



Dragon Skin 2025

The Best of the Best

Penrose State Forest
18th to 21st April 2025

Information for VOC Applicants

VOC 2 Myths and Legends



Dragon Skin Theme

I'm looking behind us now, across the count of time, down the long haul, into history back, I sees 1984 when it all began....Venturers from all over competing, battling for the coveted Dragon Skin.

We're ready for our 40th Skin now, we've been into Space, seen the apocalypse, staged movies, broken down frontiers and waged revolution! And here we stand, with you, the Best of the Best.

Join us this Easter and be a part of it, the greatest of Venturer Events,

Dragon Skin 2025 BEST OF THE BEST!

How to Apply

Applications for Dragon Skin 2025 must be completed online at dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au. Online applications will close at midnight on 6 April 2025.

When you have 'submitted' your application, **you then need to make your payment** through the online application system and upload your signed form.

Applications will not be accepted until they are received FULLY COMPLETED, SUBMITTED and PAYMENT RECEIVED.

Payments

ALL Payments are to be made through the online application system, once you have submitted your application go to the 'Make a Payment' screen to pay your VOC fee.

If you have any concerns about making the payments, please email the VOC Registrar.

Acknowledgement of receipt of your application and payments will be by way of the change in status of your online application to "SHQ Approved". If your application is not "SHQ Approved" you are not permitted to attend the event.

Withdrawals

If after making an application, you are unable to attend Dragon Skin 2024, you must email voc2@dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au as soon as possible.

Withdrawals fees will apply as follows:

Written Notification of withdrawal received	Dragon Skin Withdrawal Fee	VOC Withdrawal Fee
Before or on 23 rd March 2025	\$0.00	\$0.00
On or after 24 th March 2025	\$30.00	\$120.00

**Late payment fees are not refundable.

Dragon Skin reserves the right to refuse any application, in which case a full refund will be made.

Eligibility

Leader / Rover / Olave Program / Venturer Scout (18 years & over)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be registered as a Venturer Scout, Rover, member of the Olave Program or hold an Adult Appointment in Scouts Australia NSW or Guides NSW & ACT at the time of application and through till 21 April 2025.• Be 18 years of age before the first day of Dragon Skin 2025 (18 April 2025).
Other Adult	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be a registered member of Scouts Australia NSW or Guides NSW & ACT (e.g. Adult Helper, Office Holders, Fellowship) at the time of application and through till 21 April 2025• Be 18 years of age before the first day of Dragon Skin 2025 (18 April 2025).• Be authorised to work with children by Scouts Australia NSW or Guides NSW & ACT

Interstate Leaders & Rovers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a registered member of their local Scouts Australia branch. • Be 18 years of age before the first day of Dragon Skin 2025 (18 April 2025). • Be authorised to work with children by Scouts Australia in accordance with local requirements (WWCC, WWVPC, Blue card, etc) • Have approval of their branch to attend an interstate event in accordance with their branch rules.
Youth under 15 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance by children under the age of 15 is not preferred and must have the specific written approval of the VOC Commander and Chairman prior to completing their online application. They must be supervised by their parent/s or primary care giver throughout the event.
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors to Dragon Skin must register at HQ on their way into the forest. Overnight visitors are discouraged and must have the Chairman's written approval prior to the start of Dragon Skin.

Medical Obligations

Should your medical conditions change from the information provided on your initial application, prior to the commencement of Dragon Skin 2025, it is your obligation to advise us immediately of such change through both the online system and by written confirmation directly to info@dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au

Dragon Skin Information

Fires & Smoking

One of the conditions of Dragon Skin being held in the State Forest is that there is a complete ban on smoking and fires inside the pine plantations as these trees will not regenerate like native bush in a wildfire (Bush Fire). Rovers and Leaders who smoke must ensure their cigarettes are fully extinguished and all butts are collected. Smoking and fires are also prohibited around tents in the VOCs.

Alcohol

Dragon Skin is an alcohol-free event.

Our responsibilities to youth and to their parents require adult members to be particularly careful in regard to the consumption of alcohol while taking part in Dragon Skin. In particular, Leaders and Rovers must never allow themselves to be placed in a position where there can be any suggestion the consumption of alcohol may have affected their ability to exercise proper care of members and activities under their charge or supervision.

For this reason, Rovers and Leaders are not permitted to consume alcoholic drinks at Dragon Skin. Rovers and Leaders should not consume alcoholic drinks immediately before the official start of Dragon Skin until the end of the event.

Vehicles

There is a 40 KPH speed limit in the forest during Dragon Skin, and all vehicle movements must be kept to a minimum.

Please obey the speed limit and take care when driving around Venturers.

