

# Frequently Asked Questions

[Accurate at 10 November 2023](#)

Questions and answers have been provided by the NSW Contingent Management Team, with the help of youth members helping plan AJ2025. Regularly check the NSW Contingent [website](#) for updates. If you have a question that should be on this list, email [nsw.contingent@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:nsw.contingent@nsw.scouts.com.au).



## GENERAL

### What is a Jamboree?

A Jamboree is a massive national camp for Scouts aged 11-15. In 2025, youth members aged up to 17 years of age can choose to attend as a participant.

Traditionally, most Scouts can attend only one Jamboree, due to the age requirements. Some lucky Scouts have a birthday on a date that means they can attend two Jamborees. Venturer Scouts, Rover Scouts and Leaders can also attend – they help with running the event. A Jamboree is 10 days of action, expeditions, entertainment and daily life, camping with more than 10,000 other Scouts.

The Australian Jamborees began in 1934. They have been held on a three-year cycle but are now moving to a four-year cycle, like World Scout Jamborees.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Australian Jamboree in Maryborough is called AJ2025.

### Why is it so great?

The aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of young people.

A Jamboree covers every aspect of the Scout program during an intense 10 days with friends old and new.

Scouting has proven to increase confidence, resilience and positive mental health in young people. Benefits that last a lifetime.

Scouts will have cared for themselves and helped others, done their share of cooking and other chores, while enjoying an amazing range of new experiences – from rock concerts to adventurous expeditions. Plus, time to chill out, and recharge for more fun.

A Jamboree is just two weeks away from home, but Scouts come home two years older! It's an experience you will never forget.

### When is the Jamboree?

AJ2025 opens on Monday 6 January 2025. It closes on the night of Wednesday 15 January 2025.

Visitors' Day is yet to be confirmed.

### Where is the Jamboree?

Australian Jamborees rotate around the Australian mainland States.

AJ2025 is being held two hours north of Brisbane, in Maryborough which is about 30 minutes from Hervey Bay. It's the same location as AJ2013.

The Jamboree will take over the Maryborough Showground and Equestrian Centre, one of Queensland's major locations for agricultural events like field days and equestrian sport.

### Am I eligible to go to AJ2025?

The complete eligibility requirements for NSW participants – Scouts, Venturers Scouts, Rover Scouts and Leaders – can be found at: [jamboree.nsw.scouts.com.au](http://jamboree.nsw.scouts.com.au). More information will be added as it's been confirmed.

For Scouts, you must not have turned 17 by 5 January 2025. There are also requirements like badgework and camping experience.

Venturer Scouts, Rover Scouts, and Leaders of all types can also help and enjoy the Jamboree. Check out the website for full details on eligibility.

## **What parts of the Achievement Pathway do I need to be eligible to go to AJ2025?**

Scouts must have Program Essentials Milestone 1, as well as Outdoor Adventure Skills Stage 3 in Bushcraft, Bushwalking, and Camping.

## **When do registrations open?**

Applications are open from 1 November 2023.

## **When do registrations close?**

We expect applications to close towards the end of March 2024.

Closing dates vary for each Contingent to allow for arrangements such as early booking of transport.

## **What about COVID-19?**

Whilst we'll all be working toward a Jamboree in January 2025, we will have to act responsibly in the event of a major health situation, like the COVID-19 pandemic that resulted in AJ2022 being cancelled.

The Jamboree Organising Committee will make any decisions in 2024, if there is any risk from COVID. That being the case, we hope not to be impacted by a COVID situation.

## **What is a Jamboree Unit?**

A Jamboree Unit includes up to 36 Scouts and usually five adult Leaders from your home state. Each Jamboree Unit has six Patrols and each Patrol has a Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader.

Jamboree Units usually meet well before the Jamboree so everyone gets to know each other. (And, sometimes, for a post-Jamboree reunion.)

## **Will I be with my home Unit?**

It is usual for Scouts to be with their home Unit and to be joined by Scouts from other Scout Groups from your state, to form a Jamboree Unit of approximately 36 Scouts.

This is one of the best things about a Jamboree; you make new friends from new places. You may even have Scouts from overseas in your Jamboree Unit.

