

Scouting Facts: New Zealand



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Scouting started in New Zealand in 1908 and remained as a branch of The Scout Association until 1953, when the Scout Association of New Zealand was admitted to the World Scout Conference. Scouting New Zealand currently has 15,603 members and is New Zealand's largest and most preferred youth movement. 2007 saw the first increase in membership in 25 years. This increase was mainly due to a major review and restructuring within the association to ensure that scouting remains relevant in the 21st century. The aim of Scouting New Zealand is to encourage the physical, mental, social, and spiritual development of young people so that they may take a constructive place in society, by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the scout promise and law and guided by adult leadership.

The sections of the association consist of:

Kea Scouts	aged 6½-7½ years
Cub Scouts	aged 7½-11½ years
Scouts	aged 11½-14½ years
Venturer Scouts	aged 14½-18½ years
Rover Scouts	aged 18-26 years
(associate members aged 26-34 years)	

The association also consists of four special branches, which include the:

Air Branch	Air Scout
Groups and Rover Air Scout Crews	

Sea Branch	Sea Scout
Groups and Rover Sea Scout Crews	
Deep Sea Scout Branch	Members of the Royal New Zealand Navy, Merchant Navy, fishing fleets or permanent crews of ocean-going yachts
Lones Branch	Young people who are unable too regularly attend section meetings and activities

History

Colonel David Cossgrave introduced scouting in New Zealand in 1908, forming the first scout troop in Kaiapoi, Christchurch. From there, scouting patrols started forming across the country and Cossgrave was made New Zealand's first Dominion Chief Scout.

1908	First troop formed in Kaiapoi, Christchurch
1909	Sea scouting started

The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email info.centre@scout.org.uk www.scoutbase.org.uk

- 1916 Wolf Cubs started to cater for younger brothers
- 1917 Rover Scouting started
- 1926 New Zealand Exhibition Jamboree (first New Zealand jamboree) held in Dunedin
- 1945 1st National Regatta held in Picton
- 1963 Introduction of the Venturer Scout Section in New Zealand
- 1979 Young women officially admitted to the Venturer Section
- 1979 Introduction of the Kea Scout Section
- 1980 First national venture held in Hastings
- 1987 Girls officially admitted to the Scout Section
- 1988 Girls officially admitted to the kea and Cub sections
- 2001 Equal opportunities policy introduced
- 2003 Forward Concepts Planning Group established to determine future opportunities for Scouting New Zealand
- 2007 New Scouting introduced

Jamboree

Every three years there is a national jamboree. The last jamboree, which was the Eighteenth, was held in December 2007/January 2008 in Christchurch in the South Island. More than 4500 scouts, leaders and volunteers participated in this event. The centenary of scouting both worldwide and in New Zealand was a main focus of the jamboree. Contingents from Australia, Japan, Fiji, Indonesia, the UK and individuals from many other countries join with the New Zealand scouts on jamboree. Venturer Scouts can serve on the Youth Services Team and assist the leaders on activity bases and various staff around the site. Queen's Scouts can also apply to be part of the Host Corp at jamborees.

National Mudslide Day

Each year in February over 10,000 youths around New Zealand take part in Scouting New Zealand's National Mudslide Day. The

intent is for scouts to show their community that being in scouts involved the opportunity to get dirty and have lots of fun. The events were ideal for the local community papers to report on and provided scouting with its largest single positive publicity for years.

National Schools

New Zealand has seven national scout schools specializing in aviation, caving, photography, snow skills, mountaineering, canoeing and flying. The Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School is nationally renowned.

New Scouting

In 2003 the Forward Planning Concepts Group (FPCG) was formed to 'save' scouting by looking at ways to reinvigorate the movement in New Zealand, which from 1982 till 2007 had dramatically declined in numbers. The FPCG presented their final report in 2006 and since then there has been major consultation with all members of the association on suggestions they think would ensure scouting remained relevant in today's society. 2007 saw the launch of 'new scouting' with restructuring within the association and introduction of national programs. Leader's workloads have been simplified and greater emphases on the youth have been made. A new award scheme and uniform are also planned.

International

The movement in New Zealand is very internationally minded, especially in relation to its neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region and community development is also well to the fore. There are several New Zealanders serving on the Asia-Pacific regional committee and sub-committees and the association usually send delegates to regional and world conferences and youth forums.

The Scout Promise

On my honour I promise to do my best,
To do my duty to God,
To the Queen and my country,
To help other people,
And to live by the Scout Law.

The Scout Law

A Scout is loyal and trustworthy
A Scout is considerate and tolerant
A Scout is a friend to all
A Scout accepts challenges with courage
A Scout uses resource wisely
A Scout respects the environment
A Scout has self respect and is sincere.

