



Group Introductory Letter

Welcome as visitors to Florida Lake Sea Scouts, we are very excited about having your son/daughter and your family here with us.

The Florida Lake Sea Scout Group has been in existence since the late 1940s.

As a Sea Scout Group we concentrate, not only on the Advancement and Interest Badges that the Scouting programme offers, but also on water activities such as Canoeing, Sailing, Canoe Polo and Rowing.

As a Scout Group we are members of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM). There are over 30 million members of WOSM worldwide in 161 countries. The headquarters of WOSM are in Geneva, Switzerland. South African national headquarters are in Cape Town and Gauteng Area headquarters are in Bramley.

Areas consist of various Districts, which in turn, consist of various Groups.

Our group currently has two branches, a Scout Troop and a Cub Pack. We are going to be opening a Rover Crew soon.

We are part of the West Rand District in the Gauteng area.

As a Sea Scout Group we also fall under the control of the Gauteng Area Sea Scout Council which is responsible for the Safety and Training in respect of all Water activities.

The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society. This is achieved by:

- involving them throughout their formative years in a **non-formal educational** process
- using a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent of his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive, responsible and committed person
- assisting them to establish a value system based upon spiritual, social and personal principles as expressed in the Promise and Law.





FLORIDA LAKE SEA SCOUT GROUP

consists of;

1. Scouters (Troop & Pack) adult members who have been vetted and trained by the South African Scout Association, on specialized courses. Scouters are there to ensure that the Scout Method is followed. Scouters provide the weekly program of activities, and give necessary guidance when organising camps, hikes and activities. They are volunteers, not employees and are not remunerated in any way whatsoever. Pack and Troop Scouters report to the Group Scouter, who is responsible for the co-ordination of the Group and the integration of the members and parents.



2. Cub Pack a Pack is made up of Sixes, these are a group of up to 6 Cubs led by a Sixer (a Cub Leader) and a Second (Assistant to the Leader). We currently have two Cub sixes.

3. A Scout Troop a Troop consists of Patrols. A patrol, which is a group of 6-8 Scouts and is led by a Patrol Leader, assisted by a Second. The patrol is very important to the organization, as all activities are undertaken within the patrol and each person has a particular function in the patrol. We currently have six patrols:

- Starboard(boys)
- Midships(boys)
- Stern (boys)
- Quarterdeck(girls)
- Port(boys) and
- Bows (girls)



4. Parents of the Group our Group prides itself in that there is very good parental support at all the Group activities and functions. This is very important, as without your support the volunteer Scouters



cannot give your son/daughter the full benefit of Scouting.

All parents of the Scouts and Cubs AUTOMATICALLY become members of the Parent Support Association aka Group Committee,

This Group Committee is responsible for providing the necessary funds, equipment and facilities, so that the Scouters can train and educate your son/daughter to do their best in Scouting. The Group Committee meets once a month, has various portfolio holders, meetings are minuted and these minutes are distributed to all parents.

An AGM is held in November where portfolio holders are elected.



ADVANCEMENTS:

The Scout Movement aims to develop your child, through play and fun. They will as a result go through levels of advancement. These are detailed and laid out in the Scout or Cub Trail which they will receive at Investiture.

In summary:

(a) CUBS (7-11 Years): Your son/daughter, upon joining, will first have to complete the following tests before he/she is invested: 1) The Cub Law 2) The Cub Promise 3) The Cub Motto 4) The Left Handshake 5) the Salute 6) The Grand Howl 7) Story of Lord Baden-Powell and how Cubbing started and The story of Mowgli's Brothers. Thereafter there are Advancements (one per annum) and Interest Badges to keep him/her involved until he/she, hopefully completes his/her Leaping Wolf Badge and Link Badge and "goes up" to the Troop.



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(b) SCOUTS (11-18 years): Your son/daughter upon joining, will first have to complete the following tests, before he/she is invested: 1) The Scout Law 2) The Scout Promise 3) The Left handshake 4) The Scout Salute 5) The Scout Sign 6) The Scout Motto 7) a General knowledge of the life of Lord Baden-Powell and the spread of Scouting worldwide 8) Children's rights and responsibilities. Thereafter, there are enough Advancement, Scoutcraft and Interest badges to keep him/her involved until his/her 18th birthday, by which time he/she could have achieved his/her Springbok Scout Badge.

MEETING TIMES during School Terms are as follows:

(a) Pack Meetings: Thursdays 18h00 to 19h30 @ FLSS-Hall

(b) Troop Meetings: Thursdays 18h30 to 20h30 @ FLSS-Hall

(c) Boating: Saturdays 09h00 to 14h00 @ FLSS-Hall/Lake

If you are unable to attend these meetings, please advise the Pack Scouter or Patrol Leader.

