Dragon Skin 2027
A Hike Through Time

Penrose State Forest
26th to 29th March 2027

Information for Youth Applicants

Dragon Skin Theme

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

The 42nd annual Dragon Skin will be at Penrose State Forest to the south of Sydney near Mittagong from the 26th to 29th March 2027.

The theme for 2027 will be "A Hike Through Time". Get ready to travel through the ages at each Venturer Overnight Camp (VOC) with A Hike Through Time! From the dinosaurs of the Jurassic period to the wonders of the Ancient World, the Wild West and a post-apocalyptic future, Dragon Skin 2027 will be taking you on an adventurous journey through time.

Each time period brings its own adventures, challenges and surprises. Test your teamwork, face challenges, take on the competition and see if you have what it takes to make it through. Whether you're exploring ancient civilisations, dodging dinosaurs, riding with the outlaws or fighting to survive the wasteland, there's plenty to keep you on your toes at **Dragon Skin 2027 A Hike Through Time**!

What is Dragon Skin?

Dragon Skin is the premier event in the NSW Venturer calendar. It runs every year over the Easter Long Weekend and is four days of fun. Up to one thousand Venturers and Guides from all over NSW, the ACT, Victoria and Queensland get into teams and converge on a NSW State Forest to compete for the coveted Dragon Skin! In 2027 the 42nd annual Dragon Skin will be at Penrose State Forest in the Southern Highlands.

About YOUR Dragon Skin

As a team of Venturers or Guides, you will navigate through the forest taking part in, and completing fun filled activities to win points for your team. Each night your team will need to camp at a different Venturer Overnight Camp (VOC) run by Leaders and Rovers. The team with the most points at the end of the three competition days (Good Friday to Easter Sunday) wins the event. The winners are presented with the prized Dragon Skin on the fourth day (Easter Monday).

A Venturer Overnight Camp or VOC is where all teams must camp overnight. There are four VOCs at Skin, which are generally placed on the outer edges of the forest with the activities in the middle. At the VOCs we provide a camping area, fires / cooking areas, water, toilets and entertainment (disco's, movies etc.) as well as plenty of time to socialise with Venturers and Guides like yourselves.

The activities are spread out through the forest, generally numbering around fifty different activities. The activities will challenge your team to show planning, teamwork, and ingenuity as well as being a bit of fun.

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 you, hurt you or touch you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or afraid.

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

You do not have to deal with abuse on your own. If you feel unsafe, threatened or you see/hear something that causes you concern, please speak to a Leader or Rovers on an activity. Your concerns will be taken seriously. The information you provide will be shared with people who can support and protect you.

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

If, for any reason, you do not feel the 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: Tel: 02 9735 9000 or via ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au or your parents.

Information for Parents

Dragon Skin starts on Friday 26 March at the check-in area, at Leumeah Train Station. We will be running the event within Penrose State Forest, with our headquarters in the village of Penrose.

It is each team's responsibility to make their own way to the check-in area on time. Check the Easter time table (www.sydneytrains.info) for train timetable details.

If any team arrives at the check-in area late, they should call the Dragon Skin Hotline (refer to dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au website). On Monday, there will be a presentation ceremony in the forest. Teams will then be transported to Leumeah Train Station.

Teams are organised into groups of between four and seven youth members. Each team requires a member with a current first aid certificate. Adults trained in first aid will be present throughout the event and will be located at each VOC. The risk of teams becoming lost is minimal and rapid search procedures will be in place if they do. In the event of a major emergency our risk management arrangements include evacuation to a safe area if necessary. Teams must provide their own food and camping equipment, this is not included in the Dragon Skin fee.

Should you have an emergency at home and need to contact Dragon Skin Headquarters, our telephone number is listed on our website dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au. It may take some time to pass any messages through to the Venturers, but we have a good radio communications network and we will do our best to make early contact. Please make sure you have your child's team number, and the names of other team members. During Dragon Skin there is no requirement for Venturers to carry mobile phones, and coverage in the forest is limited.

Only registered and invested Venturers, who are members of Scouts Australia, members of Guides Australia or invited School teams, can attend Dragon Skin. They must travel in official uniform between home and the event. Participants will be treated as young adults and we expect them to honour our ban on smoking, vaping, alcohol and recreational drugs over the entire period. **Where youth members are found smoking, vaping or with drugs or alcohol parents will be contacted and asked to collect their son\daughter from the event in Belanglo State Forest.** NSW Police may also be notified.

