

Hampton Park Venturer Unit

Constitution

Name:

The name of the Unit will be 'Hampton Park Venturer Unit'.

Aim:

The aim of the unit is to encourage the physical, mental, social and spiritual development of the unit members so that they may take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens and as a member of their local, national and international communities.

Membership:

A person becomes a Venturer by investiture during which the Scout Promise is made or reaffirmed. The Scout Law will also be abided by all Venturers.

To become a Venturer a person must have attained a minimum of 14¾, but not yet attained the age of 18. Persons over 17 wishing to join the Unit will be encouraged to enter Rovers. It is preferable that a linking scout be as close to 15 years old before transferring to Venturers. The Venturer leader retains the right to decide if an individual is ready to link/join.

A Venturer progresses to Rovers no later than their 18th birthday and, if they wish, may train to be a leader.

Before being invested as a Venturer, the prospective member shall satisfy the following membership requirements:

- a) Know and show an understanding of and be prepared to accept the Scout Law and Promise,
- b) Participate in three (3) Unit activities,
- c) Read, understand and accept the Unit Constitution,
- d) Persons not completing the Scout/Venturer Link Badge will undergo a three (3) month trial period and
- e) Be accepted by the Unit Council.

Unit Council:

The Venturer Unit will be managed by the Unit Council, which will serve for a period of six (6) months. The Unit Council will consist of the following elected executive members:

- a) Chairperson,
- b) Secretary and
- c) Treasurer

and a non-executive Property Officer who will be the immediate past Chairperson.

Additionally, where the number of Unit members is more than nine (9) but less than sixteen (16), two (2) non-executive members will be elected to the Council. Where the Unit comprises more than fifteen (15) members, there shall be four (4) non-executive members elected to the Council.

Where the Unit consists of members from more than one (1) Scout Group, then there must be at least one (1) representative from each Group.

In addition to the above, the immediate past Chairperson will continue to hold membership of the Unit council for a period of three (3) months following handover. They will not be entitled to a vote (unless duly elected to a position on the Council by the Unit) except for purposes of casting a deciding vote where there is a tied vote.

The Unit Council will have the power to co-opt members for a maximum period of three (3) months for the purposes of filling casual vacancies or for assisting with special projects.

The Unit Venturer Leaders also hold membership of the Unit Council provided the number of Leaders on Council is at no time to exceed the number of elected members.

Unit Council elections are to be held during the last week of the second and fourth school terms each year. If any member of Unit Council fails to perform satisfactorily, then that person may be removed from office by a seventy five percent (75%) majority vote of the Unit Council.

The Unit Council will meet every four (4) weeks or more frequently as decided by Council.

For purposes of a meeting of the Unit Council, a quorum shall a minimum of three (3) members not including Leaders.

All financial expenditure is to receive prior approval of the Unit Council. This includes expenditure by Leaders. Unit Council is to meet Leader expenses in relation to the operations of the Unit.

Financial records are to be audited six (6) monthly and are to be available for inspection by members of the Unit at all times. A status report is to be presented to each meeting of the Unit Council.

Venturers yet not invested into the Unit are not permitted to occupy a position on the Unit Council.

Behaviour:

Standards of conduct and good behaviour are covered in the Association's documents 'Policy and Organisation' and 'Branch Rules'. The Scout Law and Promise are to be adhered to at all times. The good name of Scouting and the Unit are to be maintained by each member at all times.

All breaches of the Constitution, including conduct, which has a tendency to affect the good name of the Unit, or which has an adverse effect on the proper running of the Unit and/or its activities, will be the subject of disciplinary action determined by the Unit Council in conjunction with the Leaders.

Such action may consist of the following dependant on the severity of the breach:

- a) warning
- b) talk to Unit
- c) fine
- d) service to the Unit or Group
- e) ban from major activities
- f) suspension
- g) others as determined by Unit Council in conjunction with the Leaders or
- h) Expulsion.

Serious breaches will result in expulsion.

Alcohol and Drugs:

Any member who consumes or has in their possession any alcohol or illicit drugs or other substances of abuse during Unit activities shall face disciplinary action, which will normally result in expulsion.

Any member found to have alcohol or illicit drugs in their possession on any Unit activity shall be immediately returned home from the activity at their parent's expense.

Smoking:

Smoking is strictly prohibited at all scout properties. Smoking is also forbidden whilst in uniform in the presence of members of the public or members of other uniformed sections of the Scout Association. Smoking at other times is permitted only in circumstances where it will not disrupt or affect others.

Dishonesty:

Any member found guilty of dishonesty (e.g. theft or cheating) will face disciplinary action.

Uniforms:

Full National Standard Venturer Uniforms are acceptable to the Unit. Badge placements are also according to the National/State standards.

Full Uniform is to be worn during Investitures, Special Ceremonies (such as Annual General Meetings, Queen's Scout Presentations and other important events) and to all official Branch, Region, District or Group activities. For the purposes of this clause, 'Full Uniform' is defined as:

- uniform shirt (blue / maroon)
- scarf & woggle
- dark navy pants
- scout belt
- dark shoes

Jeans, tracksuit pants or the like and shorts are not considered to be part of the 'full uniform'.

During Unit meetings, uniform shirt and scarf are to be worn both into and out of the Scout hall and during flag break and flag down.

Those arriving at the hall not in the prescribed uniform will not be permitted to attend the activity.

Unit members who consistently flout the Uniform regulations will face disciplinary action.

Casual dress or activity shirts etc. for various activities will be at the discretion of the Unit Council and will be noted on the Unit programme.

Award Scheme:

All applications to undertake work in award scheme areas are to be recommended and approved by the Unit Venturer Council.