## **What if no one else from my Scout Group is attending?**

Not a problem at all! Your Contingent will make sure you're allocated to a Jamboree Unit and

made to feel welcome. This is a great way to make new friends.

## **Can I visit my Scout at AJ2025?**

There will be a Jamboree Festival Day on which all Scouts will be on the Jamboree site so that families can visit their Scout in their Jamboree 'habitat'.

The date is yet to be decided. Once the date is announced, information will be shared about how to register for Festival Day.

## **Will the Jamboree be using the new program?**

Australian Jamborees fully embrace all aspects of Scouts Australia's exciting youth program.

## **What about Scouts from overseas?**

Go the AJ2025 website and follow the prompts under Contingents to International. There will be information to assist overseas Scouts who wish to attend AJ2025.

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **What will Scouts do?**

There will be a huge range of on-site activities, day and night, as well as several major off-site activities.

Scouts will also enjoy quieter activities around the camp site, and live entertainment at night, socialising and making new friends, and completing their turn as Duty Patrol.

### **Will there be overnight stays outside the Jamboree?**

Often at a Jamboree, Patrols will go together on a special overnight expedition. This is yet to be confirmed for AJ2025.

### **What's on for Night Entertainment?**

Opening and Closing Ceremony are two special Jamboree highlights. As well, there is live music, talent shows, comedy programs and a radio station. Often special guests or artists at the night entertainment are well known musicians and performers.

More information will be shared about the night entertainment once it is confirmed by the Jamboree Organising Committee.

## What is Festival Day?

Festival Day is yet to be confirmed and will be promoted to you once we know the date.

Festival Day is a day when the whole Jamboree is on-site (i.e. no off-site expeditions). It is day full of fun and Unit-based activities.

This is also the day that friends and family can visit.

## I'm a Cub Scout. Will I get to experience the Jamboree?

At past Jamborees, CubJam has been a day of activities for Cub Scouts to get a taste of a Jamboree. We are yet to hear if there is a CubJam day for AJ2025.

If there is a CubJam planned for AJ2025, it will be held over a number of days. Cub Scouts from NSW can attend and tour the Jamboree site, enjoy their own Cub Scout activities, and see exciting activities like they will do when they go to a Jamboree as a Scout.

## ACCOMMODATION, GEAR

### Where do I sleep?

You will sleep in a tent with your Jamboree Unit. For your privacy and comfort, separate sleeping arrangements will be made for different genders. This means you may not be in a tent with only your Jamboree Patrol. As you can imagine, there will be many, many tents to house the thousands of youth and adults sleeping on-site at Jamboree.

### When do I go to sleep?

So you get plenty of sleep and have enough energy for the next day, everyone is expected to be back in their own campsites soon after the night entertainment has ended.

Your Unit Council – your Jamboree Patrol Leaders – will decide when everyone has to be back at camp each night, and what time is lights out. Sometimes, after a few long days, the Unit Council might decide that everyone is having an early night. Take advantage of early nights because every day at Jamboree is long and busy.

### What do I sleep in?

Queensland is usually hot in January so you need to be prepared for a comfortable night's sleep. You'll need a sleeping bag (not one that's

built for the middle of winter!), an inner sheet or lighter cover,, and air bed or compact stretcher.

### What other gear?

Full gear details will be shared closer to AJ2025 but expect to need the same camping gear you would pack for a very long camp e.g. two pairs of comfortable closed-toe shoes (hiking boots or runners), clothes, underwear and socks enough for 10 days, toiletries (don't forget deodorant!), towel, shower shoes, personal first aid kit, Scout uniform, rain coat, warm jumper or jacket, hat, beanie, torch.

### What if I have questions about personal gear?

Talk with your local Scout Leaders. They will help you prepare before the Jamboree.

### What are Communities?

Communities are also known as Sub-Camps and are like suburbs within the Jamboree site.

Each Community has its own amenities like toilets and shower blocks, food collection points, garbage disposal points, and chill out zones.

And each Community has a management team that looks after facilities, welfare and assisting in food distribution.

