

Resilient Scouting
Resilient Communities

We live in a fast paced world and Scouting as a Movement has seen a lot of change. Scouting continues to grow because we are forward-thinking, adaptable and focused on delivering a contemporary program.

In today's rapidly changing world, Scouting remains relevant to young people and adults alike, by creating opportunities for personal growth in an adventurous, fun, challenging and inclusive Movement, which ultimately builds resilient individuals of a global community.

Since commencing in 1908, Scouting has stood the test of time. We have not just been present through the turmoils of the last 112 years but we have been part of the solution, helping to make our world better everyday.

In the Influenza Pandemic of 1918/19 Scouts served the community by preparing and delivering meals to the sick earning the Emergency Service Badge from the community. Scouts gave service in World War II by making bed trays, crutches and walking sticks to send to the forces overseas and collecting resources to support their community through care packages for European refugees and Soldiers. Throughout history, when the world is faced with uncertainty, Scouts step up and work tirelessly for their communities.





Resilient Queensland

Queensland is a resilient State and Queenslanders are resilient people. We face drought, floods, fires, tropical storms and pandemics, pulling together in the face of adversity to help each other, sharing resources, service and compassion. Our communities grow stronger thanks to the dedicated citizens who embody the Australian values of courage, mateship, ingenuity and good humour. Scouting is at the centre of our communities, our members are the first to show up and lend a hand with skills forged thanks to years of practical Scouting.



Photograph: Patrick Woods / Sunshine Coast Daily

Scouting in Queensland

With Scouting in over 230 Communities in Queensland, every State Electorate has a member of Scouting residing in it, highlighting the reach of Scouts and the impact a strong Scouting program can have on Queensland's communities' health and resilience. We empower our members to be active citizens of our local communities, locally active, globally united. Through bushfire recovery badge sales efforts, Scouts Queensland raised $38,690, of which $24,218 was donated to Rural Fire Brigades to strengthen their capacity to support communities and a further $14,472 contributed to increasing mental health and first aid capabilities in Scouts Queensland.



the Scouting Effect

Measuring Scouting's Impact on the Resilience of Young People in Australia

The survey found that members of Scouting have more resilience, better mental health and physical wellbeing, respond better to education and feel they are more active members of their community. The following pages break down some of these findings highlighting the positive impact Scouting has on our members and our communities.

In 2019, Scouts Australia partnered with Resilient Youth Australia to conduct research exploring the relationship between Scouting and resilience in youth. This survey proved what members of Scouting already knew, Scouting builds resilience for life.

This survey compared answers to 75 questions from young people across Australia both members and non-members of Scouts. These questions were designed to capture key insights into the health, wellbeing and the development of youth.





Mental Health





Scouts have **5.2%** overall better life satisfaction. **6.5%** more likely to feel they can talk about things that are upsetting them, are **8.1%** more likely to know they can solve a problem rather than quit and have a **13%** healthier mental state than their non-Scout counterparts, according to the survey.

There is a clear benefit to young people's mental health when they engage with the Scout program and furthermore indicates how a sustained engagement in the Scouting program improves mental health exponentially for the individual.

The Scouting program engages young people from as young as 5 years old in an adventurous, fun, challenging and inclusive activities focusing on personal development in the outdoors. Our program gives young people a safe space to try new things and get back up and try again when they stumble. This builds a strong sense of self belief that means Scouts are more likely to have positive mental health.

Physical Health

Members of Scouting feel they have a healthy body **11.6%** more than non-Scouts. They are **11.8%** more likely to feel good about themselves.

Whilst physical health is important, there is a correlation between being physically active and continued good mental health. The Scouting program not only provides youth with the opportunity to be active, but builds good mental health simultaneously.

Scouting is delivered through the outdoors and from local Scout Dens, encouraging active recreation on weekly Section nights, weekend camps and through a pro gram of Outdoor Adventure Skills. Scouts hike, cycle, kayak and climb; they sail, paddle and cave.

Our program develops an appreciation and connection with nature whilst fostering care and respect for the environment. Engaging in Scouting means that our young people have more opportunity to get outside, learn new skills and maintain a healthy body and mind.









Education

Scouts are **6.2%** more likely to enjoy school, **14.1%** more likely to read for fun and **12.1%** more likely to be selected to help with tasks at school than their non-Scout peers. These figures demonstrate an enthusiasm for learning that ensures our young people are making the most of their formal education.

Not only does the program promote a positive relationship with formal education but our non-formal education methods are modern and create well rounded individuals. Scouting fosters life long learning through the Youth Program and the achievement pathways which enable a young person to achieve their Section's Peak Award. The Scout Method features Learning by Doing, giving every Scout the opportunity to succeed whilst also being permitted to make mistakes in a safe space, creating practical and resilient members of our community.

Social Wellbeing

Scouts report **5.6%** better social skills than their non-Scout peers, they are **5.2%** more likely to get along with people who are different to them, **13%** more likely to trust others, **6.3%** more likely to forgive others who are mean to them and Scouts are **6.8%** more likely than non-Scouts to report they have good adult role models. This shows that it is not just youth members who benefit from engaging with our program, but adults in Scouting reap the same benefits of Scouting.

In Scouts, we value the diversity of our members including gender, sexuality, race, religion and ability. Our organisation represents a cross section of society and creates a tolerant unique environment for young people. Through our adult training programs, Leaders develop techniques to support young people which makes Youth Leading, Adults Supporting possible.





Resilient Communities

Scouting is a well connected, community minded Movement and as a result, active Scouting means active and resilient communities. Scouts are **15.4%** more likely to feel they make a positive contribution to their communities, they are **9.4%** more likely to hold hope for a positive future and **8.1%** more likely to give their time to other people.

Through community partnerships, our members are empowered to have a voice on issues facing their community. Scouting is one of the world's largest movements for peace and our world-wide Messenger of Peace program encourages community service as a practical means to achieve world peace. Scouting in communities means that the community has active and globally conscious citizens who are more likely to have the desire and the skills to help. Resilient communities need strong leaders, through participating, assisting and leading activities in the Scout Program, young people in Scouts develop into the community leaders of the future.





Tobias Kennett, Scouts Queensland Branch Youth Council Chair 2020, Queensland Youth Parliament





Investing in Our Future

In order for Queensland communities to continue to be resilient, we need to foster resilience in individuals. Through Scouting, we build resilient individuals who are equipped with the transferable skills required to support communities. Investing time and resources in Scouting means more young people can access to the Scouting Effect and we can continue to build on what we have done for 112 years, making the world a better place every day.

The **Rio Declaration on Non-Formal Education** from December 2019 recognises the significant benefits provided to young people who engage in Non-Formal Education. Queensland Scouts were active contributors at this historic gathering. These benefits are listed as being autonomous, supportive, responsible, committed and inclusive. Through Scouting, young people have access to all of the positive benefits of this education model from their community, building resilient individuals locally. The World Non-Formal Education Forum calls to the wider community to invest in the potential of young people and leverage the transformative benefits of this sector. https://worldnfeforum.com/

Scouts
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Scouts Queensland is a Child Safe organisation with zero-tolerance for any harm, abuse or neglect. We value the diversity of our members, including gender, sexuality, race, religion and ability. Visit our Child Safe webpage scoutsqld.com.au/about-us/child-protection-safety/ for more information.