



Bush Walks for Joey Scouts.

QRG 11

Do I need to hold qualifications to take our Joeys on a Bush Walk?

The NSW Bushwalking Activities Standard Operating Procedures says;

"Walks conducted in suburban reserves, specified walking trails through urban areas or national parks that interface with residential areas are classified as urban walks and are exempt from these Standard Operating Procedures."

The Basic Outdoor Skills (BOS) course is optional for Joey Scout Leaders. Being optional, groups are not expected to cover the cost of the course, but may still choose to.

So how far can we venture out? Where do we draw the line?

It's all about judging the level of risk and your ability to cope with an emergency situation. As a guide, look at trails that do not take a Joey any further than 1hr from public & vehicular transport. Note that we are talking about a Joey walking for 1hr, not an adult.

These "urban walks" are to be considered just like any other Joey Scout Activity, you are expected to do a risk assessment and put in place controls to take care of any potential hazards. So in preparation, go and do the walk, investigate the hazards and plan your outing. Note that if you hold the BOS qualification, that can give you a lot more flexibility, but remember no matter the location, it MUST still be suitable for the joeys in your mob.

Our state policy, says you should have a minimum ratio of 1 adult per 4 joeys. Remember that this is a minimum. Does this nature setting include water features, or even cliffs, or other potentially harmful features? Do you have a special needs Joey that may run off? You may need to increase the level of supervision to cover these potential issues. Try to picture your Joey Mob in this setting.

With your E1 form make sure you include a packing list. eg; drink bottle, hat, sunscreen, good walking shoes, long pants, small first aid kit, rain coat/emergency poncho, small towel or blanket to sit on. Always ensure that your E1 nominated emergency contact is fully aware of their obligations and have a good understanding of where you are going and when you expect to be back.

Questions

Any questions about procedures should be raised at your District/Region Wandarrarrah.

Or even contact your region activities team, they have a wealth of experience and knowledge.

Please check <http://www.joeyscouts.com.au> for the latest version of this document.

Please note that this is a NSW based document, some parts may not be relevant to other states.