

Drugs and Alcohol Guidelines

This section lays out guidelines regarding the responsible use and promotion of alcohol at activities attended by Australian Rover Scouts.

It is recognised that Rover Scouts are 18 years and over are legally permitted to drink alcohol and should do so in a responsible manner in addition the responsible use of alcohol must be promoted by the organisers of all Rover Scout activities where alcohol is either available or provided.

The Crew, Rover Scouts and Organisers of Events have a duty of care towards Rover Scouts and participants at events. Rover Scouts and participants at events will respect this and behave and consume alcohol in a responsible manner. Rover Scouts will not permit under 18's to consume alcohol at Rover Scout events.

The use of alcohol is defined to be a problem when it adversely affects others, or affects the safety of the Rover Scout in question. Before a Rover Scouts use of alcohol becomes a problem, his/her Crew must take action to remedy the situation. In the absence of the Rover's own Crew, action must be taken by any other Rover Scouts present and the organisers of the event.

The consumption of alcohol must always be prohibited where Rover Scouts are involved in activities with younger Sections except formal occasions such as dinners and award nights where small amounts of alcohol may be customarily consumed.

Rover Scouts should be discouraged from discussing or boasting about their consumption of alcohol at inappropriate times, including younger members of the Scout Association, Leaders and the public. Rover Scouts should encourage and promote a culture of responsible use of alcohol.

Rover Scouts should avoid displaying images of or giving reference too events where Rover Scouts have not consumed alcohol in a responsible manner with specific avoidance of images of Rovers in uniform drinking and exercise their best judgment before drinking, especially when in uniform.

Rover Scouts should consider the appropriateness of the situation before engaging in unsuitable songs or chants and in general recognise that to encourage a culture of responsible use of alcohol songs or chants about excessive or inappropriate alcohol consumption should be discouraged at all times.

Fatigue while driving is recognised as a significant health and safety risk to Rovers. As such Rover Scouts, Rover Crews and Event Organisers will be proactive in reducing the impact that alcohol consumption has on fatigue and driving especially with people on provisional licences.

Rovers Crews, Rover Councils, Trainers and Event Organisers will promote awareness to Rover Scouts on the health and safety risks associated with the consumption of alcohol. This could include the national guidelines for alcohol consumption and calculation of blood alcohol concentration.

Branches and event organisers will promote responsible alcohol consumption by focusing events where possible to be non-alcohol related. Rover Scouts will not encourage irresponsible, binge, intoxicating and excessive drinking situations, games and activities.

Event organisers will where practical:

- a) Introduce hours for alcohol consumption (e.g. between 4pm and 2am);
- b) Have available non-alcoholic drinks and complimentary water;
- c) Ensure food is available if a bar is running;
- d) Have other activities available that do not involve alcohol consumption; and
- e) Provide signage and information on responsible alcohol consumption.

USE OF LEGAL, ILLEGAL AND ILLICIT SUBSTANCES

This section lays out guidelines regarding the manner in which drugs are dealt with within the Rover Scout Section and at events attended by Rover Scouts.

The use of any illegal drug or substance during a Rover Scout or other Scout activity is completely prohibited and any Rover Scouts under the influence of or has recently used an illegal drug must be excluded for any Scouting activity.

No Rover Scout shall possess any illegal drug or substance on a Rover Scout activity. Rover Scouts should be vigilant to the negative effects from the use of legal drugs and substances that may have negative side effects and exclude themselves or others from activities if under the influence of such substances. Particular vigilance should be exercised during and before driving to or on Rover Scout events or activities.