Dragon Skin 2027

A Hike Through Time

Penrose State Forest

26th to 29th March 2027

Information for VOC Applicants

Dragon Skin Theme

Easter is coming! And so is Dragon Skin, the biggest and best event in the NSW Venturer calendar.

At Dragon Skin 2027, delve into a time where history and myth are intertwined, a time of legends, battles, gods and heroes. Through the lands of the great civilisations of old, facing foes of stories told, and exploring wonders that are no nothing more than crumbled stone. Great battles, mysterious beliefs, strange ceremonies and the very birth of human civilization. In 2027, venture into Ancient Worlds at VOC 4.

We can't wait for you to experience the Ancient Worlds at VOC 4, where you can escape into the past. Join us for an unforgettable adventure in the Ancient World at Dragon Skin 2027!

How to Apply

Applications for Dragon Skin 2026 must be completed online at **dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au**. Online applications will close at midnight on 7 March 2027.

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 2027, you must email voc4@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 7th March 2027	$0.00	$0.00
On or after 8th March 2027	Up to $55.00	$70.00

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)	• 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 6 April 2026. • Be 18 years of age before the first day of Dragon Skin 2027 (26 March 2027).
Other Adult	• 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 29 March 2027 • Be 18 years of age before the first day of Dragon Skin 2027 (26 March 2027). • Be authorised to work with children by Scouts Australia NSW or Guides NSW & ACT
Interstate Leaders & Rovers	• Must be a registered member of their local Scouts Australia branch. • Be 18 years of age before the first day of Dragon Skin 2027 (26 March 2027). • 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	• 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	• 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 2027, 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 4 Information

Theme: Looking for something exciting to do this Easter long weekend? Join us at VOC 4 for Dragon Skin, where we will explore Ancient Worlds! Where history and myth are intertwined, a time of legends, battles, gods and heroes. Through the lands of the great civilisations of old, facing foes of stories told, and exploring wonders that are no nothing more than crumbled stone.

Arrival: Due to restrictions put in place by State Forests, please do not arrive prior to 5pm on Thursday the 25th of March without prior consultation with the VOC Commander. All pre-team must advise and be approved to attend by VOC Commander by the 12th March. Please check in with VOC 4 Administration when you arrive - if you are arriving later than Thursday, please advise the VOC Admin so they know when to expect you.

Alcohol: There will be a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY for alcohol consumed in the forest between 12am Friday the 26th of March and the 29th of March. Any offenders will be immediately asked to leave the event by the VOC Commander.

Set Up: VOC 4 will reach out for helpers to assist during Pre-Skin, which will commence on Friday 19th March and finish on Wednesday the 24th of March 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 4 Activities Coordinator. Camping areas can be set up on arrival on Thursday the 25th March.

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. Unfortunately, unlike prior years, VOC 4 will not be on a firebreak and thus has limited camping space, this means there will be very little space for campervans or car camping, please reach out to VOC commander if you have any questions.

Catering: VOC 4 provides full catering from Friday morning through to Monday morning. There is no self-catering option available and any dietary requirements must be provided to the catering team well in advance through the registration system. Please come prepared with an esky and for your Activity Bases lunch to be delivered to your activity base each day - you must be able to mark this esky with your activity base number. You are also required to bring water containers for Activity Base Staff & Venturer Scouts to refill their water bottles throughout the day. There will be a laminated sheet with your unit's name/base number and the Rover Scouts attending the base each day. Please provide any dietary requirements when you complete your registration and discuss with the Catering Coordinator on arrival to Dragon Skin.

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. Vehicle passes for Activity Bases will be handed out on Friday the 26th of March this is restricted to a limited number of cars per activity base, as well as VOC staff vehicles that will be used during the event. All other vehicles will be moved away from the main camping area to an area designated by the Sites & Services team.

VOC 4 – Pre Skin

What is Pre-Skin: Pre-Skin is the week that leads up to Dragon Skin where members of VOC 4 come together and setup all major facilities and equipment for the core event. This includes our Big Top, Mini Tops, Kitchen and other Amenities such as Showers, Portaloos and Lighting. Pre-Skin 2027 will take place from the 19th of March to the 24th of March ***PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE VOC COMMANDER IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COMING ALONG – YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND THE ENTIRETY OF PRE-SKIN.***

Catering: Catering for Pre-Skin is done separately to the main event and will incur an additional cost. This will be determined at the time of Pre-Skin.

Cost

$130.00 Early bird – application submitted and payment received on or before 21st February 2027
$150.00 Late payment – application submitted and payment received on or after 22nd February 2027

The cost for the entire long weekend is $**165.**00 (VOC Fee $130.00 plus $**35.00** Dragon Skin fee) if paid on or before 21st February and $185.00 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
Stella Fuller-Simpson
Stella.Fuller-Simpson@nsw.scouts.com.au
voc4@dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au
0403 610 970

VOC Activities Co-Ordinator
Kat MacColl
Kat.maccoll@team.nsw.scouts.com.au
0422488928

VOC Deputy Commander
Cassandra Fry
Cassandra.Fry@nsw.scouts.com.au
0488 200 432

VOC Admin/Registrar
Hannah Wilson
Hannah.Wilson@nsw.scouts.com.au
0457 689 668

VOC Deputy Commander
Phoebe Hendriks
Phoebe.Hendriks@nsw.scouts.com.au
0432 494 581

Information about Dragon Skin in general
Activities Director
Sophie Bean
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.