



ROVER HANDBOOK

South African Scout Association



CONTENTS

- What is Roving
- Aims
- Membership
- Country and Honorary Members
- Lone and Deep Sea Rovers
- The Crew Council
- The Sponsor
- Self-Examination before Investiture
- Religious Policy
- The Rover Den
- Rover Awards

WHAT IS ROVERING

The ROVER section of the Scout Movement is open to young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30, who need not have been members of the Scout or Guide Movements previously in order to join.

Becoming a member of a Rover crew will provide you with a challenge and the opportunity to develop your personal abilities, as well as learning plenty of new skills.

Rovers could be described as a fellowship of the open air and service. You'll find there's an extensive range of activities open to you, and socially, you'll be mixing with a group of young adults doing the things you want to do. Every Rover Crew is different, and tailors its activities to the requirements of its members.

Outdoor activities such as bush walking; caving, canoeing, ski touring, rock-climbing and scuba diving are all important parts of many Rover Crews' calendars. In fact, when it comes to Rover activities, imagination is your only limit. Rovers will develop your ability to lead other young people to adventure, and you will appreciate the value of helping other people. The word "service" is synonymous with Roving.

The friends you make in Rovers will be lifelong friends. You will plan and manage your Crew's activities, and learn the value of teamwork and co-operation.

Roving has so much to offer; you will find the decision to join an easy one to make.

AIMS

Policy Organisation and Rules (PO&R) of the Scouts Association state the following as regards to the aims of Roving:

“Rover Scouting is a Brotherhood of the open air and of service, the purposes of which are: to provide encouragement for the self-training of Rovers in citizenship and service, to encourage Rovers to pursue careers useful to themselves, and to render service to the Scout Movement and the Community”.

Rover scouting offers a series of challenging awards, cumulating in the Baden Powell award. There is no formal programme but Crews are encouraged to establish their own, based on the needs and interests of their members, planned at their discretion.

MEMBERSHIP

Before being admitted to a Rover Crew, one must have attained the age of eighteen.

One joins a Rover Crew as a Recruit irrespective of whether one comes from Scouts, Guides or as a newcomer. Rover Crews do not always meet on a weekly basis and therefore a three-month probation period is set, and after this time the Recruit is invested as a Squire. The non-Scout is first to be invested as a Scout, and must be prepared to accept the Scout Promise and Law and commit himself to the Rover Crew's particular programme after acceptance by the Crew (and vice versa). When the Recruit is invested as a Squire, he or she then chooses a Sponsor from the available invested Rovers. The non-Scout must familiarise himself, assisted by the Sponsor, with the many Scouting skills.

A Service Task (or quest) is decided upon between the Squire and Sponsor, and this task should be of such a nature as to give the Squire a “taste of what is to come”. A word of advice to Sponsors - don't overdo it - you might scare them off! The booklets “What is Scouting” and “What is Rovering” and also BP's “Rovering to Success” must be read.

Once you are a Rover you have a vote, and may also possibly receive a key to the Den, as happens in some Crews, thus allowing you to make full use of it in your spare time, as a quiet place, or for study.

COUNTRY AND HONORARY MEMBERS

Once a Squire has been given their epaulettes (in other words, been invested as a Rover) he or she can never give them up. He or she may stop attending meetings, but should be placed on a “non register”, thus becoming a country member. It is important to maintain contact with this type of Rover, especially for those special traditional functions and large projects which cannot be coped with by the Crew on their own through lack of numbers. Their advice, knowledge, experience and “remember when” stories can be invaluable to Recruits, Squires and Rovers alike.

Honorary members should be few and far between. These are usually people who for many years have assisted and supported the Crew. By way of example, to help overcome some of the mystery and so-called secrecy surrounding the Rover Crew, it is often worthwhile inviting the Group Scouter to become an honorary member, thus giving him or her a better understanding of the Crew and allowing him to act as a buffer between the Crew and the Group Committee. These members enjoy a similar status to that of country members in that they are able to join in events and ceremonies of the Crew but are not able to vote on issues raised at general meetings of the Crew.

LONE AND DEEP SEA ROVERS

Provision has been made within the Scout Movement to provide Rovering to young people who, because of various circumstances, cannot join their closest Crew and have joined the Merchant or South African Navy permanently. A Lone Rover is registered at Area Scout Headquarters and with the Area Rover Advisory Council, and is responsible to a Lone Commissioner appointed for that function.