The Unit Council is responsible for setting and monitoring standards of work required.

Attendance:

Unit members are expected to support all activities, thus contributing to the effectiveness of the Unit. If members are unable to attend a 'normal' meeting, they are to advise a Leader or member of Unit Council.

Venturers who indicate an intention to participate in an activity may withdraw from the activity only on giving of adequate notice, the member concerned will be required to pay the cost of the activity as if they have attended.

Members who are absent from three (3) out of five (5) meetings will be required to provide an explanation to Unit Council. If the explanation is unsatisfactory then the member will face disciplinary action.

Normal Unit meetings commence at 7.00pm and conclude at 9.00pm. It is expected all Unit members are at the hall in readiness for the breaking of the National Flag before 7.00pm. Should a Unit member arrive after the National Flag has been 'broken', they will stop in the doorway and salute the flag.

Membership Fees:

All Branch and Group fees must be paid within one month of them falling due unless other arrangements are made with the Group Leader. Non payment will result in disciplinary action.

Equipment:

It is the responsibility of all Unit members to take proper care of Unit and Group equipment to ensure the same is kept in good repair and safe condition. This includes the cleaning and proper storage of equipment following an activity.

The Unit Council is to establish terms and conditions (including hire charges and bonds) for the borrowing of Unit equipment by members for activities which are controlled by the Unit.

Knives of all types are prohibited except on activities at which they may be required (e.g. camping, expeditions, initiative courses etc.) as approved from time to time by the Unit Council. Knives used by members on Unit activities are to be of the folding type and are to be maintained in good condition at all times. All blades must have a rounded point. The blades must not exceed ninety (90) mm in length.

Activities with Other Units

From time to time Unit members may be requested to participate in activities with other Venturer Units. All such requests are to be approved by Unit Council. Ordinarily these requests will be approved unless there is a conflict with existing planned activities on our own Unit's program.

Other Units may also be requested to participate in our activities. These requests are to be issued by Unit Council with the assistance of the Venturer Leader.

District and Branch Venturer Council:

The District Venturer Council is a body made up of the District Leader (Venturers), Venturer Leaders from within the District and representatives from each Unit within the District. It is the body which approves Award Proposals and provides training opportunities for the Venturers. It is the Unit Council's responsibility to provide a representative to the monthly District Venturer Council meetings.

The Unit will also elect a representative to attend the Branch Venturer Council (BVC). This unit member will be responsible for taking adequate notes and report back to the Unit at the next appropriate meeting.

Promotion of the Unit:

The promotion of the Unit is the responsibility of the Unit Council. All members of the Unit are to promote the Unit and the Unit's activities at every opportunity, particularly to members of the Scout Section.

Transport:

It is the responsibility of the individual Venturer to arrange transport to and from activities, including meetings and camps.

No Venturer on "L" plates or "P" plates may transport other youth members to and from any activities or events. Exceptions to this rule is at the discretion of the youth members' parents and the Venturer leader only. Breaches of this rule will attract disciplinary action.

It is the right of all parents to request their Venturer not travel in a vehicle driven by another Venturer.

General:

- At least every three (3) months there will be an Open Forum meeting of the Unit at which all members will be entitled to express their opinion with out interruption or heckling. Such meetings are known as Unit In Council.
- There will be no sharing of tents between male and female Venturers.
- There will be no open displays of affection between Unit members. 'Romantic' relationships between members are not to effect the operations of the Unit. There will be no physical contact of a sexual nature during Venturer activities including and particularly camps, activities, events and meetings. Any breach of this rule will attract disciplinary action, most likely expulsion. This will be at the discretion of the Venturer Leader and if necessary the Group Leader.
- The use of bad and/or offensive language by any member of the Unit at any time will not be tolerated. If bad and/or offensive language is heard to be used, then the member will face disciplinary action.
- No anti-social, bullying or aggressive behavior will be tolerated. Any member found to be targeting another Unit member will be subject to disciplinary action. This will be at the discretion of the Venturer Leader and if necessary the Group Leader.
- All members shall be entitled to request Unit Council to consider any matter considered to be of importance by the member. Such requests are to be in writing and are to be considered by the Unit Council as soon as practicable. The member concerned is to be advised of Unit Council's decision in writing.

Constitution:

- In all matters affecting the safety of the Unit, the Venturer Leader shall have the right of veto.
- This Constitution shall be valid until it is replaced by a subsequent version as noted in the version history.
- This Constitution shall be reviewed every 12 months at the beginning of the 3rd School Term or at other times as the Unit Council sees fit.
- This Constitution may only be amended by a seventy five percent (75%) majority vote of the Unit Council and subsequently approved by a simple majority vote of the Unit.
- A copy of the Constitution is to be provided to all members of the Unit and also issued to all prospective members following their first 'normal' meeting.
- All Unit Council members (including Leaders) are to sign the Master Copy of the Constitution.
- Youth members are also to obtain written acknowledgment from their parents that the Constitution has been made available to the parents to be read.
- The Master Copy of the Constitution is to be signed by each respective Group Leader as evidence of compliance by the Unit with this provision.
- The signatory page is considered part of the Constitution.

VERSION HISTORY

Version 1. Completed 29/4/16

Verified:_____ Chairperson

Verified:_____ Secretary

Verified:_____ Leader

**HAMPTON PARK VENTURER UNIT
CONSTITUTION**

2016 SIGNATORIES

Chairman: Date:/...../.....

Secretary: Date:/...../.....

Treasurer: Date:/...../.....

Member: Date:/...../.....

Venturer Leader:

..... Date:/...../.....

Group Leader (Hampton Park):

..... Date:/...../.....