



Dragon Skin 2025

The Best of the Best

Penrose State Forest
18th to 21st April 2025

Information for VOC 3 Applicants

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!

Are you not the Greatest? Are you not the best of the best? We think you can be, your team might win the coveted Skin, or maybe you will just do you best, you will at the very least have the BEST TIME at the most fantastic Venturer Scout event of all time, join us as we go all out and show the world WE ARE THE GREATEST, at **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 2025, you must email voc3@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	\$70.00

**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 wild 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 3 Information

VOC theme: 5, 4, 3, 2, 1...BLAST OFF! Exploring the universe may be a thrilling adventure, but every space explorer needs to take a break. Join us at the VOC3 space station, for a galactic rest stop you soon won't forget. Whether you want to kick back and relax with some intergalactic entertainment or venturing into the vast reaches of space and time, VOC3 has you covered (from catering to camping). This year we want to see the most engaging and unique VOC 3 to date, let's make a weekend the Venturers will never forget!

Arrival: Due to restrictions put in place by State Forests, please do not arrive prior to 5pm on Thursday 17th April 2025 without prior consultation with the VOC Commander. All pre-week team must advise and be approved to attend by VOC Commander by 10th April 2025 as advised by State Forest Restrictions.

Camping: You must only camp in designated camping areas. All vehicles will be required to be parked away in the parking area, so please come prepared to camp independently of your vehicle. Parking within the camping area will not be permitted.

Catering: Catering will be supplied from breakfast on Friday 18th April 2025 through to breakfast on Monday 21st April 2025, inclusive of all main meals and snacks on activity bases. If you have any special dietary requirements, please highlight this on your application form, and notify Catering team via VOC3 email so that you will be catered for. Be specific in what you do/don't eat!

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 location instructions that will be emailed and posted on social media after the Last VOC 3 meeting before the event.

Cost

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

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

The cost for the entire long weekend is \$130.00 (VOC Fee \$100.00 plus \$30.00 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

Elias Hanoun

Elias.hanoun@nsw.scouts.com.au

0434 450 615

VOC Deputy Commander

Lachlan Bullivant

Lachlan.bullivant@nsw.scouts.com.au

0490 484 568

VOC Activities Co-ordinator

Campbell Wilson

Campbell.wilson@nsw.scouts.com.au

0415 764 302

VOC Admin/Registrar

Monique Martin

Monique.martin@nsw.scouts.com.au

0449 889 004

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.