

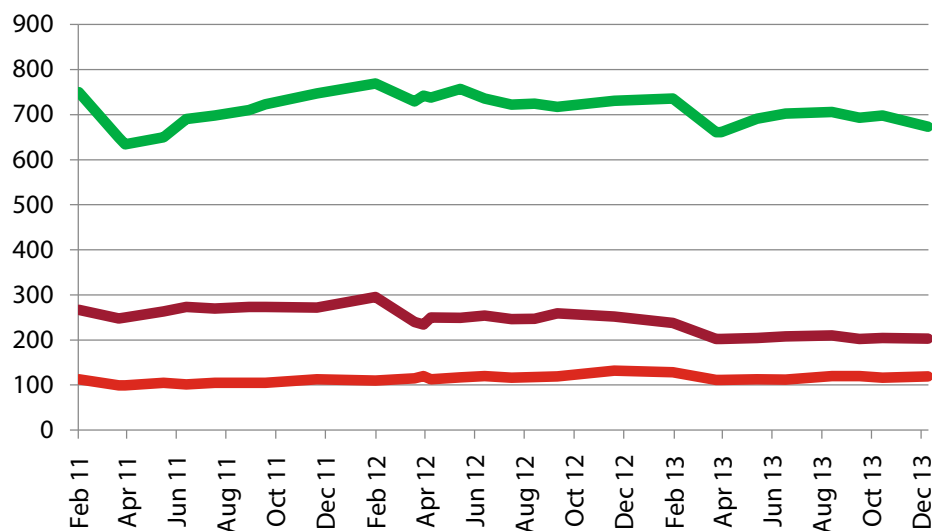
2014 REGION DEVELOPMENT DAY

Venturer Scout Section

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

- The retention of youth members from Scouts to Venturer Scouts is our highest priority for 2014!
- Current membership is down to approximately 200 Venturer Scouts and less than 700 Scouts in GWS. By contrast, only two years ago, membership numbers were nearly 100 higher in both sections.

GWS Membership 2011-2013



- The retention rate from Scouts into Venturer Scouts is now less than 25% and decreasing. Our goal for 2014 is to see this retention rate exceed 50% of all eligible Scouts.

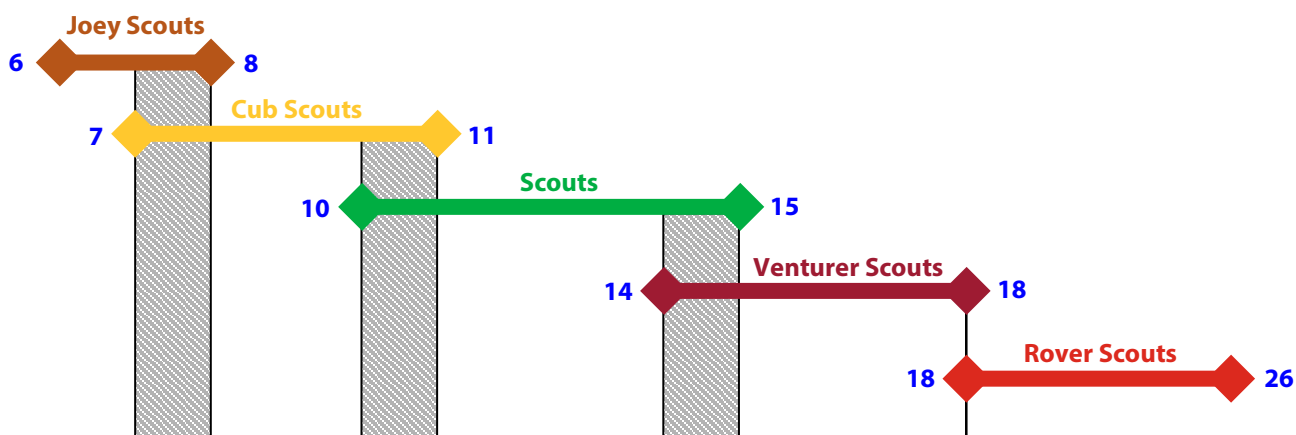


MISSION OF SCOUTING

- Our mission in Scouting is to develop young people.
- To deliver this mission, we need young people to be involved in Scouting for as long as possible throughout multiple sections.
- Therefore, all of our efforts must be focused on retaining our members through quality programming and a holistic approach to the journey from one section to another.

STRATEGY

- Firstly, it is important to confirm the age range for the Venturer Scout section is 14 to 18 years of age.



Policy & Rules 2013, Scouts Australia

- Reminding Scouts that they are eligible to complete their "Try Venturing" badge from approximately 13½ years of age.
- Scouts may visit their local Unit as often as they like (whilst remaining in their Troop) between the ages of 13½ and 15 (although they must be 14 before being invested as a Venturer Scout) – great as an added reward for Patrol Leaders.
- Asking Scout Leaders to actively identify Scouts that are showing disinterest at 13 years of age and introducing these youth members to the Unit early, thus increasing the likelihood that they will remain in Scouting.
- Asking Scout Leaders to actively encourage ALL eligible Scouts over the age of 14 to attend the annual Waratah event (as they do for Jamborette and other major Scout section activities) and have this activity listed on the Troop and Group annual programs.
- We are aiming to see a compromise where Scouts complete their link to Venturer Scouts earlier, but where Venturer Scouts are invited to return to the Troop to mentor Patrol Leaders and help with programming.
- We are asking Leaders to make the assumption that ALL Scouts will join Venturer Scouts as part of their programming and award scheme progression (even if the Group does not have their own Unit).
- We are raising awareness that the Queen's Scout Award is an achievable goal for all youth members, but reinforcing that the award takes up to 4 years to complete and therefore must be started as early as possible.



- Informing Scouts that they may register to attend the next Australian Venture in Adelaide next summer even if they are still in Scouts, as long as they will be at least 14 years of age before Christmas and able to complete their Venturing Skills Award before the end of Term Four. (Closing date 1 March 2014)