

NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM

ROVER SCOUT SECTION



1. Rover Scouting – Introduction

- Rover Scouts are the Young Adult Learners of the Scout Movement. The youngsters. Between 17 ½ - 24 years old usually meet every other week for about 2 hours.
- Rover Crews can be comprised of Rovers who are invested, non-invested or the new comers from the local area, town or city, or at high school, university or vocational institution level or further afield.
- Rover Crews are self-governing units that plan and carry out programs and activities of their own Rovers. The Adult Leaders are simply by their side to advice and guide them when necessary.
- Each Rover is unique so he or she can find a group of young people that shares interests of each other, such as rock climbing, camping or hiking in the woods, swimming and diving, canoeing, driving and so on, so many activities.
- Roving provides great opportunities for adventure, exploration and service with full of fun and satisfaction. They might find happiness through social activities, gathering of youth such as ‘Moots’, hence there are many of opportunities to socialize and meet new people.
- Roving, as the direct continuation of Scouting, finds first and foremost its application to the personal development and character growth of youngsters; for them to be inter connected to the world’; to lead a home life with real value and virtues as good citizens.
- Roving leads young girls and boys to self-discipline and self-reliance, to an honest pride in work, to a clean patriotism, and to the relating of all these to their service to your religion.
- Rover Scouting for youngsters includes the Scout Promise and the Scout Law, a Motto, Scout craft knowledge and the Scout Spirit.
- Roving is the final stage in the system of learning and training as a Scout in the principles and practice of citizenship in which Cub Scouting and Scouting, each in turn plays its part. All of these sections share the common aim; the development of good citizenship on the basis of a Promise and a Law. In other words, Roving is a continuation of Scouting with same ideals and the same high aims in an advanced form, or adapted to the needs of young people.

2. Rover Scouts – Definitions



In his book **“Rovering to Success”**, Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell, the founder of the World Scout Movement defined Rovers As follows:

“Rovers are a brotherhood of the open air and service; hikers on the open road and campers of the woods; able to shift for themselves and equally able and ready to be of some service to others.”

(‘Rovering to Success’, Pg.107)

In his book **“Guide to Scout Mastership”**, he further said,

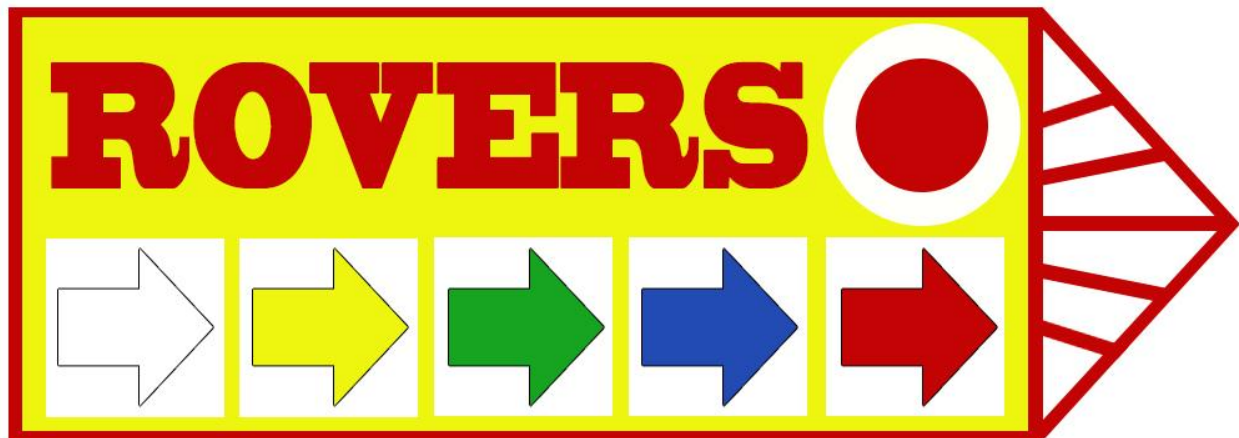
“The first duty a Rover Scout owes, after his duty to his religion, is his duty to himself, so that he can so educate and train himself that he may be able to stand on his own, and in his turn, to render help to others. Even those who are older used to realize that they must establish themselves first before they can do well to the others”

(‘Aid to Scout mastership’, Pg.107)

3. Aims of Roving



- 1) To develop their personality and character growth, good citizenship and self-reliance
- 2) To make them fit both mentally and physically, to take up the responsibilities of manhood.
- 3) To continue advanced training for them in the principles and practices of good citizenship that was begun through Cub and Scout activities.
- 4) To prepare them for life by encouraging the best use of educational facilities and vocational training.
- 5) To aid them in getting established in life by encouraging the early choice of a career
- 6) To continue good counsel and good fellowship for them to progress after they start work.