### How many Communities are there?

It's likely there'll be three Communities for Scout camping (each with about 80 Jamboree Units) as well as separate Communities for Service Leaders and Venturer Scouts.

Your Jamboree Unit will have its own campsite within your Community, likely to be 20m x 30m in size.

## FACILITIES

### What facilities are there?

From 6-15 January, the AJ2025 site will be one of the top 30 largest towns in Queensland, with all the facilities of a regular town.

The shopping centre will sell snacks, souvenirs, camping gear, postal services and much more.

There are also first aid posts and a medical centre with beds for those who need overnight care, plus a 24-hour police station and fire station.

There is a main arena for major entertainment and ceremonies, as well as a mini-arena, and chill out sites where you can relax and chat with friends, read, play chess or watch the cricket on TV. There is always something to do or a place to relax and recover from your busy schedule. There is also NSW Contingent media team who will be producing awesome content for our NSW newspaper and social media sites. Closer to AJ2025, more information will be available about the NSW Contingent newspaper.

### **What about toilets? Showers?**

Each Community has toilet blocks (with sanitary bins) and shower blocks - for Scouts and adults. There will facilities close to every campsite. These are cleaned several times a day, but it is everyone's responsibility to treat facilities with care.

### **Can I wash my clothes?**

Yes, hand-washing clothes is part of the Jamboree experience. It's good to practise at home. Jamboree Units will have buckets and detergent for washing clothes.

## **FOOD**

### **Do I have to provide any of my own food?**

Your Jamboree fee includes the cost of all the food you will require while you are away from home. The Duty Patrol will collect fresh food every day from the Jamboree supermarkets. Jamboree Units can also order extra items as needed; more details about this will be shared closer to AJ2025.

### **Do I cook my own food?**

Each Patrol in your Jamboree Unit will take turns at being Duty Patrol and cooking meals for the entire Unit. Leaders will help, where required. On average each Patrol will do about 1.5 days of being Duty Patrol. Some of the best fun at Jamborees is learning how to cook your own food.

### **What about special diets and allergies?**

The Jamboree team will accommodate your special diet and allergy requirements. Include details of special food requirements or allergies when you complete your AJ2025 registration form.

## **TRANSPORT**

### **Do I have to travel with my Jamboree Unit?**

It is expected that all Jamboree participants travel to and from the Jamboree with your Jamboree Unit. If this is not possible or if you have exceptional circumstances you can apply for independent travel e.g. your family may be in Queensland for a family holiday and you'll be joining them immediately following AJ2025.

### **Can I arrive late/leave early from the Jamboree?**

Yes. Your parents will need to apply via your Contingent before the Jamboree for you to do this.

### **How will we be transported to offsite activities?**

Travel to off-site activities will be by bus. The Jamboree will use dozens of buses every day.

## **MONEY**

### **How much does it cost to go to the Jamboree?**

To make it more possible for you to attend Jamboree, the Jamboree Organising Committee and the NSW Contingent is very focused on reducing costs and removing unnecessary costs for participants. We want as many Scouts and Venturer Scouts as possible to have an opportunity to attend AJ2025. The total cost of attending AJ2025 is made up of the Jamboree fee and the NSW Contingent cost (different for each Contingent, depending on factors like transport, etc.). \$2,240 is the AJ2025 fee for Scouts and Venturer Scouts attending Jamboree as participants.

\$1,600 is the AJ2025 fee for youth members who are attending as Junior Service Leaders, for Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts, and for Leaders, many of whom give up two weeks annual leave and who have spent many months planning for their Scouts to attend Jamboree.

### **Do I need spending money at the Jamboree?**

Everything you need at the Jamboree is provided – meals, snacks, activities, transport, special night-time entertainment and more.

That said, Scouts often like to purchase drinks or snacks, buy badges or souvenirs, or purchase gifts to take home to their family. If a Scout is bringing spending money, generally \$10 a day is a fair amount.

You may be asked to transfer your spending money into your Jamboree Unit bank account or to bring cash in an envelope or zip-lock bag with your name clearly written on it. Most Units keep valuables in a locked box, and you can ask your Leaders for money as you need it.