Forestry regulations and other rules

In order to maintain our good relationship with State Forests it is important that you follow some simple rules:

1. No Fires in the Pine Plantations
2. Do not cut down any live trees
3. Do not attach anything to trees with nails or screws as these may be left behind and become a danger to loggers when felling trees. Tie things on instead.
4. Collect any litter and take home your rubbish.
5. You may not sell food or drinks to Venturers.

Feeling Safe – Your Rights

Everyone in Scouts – youth and adults alike have the right to feel safe and be protected from abuse. No-one is allowed to threaten, hurt or touch another person in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable, unsafe or afraid.

A Scout is respectful and this applies to all interactions between all participants at Dragon Skin – both youth and adult.

Youth Members have been told they can raise issues with Adults at Dragon Skin, and that any concerns will be taken seriously and treated appropriately.

If you have a concern, or a concern is raised with you, you should raise it with your VOC Commander or the Dragon Skin Chairman. All concerns will be taken seriously and dealt with appropriately.

If a youth member chooses to raise an issue with you it is your role to:

- Hear their concerns.
- Re-assure the youth member that you believe their concerns and that it is not their fault.
- Raise it through the most direct method to the Dragon Skin Chairman.
- Manage the confidentiality of the person who has trusted you with this information by only sharing the information with the people necessary to support the person raising the issue.

- Provide the youth member with somewhere relatively private (and quite separate from the person in respect of whom they have raised their concerns - if that person is nearby) until the Dragon Skin Chairman can attend.

DO NOT

- Discuss specific details of the matter over the Radio network. If required ask the Dragon Skin Chairman to come to your location.
- Try to investigate or solve the issue. The Dragon Skin Chairman will take appropriate steps when they arrive and speak with the youth member.
- Discuss the matter with others outside the chain of people required to raise the issue.
- Tell the youth member that you can keep it confidential between you and them.

REMEMBER

In accordance with the Scouts NSW Child Protection Policy and Procedure, where you believe a youth member is in imminent danger - you should immediately call the NSW Police on 131 444.

Imminent Danger

If a young person is in imminent danger, the matter should be reported directly and immediately to NSW Police on 131 444.

- Once you have made a report to the police, you should then take steps to inform the Dragon Skin Chairman that a police report has been made.
- Where mobile phone reception is unavailable at your location, or you are unsure whether the police are required, you should radio through for immediate assistance to the Dragon Skin Chairman.
- The Dragon Skin Chairman retains responsibility for subsequently providing an incident report to the Child Protection Team at the NSW State Office on: Tel: 02 9735 9000 or via ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au. Where applicable, this must include the fact that a report has been made to the police or any other authority.

If you don't know what to do – talk to someone at Dragon Skin HQ!

It is possible that information revealed may be distressing to you. If you feel this is the case, you are encouraged to ask for help from the Dragon Skin Chairman. They will put you in touch with a Member Support Leader from your Region or on site.

If, for any reason, you do not feel concerns of this nature which you raised at Dragon Skin have been satisfactorily dealt with, please report your concerns directly to the Child Protection Team at the NSW State Office on 02 9735 9000 or via ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au.

VOC 2 Information

Arrival: 5pm on Thursday 17th April 2025 without prior consultation with the VOC Commander. If you are arriving before 5pm Thursday 17th, you must advise and be approved to attend by VOC 2 Commander by the 1st April 2025.

Camping: You must only camp in designated camping areas. All vehicles will be required to move throughout the weekend will be parked on the outer of the campsite. Any cars not needed to move will be parked away (or in the campsite) in the parking area, so please come prepared. You may camp with your car only if it is not required to move for the weekend.

Catering: All meals from Friday breakfast until Monday breakfast will be catered for. You are welcome to bring snacks for during the day while out at bases or in the evening back at VOC. You will be required to bring a mess kit to eat your meals from. Each activity base will also have a list of items they will need to supply so we can get your lunches out to you – more details will be given to the activity coordinators closer to the event. There is to be no self-catering or cooking at activities or within Rover camping area.

All water on tap (except in toilets) at the VOC 2 site is suitable for drinking

Breakfast will be ready at 6:30 each day which is when the wake up call is made.

Vehicles: All access points have good roads and all 2WD vehicles should have no issue in making it to the VOC as long as drivers are careful and vigilant in driving responsibly. Refer to Penrose Forest Map that will be circulated via email, and at meetings for VOC location.

Alcohol: There will be a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY for alcohol consumed in the forest between 12am Friday 18th April 2025 and 1pm 21st April 2025. Any offenders will be immediately asked to leave the event by the VOC Commander.

Set Up: VOC 2 will reach out for any helpers to assist during Pre-Skin, which will commence on Saturday 12th April 2025, before Dragon Skin. Activity bases can commence set up on the Friday morning of Dragon Skin, prior to bases opening, any exception to this can be discussed with the VOC 2 Activities Coordinator. VOC 2 or Dragon skin cannot be held responsible for any damages overnight. Camping areas can be set up on arrival on Thursday 17th April, unless you are there for the weekend prior as you can leave your tent set up for the week to be ready for you to settle into Thursday night.