4. Aims of Roving – How to accomplish...



These are the aims that Rovers should seek to accomplish, and the Rover Program was designed accordingly.

- Youth training in Rover section centers around the concepts of what a leader must be what he must know and what he must do. Leadership elements are taught with a clear focus on ‘How To’. The content is delivered in an outdoor setting with an emphasis on immediate application of learning in a fun environment.
- While the training methods of Rover Section vary to suit the needs of youngsters within them, each forms a part of the logical whole, progressively leading to the next.
- For the first 3 of the above aims, the ‘Scouting for Boys’ will be a wealth of program material for Rover meetings. You simply carry on the Scout Program in an advanced form as Rovers. ‘Learn more of the same thing’ and the full range of advance scout activities are before the Rovers to enhance.

e.g.

- a) In the troop you learned knotting and lashing, and in the crew you can learn many other knots and lashes, and equip yourself to teach them.
- b) In troop you enjoyed camping, hiking and nature lore; in the crew you can keep up your woodcraft activities and go deeper into nature study.
- c) You learned first aid and a bit of life-saving. But in the crew you can become experts at both, and nursing too.

d) You can follow up a habit of doing good turns by rising to the grown-up equivalent of a good turn; Social Service activities, Community Development projects.

- Setting up a program to achieve the next 3 of the aims mentioned above is not an easy task. As the priority you can get thorough an education as possible. Whatever you take up as your life work, the foundation of a good general education will help you. So keep on at school as long as you can. Even if you have already begun work, you can attend evening study classes if there are facilities.
- A well rounded program is included in your Rover program for personality development; the development of body, mind and spirit. Imagine, for instance, a fellow who has developed his body tremendously, but who hasn't any education to speak of; or one who has no enormous intellect, but is a mere skeleton, physically; or one who is highly developed spiritually, but not equipped to shift for himself in his day to day activities!

Your Rover program is broad enough in its scope to take all three branches, i.e. the body, mind and spirit in a well-rounded scheme of development. Not everyone needs the same proportions, however, so the time devoted to any activity will depend very much on what each needs to maintain the right balance.

- Your Rover Den can be a high school of character. If your program is right each member will be benefited to some extent and your time and his will be amply justified.

5. Rover Scout Crew

1. A Rover Scout Crew is a unit where the youngsters are given the opportunity of being trained themselves in Rover Scouting.
2. Any youngster can join a Rover Crew and can become a Rover at the age of 17 ½.
3. All youngsters who join the Rover Crew can be categorized as given below:
 - a. Senior Scouts or Scout Masters or former Scouts
 - b. New comers to the scout movement who have not gained scout membership before.
4. The Senior Scouts who are undergoing training for the 'President's Award' should complete all requirements for the said award before joining a Crew.
5. There should be at least 6 members in a Rover Crew whereas 24 members will be the maximum.
6. If the Rover membership grows more than 24, the Rover Crew should be segregated into 2 units, and Rover Scout Masters (RSM) should be allocated to each unit. If there is insufficient number of RSMs in the crew, the Unit Crew meetings can be held separately until new RSMs are trained.
7. It is the responsibility of a RSM to ensure the continuation of a Rover Crew by utilizing proper scout training methods and aims of scouting. RSM should play an advisory role in the Crew.

6. Rover Crew Meetings



1. The Rover Crew Meetings should be held at least once in two-weeks under the guidance of the RSM.
2. One out of these, one meeting should be organized as a 'special Activity meeting' (once a month) outside the location where the Crew meetings are usually being held.
3. A special Rover Program may consist of a rally, hoisting of the flag, religious observations, games, Scoutcraft training, speeches, debates, physical activities, pioneering, repairing equipment, visits to important places, know-how programs, musical programs, preparing for a campfire or a display,
4. The activities involved in a special Rover program should be discussed with and assigned to the Cluster Leaders at a meeting held in advance, and should get the maximum contribution from them; however the RSM should play a vital role at the meeting.