### **What fundraising do you suggest?**

There are two types of fundraising – personal saving toward the Jamboree, and shared fundraising by your Scout Group.

Scouts can save toward the Jamboree in many different ways: by banking any loose coins and putting aside some pocket money each week; asking for a Jamboree contribution as a birthday or Christmas present; doing odd jobs for extended family and close neighbours (car washing, lawn mowing, baby-sitting); selling home-grown vegetables, or baked goods or other you no longer want or need; raising a calf or lamb for market; and by supporting your Scout Group's fundraising.

Earning your way is an important part of the Jamboree experience, and a great lesson for later life.

Scout Groups tend to put on a few larger events and share this equally with all participating Jamboree Scouts who take part in the fundraising.

Typical ideas include: sausage sizzles; raffles or well-planned trivia nights with extra cash games; a garage sale or 'boot sale'; a community clean-up or car park duty at a local shopping centre. You may even be able to help with things like directing cars at a local football grand final or community event.

Too many smaller events are hard and some Scout Groups find it better to plan a few bigger events.

Rather than continuing to fundraise within your Scout Group, it's a great idea to fundraise from people outside your own Group.

### **Is there a way I can get to AJ2025 if my family cannot afford to send me to Jamboree?**

Financial support can be requested for Scouts and Venturer Scouts who can't otherwise afford to get to the Jamboree.

There are Scouts NSW and Scouts Australia (national) funds that can be requested to help. Check with your Contingent as to what support may be available.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Do Scouts need to bring their phones?**

A smart phone is a useful device and the AJ2025 app will provide the latest information on the Jamboree program, entertainment, catering and much more. The Scouts Terrain app on smart phones will allow Scouts to record any Participate, Assist and Leads during the Jamboree.

It is not compulsory to bring your own phone. You can still access information in other ways; perhaps borrow someone else's phone. Or keep paper records of any badgework until you arrive home.

### **Who is responsible for my phone at AJ2025?**

If you decide to take a phone to AJ2025, you are responsible for its care and safety. However, most Jamboree Units have security boxes where you can store items when you don't need to carry them, e.g. wallets and phones. Your Leaders will let you know when you can request your items from the security box, e.g. after meals.

Ultimately you are responsible for your own property. But your Leaders will help keep it safe when they lock it in your Jamboree Unit's security box.

### **How do I keep in touch with my family during the Jamboree?**

Apart from your own phone, there will be an internet café, public phones and a post office at AJ2025. You can send letters and postcards to family and friends who will appreciate hearing from you.

Families should understand that Jamboree life is very busy and sometimes they may not hear from their Scout for several days (or even from the time they leave home until the time they get back from their adventure).

Families can keep in touch with what's happening through AJ2025 social media and the AJ2025 website. The daily newspaper can be downloaded from the website. The Jamboree radio and major events will be live-streamed. Video cameras will allow those not at Jamboree - at home or around the world - to see what is happening live at the Jamboree locations.

## ACCESSIBILITY

### **What accessible facilities does the Jamboree site have?**

Everybody is welcome in Scouts, and everybody is welcome at Jamboree.

Accessible facilities will include showers, toilets, activities, entertainment, and chill out areas.

### **Can my carer attend AJ2025?**

Carers can attend AJ2025 to support a youth members. You should discuss this with the NSW Contingent Team.

### **Who can I contact to discuss special arrangements?**

Start by talking with the NSW Contingent team. They will contact AJ2025 organisers to ensure we can cater for your needs.

### **What about any religious needs?**

Jamboree organisers will ensure that the religious requirements of all participants will be considered, including food requirements and religious observation ceremonies.

### **What religious observances are held during Jamboree?**

Every effort will be made to allow Jamboree attendees to take part in the observance of their personal religious beliefs and attend religious services.

## HEALTH and SAFETY

### **What medical support will be provided?**

Every Jamboree Unit will have a Leader who will help with first aid and related issues. As well, there are first aid posts around the Jamboree.

The onsite medical centre will be staffed by qualified doctors, nurses and other support staff with extensive medical experience, particularly with young people, who have volunteered to attend AJ2025.