Media: Please feel free to take photos of you or your Rovers and post online however please do not take any photos of Venturers or other children on VOC without permission. Please feel free to tag VOC 2 and Dragon Skin in any photos.

Identification: Please keep wrist bands and lanyard on and visible at all time.

Emergencies: In case of emergency whilst you are on VOC 2 site please adhere to the instructions given by the VOC 2 Staff wearing red hats saying Warden on them. In case of evacuation please assemble at one of the two evacuation point located here and here, either Sarah or Kathrine will be at these areas to ensure everyone is evacuated.

Showers: If you wish to use the showers please come see Jack. There will only be a limited time frame you can use the showers. Showers will be closed to everyone between 6:30pm and 9:30pm each night.

Activities: For your activity packs please collect and return to COMMS each day. This includes the paperwork, radios and any other information you may need.

Please take all rubbish from your activities home with you.

Some bases have code activities that will be in your packs with all explanations. All sheets from this must be back Sunday night!

All cars travelling from VOC 2 to activity base are required to have a pass to be displayed on dashboard. Maximum 2 cars per Activity base. Please come see Matt or Tamara if there is a problem.

VOC 2 – Pre Skin

What is Pre-Skin: Pre Skin is the week that leads up to Dragon Skin where members of VOC 2 come together and setup all major facilities and equipment for the core event. This includes our Marquees, Kitchen and other Amenities such as Showers, Portaloos and Lighting. Pre Skin 2025 will take place from 12th to 17th April. **PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE VOC COMMANDER OR ADMIN IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COMING ALONG – YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND THE ENTIRETY OF PRE-SKIN.**

Catering: Catering for Pre-Skin is all self-catered. This is from the Saturday breakfast till the Thursday dinner inclusive.

Cost

\$130.00 Early bird – application submitted and payment received on or before 23rd March 2025

\$150.00 Late payment – application submitted and payment received on or after 24th March 2025

The cost for the entire long weekend is \$130.00 (VOC Fee \$100 plus \$30 Dragon Skin fee) if paid on or before 23rd March and \$150.00 thereafter. This is inclusive of all facilities, registration, insurance and catering fees (except for the week prior to Dragon Skin as detailed above).

Getting More Information – Who to Contact

Help with information about your VOC

VOC Commander

Jack Temisgian

Jack.temisgian@nsw.scouts.com.au

0435 577 834

VOC Deputy Commander

Liam Painter

Liam.painter@nsw.scouts.com.au

0423 713 323

Emilia Ertanin

Emmie.ertanin@nsw.scouts.com.au

0403 164 289

VOC Activities Co-ordinator

Matthew Rath

Matthew.rath@nsw.scouts.com.au

0415 525 534

Tamara Dudfield

Tamara.dudfield@nsw.scouts.com.au

0403 472 118

VOC Admin/Registrar

Naomi Butler

Naomi.butler@nsw.scouts.com.au

0490 370 324

Sarah Berlecky

sarah.berlecky@nsw.scouts.com.au

0408 487 588

Information about Dragon Skin in general

Activities Director

Rose Stevens

info@dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au

What is Dragon Skin?

For those who haven't been before....

Dragon Skin is the premier event in the NSW Venturer calendar; it runs for four days each Easter. Venturers from all over NSW, the ACT, and Queensland get into teams and converge on a NSW State Forest to compete for the coveted Dragon Skin! We drop them in the forest and from then on, it's up to the Venturers. As a team, they must navigate their way through the forest doing activities along the way each day and camping at a different Venturer Overnight Camp (VOC) each night, getting points for their efforts. The team with the most points at the end of three days wins and is presented with the Dragon Skin on the fourth day.

A VOC (Venturer Overnight Camp) is, strangely enough, where all the Venturers and Dragon Skin staff must camp overnight (there are separate areas for each). There are four VOCs at Skin and a Dragon Skin HQ, which are generally placed on the outer edges of the forest with all the activities in the middle. At the VOCs we provide a camping area, fires / cooking areas, water, toilets, entertainment for Venturers (discos, movies etc.) in a secure environment. Dragon Skin staff are assigned to a VOC where they camp, depending on which VOC you attend, staff may need to cater for themselves or be catered for.

Most staff at Dragon Skin work on activities, the activities are spread out through the forest, we generally have around forty-eight activities (each VOC provides twelve activities). Each activity from the VOC is to be of a different type (first aid, cooking etc). The activities are designed to challenge the Venturer teams who should show planning, teamwork and ingenuity whilst having a bit of fun. Teams get points based on these as well as attitude and their completion of the activity.

All activities will be assessed for nomination for Best Activity, and those nominated will undergo a further judging process to select and reward those Leaders and Rovers who have made a special effort to create a unique, challenging and fun activity.