Please encourage them to wear comfortable, light, walking boots; remind them they could be camping in prolonged wet conditions; warn them to take warm clothing (the forest can get very cold at night over Easter); and emphasise the need for them to keep their packs light. There is plenty of information on our website about planning for Dragon Skin.

If you have any concerns about your child's preparation for Dragon Skin contact your child's Venturer Leader or please feel free to email us info@dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au.

How to Apply

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

50 Bonus points are awarded to teams who have paid in full and all fully completed applications on or before 28 February 2027 (including correct legible signatures from youth members and parents/guardians as well as a fully completed online endorsement from their Venturer Leader). These bonus points may be the difference between your team getting their first or second preference VOC on night 1.

When you have 'submitted' your application, **you then need to make your payment** through the online application system, and ensure your application has been fully signed by yourself and your parents/guardians, and your Venturer Leader completes the online endorsement.

All applications must be fully completed and full payment received by midday on Friday 12 March 2027 to be able to attend Dragon Skin 2027.

Applications will not be accepted until they are received FULLY COMPLETED, SIGNED, PAYMENT RECEIVED IN FULL and ENDORSED BY YOUR VENTURER LEADER.

Eligibility

Venturers	• Must be registered as a Venturer Scout in Scouts Australia NSW at the time of application and through till 29 March 2027. • Be at least 14 years of age before the first day of Dragon Skin 2027. • Be under 18 years of age on the first day of Dragon Skin 2026 (ie 26 March 2027). • **Venturer Scouts turning 18 before or during Dragon Skin 2027 are required to email registrar@dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au for specific eligibility criteria in order to attend as a team member.** • Have approval from their Venturer Scout Leader. • Have consent from their parents/guardian.
Interstate Venturers	• Must be a registered member of their local Scouts Australia branch or Guide association. • Have approval of their branch to attend an interstate event in accordance with their branch rules. • Be at least 14 years of age before the first day of Dragon Skin 2027. • Be under 18 years of age on the first day of Dragon Skin 2027 (ie 26 March 2027). • Have approval from their Venturer Scout Leader or Guide Leader. • Have consent from their parents/guardian.
Guides	• Must be a registered member of their local Guide association. • Have approval of their Guide association to attend a Scouting event in accordance with their rules. • Be at least 14 years of age before the first day of Dragon Skin 2027. • Be under 18 years of age on the first day of Dragon Skin 2026 (ie 26 March 2027). • Have approval from their Guide Leader. • Have consent from their parents/guardian.
Duke of Edinburgh Students	• Must be a registered member of the Duke of Edinburgh program. • Be at least 14 years of age before the first day of Dragon Skin 2027. • Be under 18 years of age on the first day of Dragon Skin 2026 (ie 26 March 2027). • Have approval from the Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator at their school. • Have approval from the Dragon Skin Activities Director. • Have consent from their parents/guardian.

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 Dragon Skin fee.

The Early Bird fee of $135 is due on or before 21 February 2027. The Dragon Skin fee of $155 is payable for payments received on or after 22 February 2027.

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.

Cost - What's included in the fee

The Dragon Skin fee for 2027 is $155.00. This includes:

- Transport from the check-in area into the forest
- Provision of entertainment and infrastructure to support the event including drinking water and toilets.
- Dragon Skin badge for those who meet the requirements of the Dragon Skin Award.

Teams are required to provide food and personal equipment at their own cost.

An early bird discount of $20 applies to payments received on or before 21 February 2027.

Withdrawals

If after making an application, you are unable to attend Dragon Skin 2027, you must email registrar@dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au as soon as possible.

Withdrawals fees will apply as follows:

Written Notification of withdrawal received	Withdrawal Fee
Before or on 7 March 2027	$0.00
On or after 8 March 2027	$155.00

Dragon Skin reserves the right to refuse any application, in which case a full refund will be made. If the refusal is due to non-current membership of Scouts Australia or Guides NSW, ACT & NT any fees paid are non-refundable.

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

Working With Children Check

All attendees over the age of 18 are required to hold a verified Working With Children Check (WWCC) or equivalent to attend Dragon Skin 2027.

Enquiries

Email: info@dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au
Go to: dragonskin.nswscouts.com.au