This centre will have beds for those who need to stay overnight for extra care. Agreements will also be in place with local hospitals for more serious cases.

The public hospitals closest to the Jamboree site are Maryborough Hospital, Hervey Bay Hospital and Hervey Bay Surgical Hospital, and St Stephen's Hospital (in Hervey Bay).

### **What other emergency services will be at the Jamboree?**

Because AJ2025 will be the size of a large town, Queensland Police will have a 24-hour Police Station on site throughout the Jamboree. Many of the police on duty will be current or former Scouts and they'll be enjoying the event as much as you.

The Jamboree will also have its own 24-hour Fire Station.

### **I take regular medication. How do I manage it at the Jamboree?**

Depending on the type of medication, it can be managed within your Jamboree Unit with the help of your Leaders.

If your medication needs refrigeration, it can be looked after by your Community first aid team.

### **How do I manage my asthma at the Jamboree?**

It is no different to how you would manage at home, school or a normal Scout activity. Make sure you have the correct medication with you and include all details of your condition in your application

### **How safe are the activities?**

Jamboree activities are designed to be challenging and fun, but safety is always the first priority.

Specialised teams will run most activities, and every aspect of the Jamboree will be checked by our qualified safety professionals.

### **What if I don't feel safe?**

If you don't feel comfortable with an activity, speak up. Tell your Patrol Leader, fellow Scouts, Leaders, or Welfare team. There are plenty of people there who care about your welfare and making sure you're having an awesome Jamboree experience.

### **Who has duty of care over me?**

Your Unit Leaders have primary care for you. But many other people at the Jamboree will share this duty of care, including the Jamboree organisers, your Jamboree Unit Leaders, Leaders running activities, and your Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader.

## **WELFARE**

### **Who can I talk with at the Jamboree?**

There are many people who are at Jamboree just to talk to you if you need someone to listen. These range from other Scouts, your Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader, your Unit Leaders, or the Jamboree or Contingent welfare teams, or the First Aid teams. There are also independent mental health advisers on site. There is always someone to help.

### **What is the Jamboree policy on bullying?**

Scouting has zero tolerance for bullying or where someone is causing unhappiness for others. Bullying will be initially handled within the Jamboree Unit by the Unit Council and Scout Leaders. However, if necessary, this would be escalated.

### **What safety measures are in place for when I'm off site?**

Safety measures off-site are similar to those on-site. All off-site activities will provide first aid and welfare support, where needed.

### **Who will be there to watch out for me?**

You will do most activities as a Patrol so your Scout friends - including your Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader - will look out for you.

Unit Leaders will accompany Patrols on many activities, and Activity and Service Leaders will also ensure you are well looked after.

### **What if this is my first big trip away from my family?**

There is a first time for everything!

By the time you leave to attend AJ2025, you'll be experienced in being away from home. You will have already attended a number of Scout camps, have spent at least 10 nights under canvas, with at least three of those nights being together.

A Jamboree is different to a Group or District camp. It's bigger, longer and busier, and because there are so many exciting things happening, you may find that you sometimes forget about home.

Plus there are so many friendly people.

If you feel down, there are Scouts, Leaders and others to help you.

### **What if I'm too tired?**

Simply tell your Patrol Leader or Leader if you are tired. Maybe you need to take a break, and do something quieter in a chill out zone, or have an early night.

### **What if I don't want to do an activity?**

Jamborees are based on the Patrol system. If a Scout does not wish to do an activity the Patrol will all work together to support the Scout as best they can. This may vary, depending on the circumstances of the activity. But you'll never be forced to do something if you would prefer not to take part. But please consider giving everything a go. You never know; you may find something new that you love.

### **What happens if I want to go home?**

The requirement for Scouts to have a minimum of 10 nights camping before the Jamboree is aimed at helping each Scout best prepare for their time at the Jamboree, especially if you're not used to being away from home.

It's not unusual, at some point in the Jamboree, to miss some aspects of home. This usually passes quickly with the help of your Scout friends, Leaders and our experienced welfare teams.

In special circumstances, a Scout can return home, but this is very rare.