Model Program for a Rover Crew Meeting

1) Opening Session - Duties round the rally (15 minutes)

- Call to gather
- Hoisting of the Flag (give due respect to the flag) and Scout Salute
- National Anthem
- Religious Observances
- 'Thought for the Day'
- Announcements
- Disperse (for the day's next training or activity)

2) Rover Training Activities (60 minutes)

- A Game
- Scoutcraft Training
- Practical Activities on the training obtained
- Revision session of the things learned at the previous meeting.
- Knowledge on Rover Challenges/Rocks (*Refer facts in 'Rovering to Success'*)
- Discussion/Debate on a useful topic.

3) Day's end - Duties round the rally (15 minutes)

- Gathering round the flag post.
- Lowering the flag and handing over service duties.
- Special announcements (if any)
- Disperse

7. Special Rover Crew Meetings - Field Program



- 1) It is better to have the duties around the flag post as usual, as specified in above 11 (1) & (3), in the location where the special rover meeting is held.
- 2) Instead of 11 (2) above, a special activity as mentioned below, could take place.
- 3) The special activity should take 2 to 3 hours, or even throughout the whole day if properly and pre-organised.
 - Excursion or inspection tour
 - Fact-finding visit to a self-employment project.
 - Taking part in a special educational, cultural or artistic program.
 - Environmental Program (to gain knowledge or research purpose)
 - Acquire knowledge and advice on Energy Conservation
 - Organising health programs (prevention of dengue, Rabies, etc.)
 - Community Service and development activities.
 - A Visit to a government or any other public organization for acquiring knowledge on services rendered by them. (e.g. to visit a divisional secretariat, pradeshiya sabha, etc. after obtaining permission from them)
 - Swimming camp or canoeing training (should be given safety measures to the participants, and with the proper approval of the parents or guardian)
 - A special religious or spiritual program
 - Watching a film
 - A picnic or a day out.
- 4) It is essential to have the prior-approval of the Crew-in Council and also the prior-permission from the authorities of the place where the program is to be held beforehand.
- 5) The Rovers should be prepared and trained well to act with understanding and with a responsibility during a field day program. When necessary, should obtain the services of a specialist or a resource person in support of them.
- 6) All activities done should be accomplished according to the Scout principles and aims of scouting.



(3x3 c.m.)

- 8) Cluster Meetings could be held under the leadership of the Cluster Leader, when the necessity arises to discuss the progress of its members, and to organize cluster events, training or any other program.

9. Formation of a Rover Scout Crew

- 1) There are 3 ways of forming a Rover Crew, and they are:
 - i) As a **sponsored Crew** under the administration of a school or such institution.
 - ii) As an **Open Crew** attached to a volunteer organization or a religious or community center as recognized by the District Commissioner.
 - iii) A District Rover Crew under the direct administration of a Rover scout Master appointed by the District Branch Association.
- 2) The administrator of a sponsored Rover Crew shall be the Principal of the respective school, and he or she will be appointed as the ex-officio Group Scout master at his or her consent.
- 3) The administrator of an Open Rover Crew will be the Head of the Institute or Centre, and the responsibility of the Rover Crew lies on him or her. At his or her consent, he shall be appointed Group Scout Master ex-officio. He will be the main resource person of the Crew.
- 4) In a District Rover Crew, the authority and main responsibilities lies on the District Commissioner, and at his consent he could appoint Assistant District Commissioner (Rovers) or District Rover Scout Master or any other trained Rover Scout Master as the In-charge of the District Rover Crew.
- 5) Any Rover Crew must be registered at the National Headquarters before it is being in operation. This could be done by filling up an application form for registration; in the same way as a Scout Group is registered at National Headquarters.
- 6) If a Rover Crew is registered in a Scout Group of a sponsored by a school it could continue Rover Scouting under the same group registration number. But at before holding the first crew meeting the principal of the school should give his consent in writing, and a copy of the said letter should be forwarded to the District Commissioner and National Headquarters. This is mandatory as the rovers of age between 17 years and 6 months and 24 years have been out of school or past students by then.
- 7) In addition to the students, only past students of the same school could obtain membership of a Rover Crew attached to a school by filling up an application duly signed by the Principal.
- 8) At the time of the Rover Crew was registered affiliated to an Institution as an 'Open Crew', a consent letter in writing from the Chief Authority of the institution should be obtained. The Rover Scout Masters or Assistants or Instructors should also fill up an application signed by the Chief Authority of the institution.
- 9) Until a proper Warrant obtained by a suitable trained Rover Scout Master, the Rover Crew could not be registered at national Headquarters, but could continue to have Crew meetings.