The Cub Promise

On my honour I promise to do my best,
To do my duty to God,
To the Queen and my country,
To help other people,
And to live by the Cub Law.

The Cub Law

Cubs do their best,
Think of others and do a good turn every day.

The Kea Promise

I will try to share my fun and help others

The Kea Motto

I share
I care
I discover
I grow

Uniform

The official uniform worn by all members, other than those of the Sea and Air branches, is a green polo shirt of official design with the optional short or long sleeves or a green sweatshirt of official design. All invested members wear an approved scarf appropriate to their membership or activity. Each group

may determine the type of garments, to be worn below the waist by its members, similar decisions may be made by consensus for garments to be worn by zone, region and national personnel. The colour chosen to be worn below the waist is generally black. Badges may be worn on garments other than the official polo shirt or sweatshirt, usually on the official badge vest (jerkin).

Venturers and Rovers may wear a white collared shirt and an appropriate Scout tie when a formal mode of dress is required. Alternatively an approved scarf may be worn with the white shirt. The Queen's Scout badge and Rover epaulettes may be worn on the white shirt by those entitled to do so.

A white shirt worn with the international Scout tie, or silk scarf for woman, navy blue or black jacket and grey trousers or skirt, constitutes a formal "walking out" uniform for all Adult Leaders.

Kea Section

This is the junior most section of Scouting New Zealand for youth aged 6½-7½ and is the equivalent to the Beaver section in the UK. Adult leaders present a highly active programme each week so that a real emphasis is placed on interaction with other children in the Kea Club. The programme includes a wide range of games, nature and outdoor appreciation, creative play, singing, stories and craft work, with the emphasis on having fun.

Cub Section

Cubs, aged 7½-11½, meet as a 'pack' and participate in a programme that is flexible and organised to cater for individual activities, for small groups known as "sixes", as well as for the whole Pack. Leaders and parent helpers manage a fast moving and imaginative programme that place emphasis on learning by doing. Cubs are able to pursue individual interest badges.

Scout Section

Scouts, aged 11½-14½, are organised into patrols, each patrol having its own youth leader known as a Patrol Leader. This gives the Scouts the opportunity to choose their own activities, and for the Patrol Leader to develop leadership skills. The patrols are encouraged to plan and organize activities such as tramps, camps, cycle tours and canoe trips in order to develop teamwork and self-reliance.

Adult Leaders are responsible for running an exciting and challenging fun programme based on the Scout method of working in small groups and using the outdoors. The aim is to encourage and foster opportunities for the Scouts to experience leadership and teamwork. A progressive award scheme enables scouts to learn a range of new skills and earn badges, as well as working on both personal challenges and group activities.

Venturer Section

The venturer section is the equivalent of the explorer scout section in the UK and includes young adults from the ages 14½-18½. Venturers are responsible for their own programmes, which can range from adventurous, vocational, social and spiritual activities. Adult leaders use an advisory leadership style to lead the venturer scouts towards achieving a balance in their programme of activities, and to ensure their safety. A progressive award scheme enables Venturer Scouts to extend their range of skills and earn certificates that lead towards achieving the Queen's Scout Award and/or the Young New Zealander's Challenge Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Venturer scouts have three membership options, they are: being a full member of a venturer unit, serving as a junior leader in the kea, cub or scout sections or they can be a member of a

web based Venturer Unit where this is available.

Rover Section

The Rover section caters for young adults from 18 years to 26 years. Members may become an Associate Member upon attaining the age of 26 years, and remain with the rover crew until their 34th birthday. The Rover Section is the equivalent of the Scout Network Section in the UK. The section helps to provide service to the Scout Movement and community, and also takes part in fellowship, social, outdoor personal skills and cultural activities, that develop and expand the Rover Scouts personal skills and self-development.

Scouting Associates Network

Aged 26 years and over, Scouting Associates are an internal source of expertise, support and project leadership. Ideally Scouting Associates will make themselves available to Groups and Zone Leaders to assist with the delivery of programmes, whether this be providing specialist skills for programme delivery, basic leader training, assisting with the organization of Zone/Regional activities, administrative support and any other activity that helps front line leaders. The network is made up mainly adults who can not commit to being an adult leader or they may be a retired leader, still wanting to be associated with scouting.

Information about New Zealand may be obtained from:

New Zealand High Commission

New Zealand House
80 Haymarket, Haymarket
London
SW1Y 4TQ

Scouting New Zealand

Physical Address:

Level 4, Willbank House
57 Willis Street, Wellington
NEW ZEALAND

Postal:

Scouting New Zealand
PO Box 11348, Wellington 6142
NEW ZEALAND