Deep Sea Rovers are usually Sea Scouts who wish to continue in the Scouting Movement, and they are to be registered in the same way as a Lone Rover.

THE CREW COUNCIL

This is the organising body of the Crew elected by the Crew to organise and run the Crew for one year. The Council consists of a Rover Scout Leader, Crew Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and two or three Rovers. Only invested Rovers can be elected to this Council, and this is where all decisions are made. To be elected to this Council is an honour not to be taken lightly.

With no two Crews being alike it is difficult to set a standard, but here are a few pointers:

- The Council must be aware of the needs and capabilities of the Crew.
- The Council must not over-extend the Crew. “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy”, and that is not what we are looking for. Whatever happens, keep the fun element alive.
- Maintain democracy in the Crew. Arguments can always be settled if discussed in an adult manner.
- The Council has judicial powers. Crew members acting out of line can be called to appear before the Council. This is the most unpleasant task a Council may have to perform.
- Avoid your Crew Council becoming a secret society. Take all decisions, programmes and activities to the Crew through the Crew in Council.

THE SPONSOR

Every recruit must, after completing his acceptance period, choose for him or herself a Sponsor, who is to be an invested Rover Scout. In the case of a new Rover Crew with no invested Rovers the Sponsor may be chosen from the squiring Crew. It is up to the Squire to choose a Sponsor, not the Rover Scout Leader to appoint one. In the case of a particular Rover being chosen too often, the Leader should take some form of action. Something can obviously be learned from this popular Rover, so take note.

A person cannot become a Squire if they know nothing about Rovers, so after allowing a suitable probation period to get to know the Crew, he or she then chooses a Sponsor. A period of service is set by the Crew for the Squire and a programme for that period is drawn up between the Sponsor and the Squire. Probation and service times differ from Crew to Crew, but a three-month period seems to be the average.

During the squireship period the Sponsor has some weighty responsibilities. If his Squire is a non-Scout he will have to get him through some training in Scouting skills, and recruits must be made aware of the Scout Promise and Law, looking at it from an adult point of view. It is the Sponsor's duty to make the Squire understand the ways of Rovering and the Crew's traditions. The Sponsor places the importance of independence upon the Squire, showing him that the job means everything to him. By concentrating on the fact that he must consolidate himself he will learn “stickability”, confidence and determination, and even more important, he will not be a burden to anyone.

The Sponsor who “talks down” to his Squire will not make a success of his task. Do not assume a superior attitude, Rovers are just not like that, they are on an equal footing in the Crew, with the Sponsor obviously being the more experienced member.

When all the above is complete, the Sponsor will prepare the Squire for his Vigil. Nowhere else in Scouting is one required to look so deeply within oneself before an investiture, than as a Rover. The Sponsor must be ready to assist the Squire with his Vigil. The Sponsor never questions the Squire on his Vigil; after all, a Scout's Honour is to be trusted. Because of this, more often than not a life-long friendship is formed (nothing sloppy or sentimental) but a solid, strong, clean friendship based on mutual understanding, tolerance and appreciation.

SELF-EXAMINATION BEFORE INVESTITURE

The final step that you are required to take before you are admitted to Investiture as a Rover is to submit yourself to some form of self-examination, which is in some sense a summing up of all we have said about the Scout Law and Promise, and about committing yourself to service. Finally, it is an attempt to get you to assess yourself, your strengths and your weaknesses, and your intentions against the background of Rovering.