10. District Rover Crew

- 1) A Rover Crew could be formed and registered at National Headquarters in the same procedure as a Scout Troop was registered.
- 2) Young girls and boys aged over 17 years and 6 months could join a Rover Crew and obtain membership.
- 3) The Senior Scouts or Scout Masters of another Scout Group can still continue their Roving as members of the District Rover Crew whilst maintaining the identity and membership of the said Scout Group by them.
- 4) If there is no Rover Crew or Rover Scout Master in a Scout Group, 4 to 6 members of Senior Scouts and/or Scout Masters of age between 17 years and 6 months and 24 years could joined together in forming a Rover Cluster under the District Rover Crew and continue Rover Scouting.
- 5) The Rovers expected duty will be to acquire knowledge on Scoutcraft through the Troop, and to get involved with Rover activates and enhance badge work through the District Rover Crew,
- 6) Furthermore, the members of the Rover Cluster created in the scout group could be identified as members of the Cluster attached to the District Rover Crew as well as in the said scout troop. By doing so, the said Scout Troop will become a group with a Rover section.
- 7) These Rovers should represent the Rover Crew affiliated to the Scout Group when they carry out activities organized by their Scout Group, whereas they can represent District Rover Crew in activities organized by them but however the priority should be given to the activities organized by the District Rover Crew.
- 8) However they must inform the District Rover Crew in writing, before organizing an activity by the Rover Crew of the Scout Group.
- 9) Furthermore, they should continue to be members of the District Rover Crew by attending their Crew meetings, and also should take part in their activities and services

11. Rover Scout Master

- 1) A person should be over 24 years of age to become a Rover Scout Master, and he/she could be a trained or non-trained but who is willing to undergo Scout Master training.
- 2) The Rover Scout Master should be a committed and a happy person who can offer his/her services by having the best support from the youth, and also who is capable of coming into a compromise or understanding tactfully, when issues or arguments arise.
- 3) Rover Scout Master should set an example by wearing the correct uniform methodically at all times.
- 4) If he/she has not undergone Rover Scout Master training yet, should undergo a Phase-I Training Course organized by the National/District Training Team at the earliest possible time.
- 5) After achieving the 24th birthday, a youngster and an adult cannot be invested as a Rover Scout. However if any person is interested in getting enrolled as a Rover Leader, he/she can be invested as a Rover Scouter during or after following a Phase-1 Leader Training Course for Rovers.
- 6) A person, if over 24 years of age is to be invested as a Rover Scouter, then he/she should go through the normal program of investiture. However he/she could be isolated from other Rovers during the program and to continue all his investiture assessments under the direct guidance of his sponsor, and in participation of other Rover Leaders, if necessary.
- 7) Generally, an investiture ceremony of a Rover Leader or an Instructor would not be held with the participation of Rovers as there could be many open witnesses, proclamations, and self-examinations by him that should not be publicized.

12. Rover Crew in Council

- 1) Rover Crew in Council is the Supreme Executive body of the Crew which decides the programs, activities, Badges and Awards for the Rovers.
- 2) All Invested Rovers, Rover Leaders, Assistant Leaders and Instructors will be ex-officio members of the Crew in Council.
- 3) However, if there is insufficient invested Rovers in a Crew, or if the Crew is a newly formed one, the Cluster Leaders, *i.e. the Leaders of Patrols in the Rover Crew*, and the Assistant Cluster Leaders, even though they are not invested yet, can participate at the Crew in Council meetings with the consent of the Rover Leaders.
- 4) Only the Rovers should be duly appointed as office bearers of the Crew in Council, and the Rover Leaders or their Assistants cannot contest for and rank or position. However they should hold advisory positions in the council.
- 5) The Chairman of the Crew in Council should always be an invested Rover if available, otherwise a Cluster Leader.
- 6) The Rover Leaders, Assistants and Instructors should participate as an Advisory Board in the Crew in Council meetings, and all decisions and activities suggested by the Rovers should be scrutinized and approved by them, otherwise they can convince or advise the Rovers tactfully, to bring forth necessary alterations to the proposals.
- 7) All officials of the Crew in Council should be duly appointed by vote at an Annual general Assembly to which at least a District official and/or a representative from National Scout Headquarters should participate.
- 8) A list of all appointments, endorsed by the newly-elected Chairman and the Rover Scout Leader, should be submitted to district Commissioner within 14 days of the AGM.
- 9) The Crew in Council should meet up monthly or once in two months, to discuss and plan out the programs and activities for the coming months, and also to review the activities that took place since last Crew in Council Meeting.
- 10) The Crew in Council is responsible for taking action on discipline, and also to prepare Rovers for Investiture after consideration of witnesses and assessments by the Sponsors of Rovers.
- 11) Assessing Rovers of their progress, badges and awards is also a vital role played by the Crew in Council. To this regard, assessing their project reports and advises them, if necessary, to correct them is a duty of the council. Therefore Crew Council meetings play important role in a Rover Crew.

