts are considering running an overnight hike to the Jenolan/Cox's rivers (even though they did it in October), or somewhere else (such as the Kanangra River). Further information to follow.

MEMBERSHIP Reminder: As mentioned in my First term letter, we will now be charged Scouts Australia fees quarterly, and therefore the charges will be based on our census early each term. Because quite often we do not receive formal advice from parents/guardians if their youth members will not be continuing in Scouts, we could potentially end up paying significant funds for youth members no longer participating (which is a huge waste of money for a not-for-profit organisation).

In view of this, any youth member for whom fees are not up to date within two weeks of the deadline for resigning them (before the next membership fees payment) will be resigned. If that youth member does intend to continue in Scouting, they can be reinstated later on payment of the usual quarterly fees and our Group quarterly subscription fees (the application fee only becomes payable again if the youth member remains unregistered for 6 or more months).

Yours in scouting



The Count (David Myers)