## OTHER

### **What do I need to do before the Jamboree?**

You need to register to attend Jamboree. You can do this on the NSW Contingent website at [jamboree.nsw.scouts.com.au](http://jamboree.nsw.scouts.com.au). Make sure you've got permission from your parents or guardians to attend!

In the lead up to the Jamboree, there is fundraising and saving, badgework to be completed, a minimum of 10 nights camping as a Scout (including three nights in a row).

Then it's time to organise your gear and help organise your Jamboree Unit's gear.

### **How many badges are there?**

There will be a number of different badges created for AJ2025. Badge swappers will also bring thousands of different designs to trade. You can collect interesting and unique badges by swapping one of yours for one of theirs.

### **What merchandise is available?**

Merchandise will be available before and during the Jamboree (and possibly afterwards if any stock remains). Details will be advertised closer to the event.

It's likely you will be able to order merchandise online or purchase AJ2025 and Contingent souvenirs from shops at the event.

Merchandise can include jumpers, shirts, hats, scarves, stickers, mascots, badges, towels, sunglasses and more! We'll let you know when merchandise is available to buy.

### **What is the role of a Patrol Leader at the Jamboree?**

The role of the Patrol Leader in the Jamboree Unit is to lead your Patrol on activities and on Duty Patrol. The Patrol Leaders also meet with the Leaders as Unit Council to consider any issues, and how the Jamboree Unit is running.

Patrol Leaders may be elected by the Scouts or chosen by the Unit Leaders.

Often the Jamboree PLs are also PLs in their home Scout Group.

Each Patrol also has an Assistant Patrol Leader.

### **What happens if I don't want to be in photos?**

If someone is taking photos and hasn't asked if it's OK and you don't want to be in the photo, kindly tell them that you don't want to be in any photos. Or ask your Leaders to tell them.

If this is not immediately possible, tell your Scout Leader as soon as you can, and provide them details of who/when/where the photo was taken.

### **Are we allowed to use the AJ2025 logos and artwork?**

Yes, we'd love to see the NSW AJ2025 logo everywhere: on websites, social media, and other communications.

Make sure you are using the NSW logo for AJ2025.

Look out for the Brand Book that will help you to understand how to correctly use the logo and art.

### **Are we allowed to use the AJ2025 logos and artwork in fundraising?**

Yes and no.

Your events and public fundraisers should clearly identify that you're raising funds to get to the 2025 Australian Jamboree. Use the logo!

It's also OK on a locally sold item, like 1st Windy Valley Jamboree cookies, or 1st Windy Valley Jamboree tea towels.

You can also use the logo on clothing for your own Jamboree Unit.

But Scouts Australia owns the branding and the rights to any AJ2025 souvenirs e.g. T-shirts, water bottles, power packs.

If you're not sure if your idea is OK, please check with the NSW Contingent. We'll respond promptly and this may save embarrassment and money.

### **Are we allowed to buy our own merchandise?**

No, this is not a good idea. There will be great merchandise available to everyone that is sustainable, branded and value for money. Don't buy your own merchandise because it may not be the best value, quality or price.

## LEADERS/ADULT HELPERS

### **How can I help with the Jamboree as a Leader?**

A great role at any Jamboree is being a Scout Leader within a Jamboree Unit.

The work is constant but the rewards are great – experiencing the Jamboree as the Scouts see it.

The Jamboree also has opportunities for Leaders of all kinds, with specialised skills or a willingness to learn.

If you want to get involved straight away you can contact the NSW Contingent on [nsw.contingent@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:nsw.contingent@nsw.scouts.com.au)

### **I've got skills I can offer AJ2025. How can I get involved?**

Contact the NSW Contingent organising team via email: [nsw.contingent@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:nsw.contingent@nsw.scouts.com.au).

### **Where can I find out more?**

NSW AJ2025 website:

<https://jamboree.nsw.scouts.com.au>

NSW AJ2025 Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NSWContingentAJ2025>

NSW AJ2022 Instagram page

<https://www.instagram.com/nswcontingentaj2025/>

Email:

[nsw.contingent@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:nsw.contingent@nsw.scouts.com.au)