In addition to this, there are a number of Camps, Hikes and other events, which take place during the course of the year. A yearly program is supplied to each Cub and Scout and the Parents are expected to keep them informed of forthcoming events. A detailed Term Planner is also supplied.

TUCKSHOP every Thursday a Tuck Shop is held before the Troop meeting. The Tuck Shop provides a home-cooked meal and soft drinks, assisting the parents, with supper. It is a convenient service provided by all the parents, it also serves as a very valuable, continuous fundraiser. Please support it!



SUBSCRIPTIONS and COSTS:

a) **Investiture Fee and initial membership:** Upon the investiture of your Cub/Scout you will be charged a once-off amount of R680. This needs to be paid before the Investiture occurs. This amount covers the Investiture cost of R150 which includes: 1) a FLSS Group scarf 2) various badges which are presented to him/her at the Investiture Ceremony and the first three months of Group levies of R530.



- b) **Levies and Subscription:** the Group levies an Annual Fee of R2200.00 for each invested Cub/Scout, R530 of which is included in the Initial Investiture Fee. The balance is billed pro-rata, from date of Investiture, for the year from 1st October to 30th September. You may pay this in whatever format you like (monthly; quarterly by arrangement with the Treasurer), annually is the norm.

You must be in advance of the calendar of activities. Being in arrears could result in your child's membership being suspended.

There is a 10% discount offered for siblings invested in the Group. These fees are set by the Group Committee, at the AGM, therefore you have a say in the amount that is charged per year.

These R2200.00 of Fees consist of:

1. Levies payable to South African Association of Scouting (SASA) currently R450.00. (excl. VAT) per Uniformed Member.
2. Subscriptions cover the balance, being R 1750.00

These fees may be paid as previously mentioned in various formats but must be fully paid up by the end of each month in advance of the next month.

Our Group Financial Year runs from 1st October till 31st September.

Subscriptions are used for the maintenance of our Hall, Grounds and Equipment as well as covering the costs of: water; electricity; insurance on property and equipment; alarm system and emergency armed response.

Our Scouters are not remunerated in any way.

NOTE: If a Cub or Scout is invested during any part of the year, he/she will only be charged a pro rata share of the subscriptions/ levies for the remainder of the financial year.





UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS: each Cub or Scout, upon being invested requires an

- **Official Sea Scout/Cub uniform** this is an official uniform and is obtainable from:
 - The Scout Shop (Gauteng Area) situated in Bramley, 3 Glen Rd c/o Junction Rd, Bramley, Tel 440-6490/1 Fax 440-6486 or from
 - Patricia Vrugtman 083 458 0324; 17 Wilkie Drive, c/o Golf Club Terrace, Constantiakloof.
- 1. Scouts: navy blue trousers(any type) Cubs: navy blue shorts
- 2. White "Scout" shirt with epaulettes;
- 3. Sea Scout hat aka "lid" or Cub Cap.
- 4. black socks(any type);
- 5. black school shoes;
- 6. Navy blue Scout webbing belt and buckle.
- 7. All the rest issued as part of investiture.
- **Additional Equipment required**
 - ❖ **Boating gear**
 - They have to have a pair of shoes that can get wet, either tackies or rock shoes. They will not be allowed in any water without footwear.
 - A constant supply of Sunscreen, should always be available to them in their boating kitbag.
 - ❖ When he/she participates in Hikes or Camps he/she will need (or the use thereof) a **backpack**; a **sleeping bag**; and a **Mess Kit** (bag with a stainless steel plate, bowl and mug and a knife, fork and spoon) all clearly marked with their names.
 - ❖ **Camp Uniform**; for boating and camping, they will use the F.L.S.S Camp shirt and Cap; these are available at the hall, at a cost of: Cub shirt R80, Scout and Adult shirt R100, Caps R60.
These are worn with board shorts (dark colours) or jeans, depending on the occasion.





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- o **Badges**

If you require additional, or replacement badges, woggles etc, please ask the Scouters as these are obtained from the District Badge Secretary on a non-profit basis. We do keep a supply of these at the Hall.

If there is any problem regarding the funding or availability of any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Scouters or our Treasurer in the strictest of confidence. We offer many solutions to enable that your child has the very best Scouting experience possible in Confidence.

The Scouters and the Group Committee at Florida Lake Sea Scouts feel that the Scouting experience provided to both Cubs and Scouts, will be beneficial to your son/daughter, both now and in his/her future and it is well worth the commitment required by both you, as a parent, and your son/daughter.

We look forward to a long and happy association with your family.

Yours in Sea Scouting

The Scouters and Group Committee