RELIGIOUS POLICY

- Every invested member of the South African Scout Association shall be encouraged: to make every effort to progress – in keeping with age and experience – in understanding of the Promise: “To do my duty to God”; to belong to some religious body; to carry into daily practice what he or she professes.
- Every adult member of the South African Scout Association must realise the importance of the effect on young people of personal example in the implementation of the above rule.
- If at any time a Rover does not belong to a religious body, the Rover Scout Leader must endeavour to put him or her in touch with one. This should, if possible, be the body to which the Rover’s parents belong, or into which the Rover may have been baptised, or otherwise introduced.
- When a Crew is composed of members of one particular form of religion, it is the duty of the Rover Scout Leader to arrange such religious observances and instruction as he or she, in consultation with the religious authority, may consider best.
- Where a Crew is composed of members of different religions, it is the duty of the Rover Scout Leader to encourage and assist Rovers to attend services of their own form of religion. Any form of prayer or worship used at meetings or in camp should be interdenominational; attendance being voluntary and it being understood that those absenting themselves will spend the time in worship according to their own beliefs.
- When the Crew is engaged in weekend activities every endeavour should be made to arrange for Rovers to attend their own form of worship before, during, or after the activities.
- Where it is not permissible under a rule of religion for any Rover to attend religious observances other than those of his or her own form of religion, the Rover Scout Leader must see that this Rule is strictly observed while the Rover is under his or her control.

THE ROVER DEN

Baden Powell wrote in his book *Rovering to Success* “It is not possible to run Rovers efficiently without a Den.”

The Den is to be under Rover management and is out of bounds to non-Crewmembers. This “taboo” might cause some complications with other branches of the Group, as some Group Committee Chairmen think all belongs to them. It is better then to have a Group Scouter to act as a buffer between the Crew and the rest of the Group, and make the GSM an Honorary Member of the Crew.

Keep the Crew and Den shrouded in mystery!

A den should be easily accessible to avoid crossing someone else’s property, as it always leads to trouble. If you are building a new den, do so on Scout property. The majority of Rover Crews have their dens in a room somewhere in the attic or basement of the Scout Hall. Building a new den from the foundation up is like no other project; it brings the Crew together as no other project ever will. When planning and designing the den, remember that there must be a meeting area, a ceremonial area, a kitchen and toilet facility (if there is no existing one nearby). Keep the kitchen within earshot of the meeting area to allow the coffee maker to hear what is being discussed!

ROVER AWARDS

The B-P Award

Before being awarded the B-P Award, a Rover Scout must:

- Hold four of the eight Rover Scout Proficiency Awards;
- Be recommended by the Group Scouter, the Rover Scout Leader and the Crew Council as a Rover who is setting a personal example of the Scout way of life and who is carrying out the Rover motto of "Service".

Rover Proficiency Awards

There are eight Proficiency Awards for Rover Scouts, any four of which qualify for the B-P Award.

- The Scoutcraft Award
- The Rambler's Award
- The Project Award
- The Scouter Training Award
- The Civics Award
- The Careers Award
- The Community Service Award
- The Sportsmanship Award



The Scoutcraft Award

1. Produce a personal camp logbook showing that you have camped on at least fifteen separate occasions (for at least one night each) on three or more different campsites and demonstrate that you are accustomed to camping in strict compliance with "Camping Standards".
2. Demonstrate that you are proficient in camp catering and cooking and in the use and care of camp equipment.
3. Demonstrate that you are competent to instruct or examine in any two of the following Scout Interest Badges: Air Navigator, Backwoodsman, Campfire Leader, Astronomer, Woodcraftsman, Cook, Veldcraft, Firefighter, Pioneer and Public Health. (You need not be required to act as Examiner or Instructor in the Badges selected.)



The Rambler's Award

1. Demonstrate that you are competent to instruct or examine in one of the following Scout Interest Badges:

Veldcraft, Mapping, Cook, Guide or Hiker. (You need not be required to act as an instructor or examiner).

2.

- Plan a series of hikes of not less than 25km each with an aggregate of 125km and involving not less than three nights camping. Submit your plan to the Rover Scout Leader and Crew for approval.
The hikes, which must avoid made roads and to a large extent be cross-country, must be of a standard to test endurance, self-reliance, initiative, and determination.
(Where actual mountaineering or particularly difficult country is to be covered, the aggregate distance may be proportionately reduced at the discretion of the District Commissioner).
- Carry out the planned hikes and submit a log which shall give dates, places, and distances, and such other information as will not only interest other hikers but enable them to follow



the route taken. Notes on nature development, etc should be included. No detailed map of the route is required, but sketch maps must be included to cover all difficult and interesting points on the route.

The Project Award

1. Choose, plan and devote at least three months to a project. Keep a record of your activities. At least twice during the period report progress to the Rover Scout Leader and Crew; produce records supported by any charts, models, maps or exhibits which may be needed to elucidate the project. On these occasions you may seek advice or assistance from the Crew if you feel this is necessary.