- 12) The Secretary of the Council should maintain an attendance register with name, time, position and signature of each attendee.

13. Agenda for Rover Crew-in Council Meeting

- 1) Religious Observances
- 2) Scout Promise
- 3) Pledge to maintain confidentiality
- 4) Notices and Letters
- 5) Minutes of the last meeting, amendments, and acceptance as true report
- 6) Pints arising from the minutes
- 7) Income & Expenditure Report, amendments and acceptance as a true report
- 8) Programs and activities carried out since last council meeting.
- 9) Planning activities for the next couple of months (at least for 3 months)
- 10) Progress of Rovers, Badges and Awards,
- 11) Reports on investigations & witnesses by the Sponsors (of Rovers)
(Note: All non-invested Rovers should not be a part of this, and can keep them out temporarily until the said discussion is over)
- 12) Summary of day's discussion by the Chairman
- 13) Address/Advises by Rover Scout Leader or a leader appointed by him
- 14) Disperse

14. GUIDELINES FOR GIRLS IN SCOUTING ACTIVITIES (ROVER SECTION)



- 1) Only a trained female Scout Leader (with at least a letter of authority) can be in charge of a female Rover crew in a school or Open Troop (Crew).
- 2) It is mandatory that trained female Rover Leaders be present at all times in a crew meetings, shramadana, rallies, outing etc.
- 3) Safe facilities such as separate change rooms, lockable toilets should be available for the girls at all locations where they assemble for meetings, rallies, district events etc.
- 4) When female Rovers are sent out on hikes there should be at least 4 participants at one given time. A responsible adult female chosen by the Rover Leader should be allocated to check on the route and progress at regular intervals regarding their safety.
- 5) For camps, hikes or any outing of the Crew, the Girl Rovers can participate only with the approval and permission of the District Commissioner as recommended by Asst. District Commissioners in charge of Girls in scouting and Rover section.
- 6) Additionally, if camping with schools or other districts, written permission must be obtained from the National Headquarters Commissioner in-charge of Girls in Scouting at least 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the event.
(Note: Rover Leaders not conforming to the above rules will be answerable to the National Headquarters)
- 7) The District Commissioner should not grant permission to girls in his district to do Roving if there are no trained female Adult Leaders available in a Rover Crew. An event should be

cancelled if sufficient Female Leaders are not available to conduct the event. Male Rover Leaders cannot conduct any events that involve girls without the presence of trained female leaders.

- 8) The ADC (Girls in Scouting) in each district should maintain a log book of all such activities that the Girl Rovers are participating in her district.
- 9) Written permission from parents or guardian is compulsory when involving girls in Rover activities outside the school premises.

Guidelines for Girls in Rover Scouting in Camping

- 1) Only trained female Rover Leaders and the ADCs (Girls in Scouting) & ADC (Rovers) will be responsible for organizing such camps.
- 2) Girls should camp at night away from the main campsite e.g. if sleeping in tents a special area should be demarcated in a separate area away from the main camp. Lockable toilets and bathing facilities should be available in close proximity to the site. “Safety and Security” should be the main concern at these campsites.
- 3) In addition to the female Rover Leader she should have Assistant Leaders or other responsible adult female parents too should be involved. There should be 2 parents (mothers) as guardians for every 24 girls camping, in addition to the Leaders.
- 4) All female Rovers and scouts can joined together and participate in activities at the camp grounds from the time of religious observances in the morning till 6.30 p.m. daily. They could participate in special programmers such as campfires if the Female Leaders are by their side, but must be taken back to their campsite directly after the completion of the programme. At other times the main camp grounds will be “Out of bounds” for Girl Rovers after 6.30 p.m.

(By Srilath De Silva, ACC Rovers)

