

# NSW Leader Communications

Adventurous Activity Qualifications

September 2022



**Scouts**  
NSW

# Why are we changing the Leader qualification system?

The Civil Liabilities Act (2002) provides protections to Volunteers where a risk to a participant in a recreational activity may be considered “obvious” or where a “risk warning” has been provided by the organisers.



We have a **duty of care to our youth** members, in:

- Protecting their safety
- Guiding their growth and development
- Informing them and their guardian/s of risks



We have a responsibility to make sure our **leaders are appropriately qualified** to assess the risk and lead Adventurous Activities, and to **protect those leaders** when they run Adventurous Activities



On a broader scale, as leaders we are **temporary stewards of the Scouting movement**, and we have a responsibility not only to today's youth members, but also the **Scouts of the future**, to make sure that Scouts Australia continues to be able to run Adventurous Activities and grow the adventurers of tomorrow

So what are we doing:

## Prepare:

- Make sure our leaders are qualified with up-to-date skills, and they only run activities for which they have the skills.
- Make sure they have the capability and fitness required.
- Ensure planning and risk assessments are done and link back to the AAAS.
- Limit participation within competency bounds.

## Inform:

- Make sure that we communicate risks in briefings and obtain consent.

## Insure:

- We have insurance that backs what we do.

If a leader chooses to ignore the policies and procedures then the volunteer protections of the Civil Liabilities Act (2002) may not be extended that leader and they may become personally liable under the Act

# How do I get my previous qualification recognised under the new Adventurous Activity framework?



To lead Adventurous Activities, Leaders must transition their qualifications to the National Adventurous Activities Framework (NAAF)



Whilst some Adventurous Activities can be run by Safe Participant or lower, many activities will require you to have Trained Participant qualifications to lead



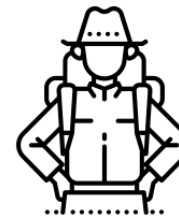
Core Skills RPL



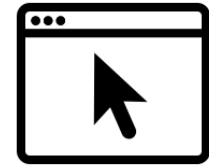
Specific Discipline Skills RPL



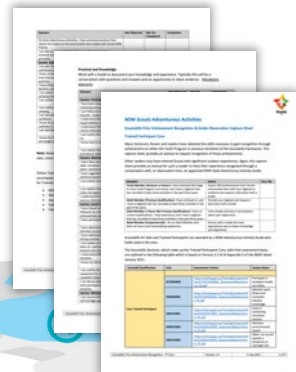
Logbook Submission



Guide Review & Signoff



Qualification Submission

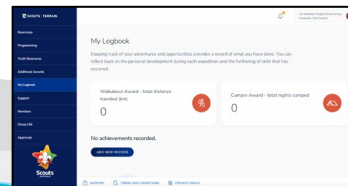


Do this once



Do one for each discipline

To your guide



Use the [Qualification Request Form](#) to request qualification.

The RPL/PRL workbooks that you need can be downloaded [here](#).

# How do I gain a new qualification to enable me to lead an Adventurous Activity?



## Step 1 – Obtain the Right Folio (workbook)

You can access all the workbooks [here](#).  
Note that not all Folios are ready right now.  
Check with your [Regional Commissioner Activities](#) if you can't find the Folio you need.



## Step 2 – Find a Course or Activity

The next thing you need to do is find courses or activities either in your Group or by checking the [Find an Activity page](#).  
Take your Logbook and complete Folio (workbook).



## Step 3 – Request Qualification

Use this [Qualification Request Form](#) to request qualification. You'll need to submit your Logbook, Folio and other evidence. Once approved, you will receive an email with a qualification certificate you can print, and your qualification will be recorded in Scoutlink.

For further details on Getting Qualified, head to the [NSW Adventurous Activities](#) website.



# Qualification Upgrade Talking Points

## Why do I need to upgrade?

Adventurous Activity has risks, and one of the ways we can manage risk is to have a qualification framework mapped to an industry standard. Scouts Australia has decided to use the VET SIS framework. Like most industries, qualifications and requirements change from time to time, and three years ago, Scouts Australia adopted the 2019 version of the SIS and created the National Adventurous Activity Framework (NAAF), our national policy. Our CC committed that NSW would adopt and comply with the NAAF. The NAAF defines qualifications; thus, all qualifications must be updated to comply with the NAAF.

## Why aren't we mapping qualifications straight across?

The old L1, L2 and SIS10 qualifications differ from the Scoutskills Safe and Trained qualifications. The principal difference is that the Scoutskill qualification framework requires evidence of doing an activity multiple times (e.g. bushwalking). The skills are mostly the same but do not map easily across. Likewise, the SIS package changes break the skills across different units. The skills are mostly the same. Guides and Guide aspirants should focus on their history of activity and recency of rescue skills.

## Why do I need a log?

A logbook is evidence that you have experience. In many other occupations, verifiable logs are required. Further, we require our Youth Members to log their activities.

## Why do Scouts have this system?

Scouts, as an organisation, is expected to follow the National Standard for Outdoor Activities, the AAAS. That standard outlines qualification and common practices. Further, we need rigour in the award of qualifications to demonstrate that we only allow qualified people to run activities that are within their level of qualification. Operating within qualifications was a finding from the SafeWork investigation into the abseil accident. Scouts provide Adventurous Activities for youth members, and we have a duty of care to keep them safe. Qualifications and guidelines on what qualifications allow you to do are all part of the system to keep youth members safe, protect our leaders, and protect the ability of Scouts to run adventurous activities.

## I'm a current guide, what do I need to do?

It's simple: submit your log book and three activity plan sets. This will start the conversation with an Assessor. They may ask for more, but any previous qualifications will help, as will a history of activity and recent rescue experience.

## I hold SIS10 Guide and Instruct units?

We want to help you become a Guide if that is what you want to do. Submit your log book and three activity plan sets. This will start the conversation with your RCA. They will help you map a path to become a Guide.

## I hold L1 and L2 units?

- Work out what you hold.
- Get your logbook together.
- Find a Guide, and go through a recognition checklist.
- The Guide can award Safe and Trained Participant if they hold those qualifications.

## Can I still run activities during this period?

Yes, you can. Use the opportunity to log your activities, collect planning documents and find opportunities to map your qualifications.

## Why is there a time limit?

We intend to phase out the old qualifications in 2023. We want to get most people cut across in 2022.



Thank you