NOTE: a project may be defined as a self-imposed task demanding skill, application, and care. You may choose your own subject with the following limitations:

- The subject may not be connected with practical Scoutcraft and must differ materially from the subject chosen for the Civics Award. The subject should be chosen from such fields as art, literature, music, drama, science, world affairs, hobbies, handicrafts, cultural traditions, journalism, ecology, wildlife, etc.
 - The subject chosen should have no bearing on your career.
 - The subject chosen must be formally approved by the Rover Scout Leader and the Crew as suitable and worthwhile.
2. When you are yourself satisfied that you have completed your selected project, you must demonstrate the result of your work to the Rover Scout Leader and Crew. The Rover Scout Leader and Crew, after seeking any necessary expert advice, will then decide if you have reached a satisfactory standard of attainment. If necessary, before being passed, you may be asked to do further work on any aspects which do not qualify.

The Scouter Training Award

You are required to demonstrate knowledge of the principles of Scouting or Cubbing. The content and standard required is that of a Basic Skills course and a Preliminary Wood Badge course in the Branch (Cub Pack or Scout Troop) in which you will seek a Warrant.

The Civics Award

Show by means of a talk, or by taking part in a discussion before an audience consisting of the members of your Crew, that you have made a close study of some social or civic question of current interest.



You should show that in preparing your paper you have made use of newspapers and literature of varying shades of opinion and have visited places related to your subject, e.g. town councils, parliament, Courts of Law, farms, eroded and re-established areas, etc.

The following list suggests some of the subjects that you might choose:

soil conservation, agricultural reform, road safety, problems of urbanised communities, different communities in South Africa, penal reform, the power/freedom of the press, the responsibilities of marriage, the upbringing and education of children, health services, career selection, employer/employee relationships, establishing a home, drug abuse, etc.

The talk should be illustrated by photographs, newspaper cuttings etc.

The standard will be assessed by the work put into preparation, and not your debating ability.

The Careers Award

1. You must be engaged in a recognised system of post-school training leading to professional or technical qualifications for your career.
2. You must produce evidence that your progress in your studies and training has been above average in any one year.
3. You must, at least three times during the year, report progress to the RSL and Crew producing evidence (models, essays, notebooks, etc) in support of your claim.
4. When you are yourself satisfied that you have a claim to the Award, you must submit evidence to the Rover Scout Leader and Crew who, after seeking any necessary expert advice, will decide if you have reached a satisfactory standard of attainment. If necessary, before being passed, you may be asked to do further work on any aspect in which you have not qualified.



Community Service Award

For this Award you are required to:

1. Prepare and give a talk to a group of Scouts or other young people on the subject of service to the community.
2. Participate in a local community project of your own choice for a period of six months (or longer if desired).

Note: You can select from a myriad of projects, such as:

extra lessons for school children; repair and/or maintenance of school buildings, clinics etc; conservation work such as reclaiming dongas, repairing fences, planting trees; construction of civil improvements in the village such as water drains, latrines, etc; acting as a secretary/treasurer/committee member of a local community project/students' society/club/Students' Christian Association etc; helping in an adult literacy/numeracy project; helping to run a youth group; working with handicapped people; helping the local church or religious group; assisting at a tuberculosis settlement; assisting the blood transfusion service; voluntary first aid work; Fire Brigade duties; etc, etc.

The Sportsmanship Award

1. Participate in a sport at club level for at least two consecutive seasons, showing good commitment to the sport and club activities.
2. Participate in a different sport for at least the same length of time. (You need not attain the same level of proficiency but must show good knowledge of the rules and skills needed).
At least one of the above sports must be a team sport.
3. Attain a high level of proficiency in the sport of your choice (maintain a high standard relative to your ability - judged by your RSL and Crew) or have served on the club committee for at least two terms of office.
4. Play an active role in development of your sport in communities other than your own (run coaching clinics etc).
5. Know the rules of your sport and act as an official, judge or match referee at a minimum of two league meetings or matches.
6. Give a talk to an audience not made up of fellow sportsmen, stressing the benefits of sport, exercise and healthy living.
7. Draw up a training programme that you would need to follow to improve your performance in your sport of choice. The schedule must include training in and out of season. Follow that programme for a year and report back to your crew on your progress.