

UPDATE ON SHOULDER BADGES, ROVER KNOT AND SERVICE BAR



In early 2020, Branch Rover Councils (BRCs) voted through the National Rover Council regarding the wearing of the green shoulder badges with 'Rovers' embroidered, the service bar, and the Rover knot to determine the future of these items in the context of the (new) youth program. This was after much discussion and debate throughout 2019.

The result of these votes is below, with some brief reasoning provided to the National Rover Council by BRCs through this process:

- Discontinuation of green Rover shoulder badges

The green Rover shoulder badges were originally epaulettes, fixed to the shoulders of the khaki uniform, with the word 'Rovers' embroidered to signify that members with these epaulettes were Knighted Rovers. In recent times, with the introduction of coloured shirts, these epaulettes became "shoulder badges" and were continued to be presented upon Knighting (alongside the red Rover knot tape). This Knighthood element is no longer a core component of the section, and as Rover Scouts, we have embraced 'Beyond the Horizon' as the section motto. As a result, these shoulder badges no longer serve a meaningful purpose.

- Continuation of the Rover knot – **please note** these are to be presented in full (all colours together) upon investiture to the Rover Scout section. This is not to be presented without the red tape initially.

Although the program and symbolic framework of the Rover Scout section has changed, it is still believed to be important for the identity of the section to continue to wear the Rover knots. Although there is history and tradition to support these, the main reason they are still appropriate in this day of Scouting is that that they remind us of the whole Scouting community. These encapsulate the "one program" mantra well. To the Rover Scout section, we see it as special that in the final section of the youth program journey, where the product of the Scout method is comes to fruition, there is a symbol which represents all sections and shows us as one, continuous journey.

Many Rover Scouts are also youth section leaders. The experience of many Rover Scouts is that while they are acting in this capacity, youth members ask questions about what the knots are, why we wear them, and what Rovers is all about. This is a great promotional tool for the section and encourages progression through the youth program. It's an educational tool, and we find the younger sections recognise the uniqueness of them.

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- Update of the 'Service' bar to read 'Rovers' – **please note** the 'Rovers' bar is to be presented upon investiture into the Rover Scout section, alongside the Rover knot. This must not be withheld.

With a change of section motto, it was felt it is time to renew the "service" bar to make way for adoption of 'Beyond the Horizon' as the section motto. The wording has been updated to 'Rovers' so they are still clearly linked to the Rover Scout section.

The National Rover Council took these suggested changes to the National Operations Committee, and these changes were approved unanimously. As such, section R14.4.6 Rover Scouts of Scouts Australia Policy & Rules will be **amended** to read:

1. Rover Scouts wear badges as illustrated in Appendix 4.
2. Rover Scouts wear a shoulder knot of tan, yellow, green, maroon and red upon investiture into the Section, which may (as an option) be secured to the left sleeve of the uniform by a gold bar with the words "Rovers" inscribed.
3. Rover Scouts who have completed the requisite training are entitled to wear in uniform the Gilwell Woggle.
4. Rover Scouts who have gained the Wood Badge are entitled to wear in uniform the Gilwell Scarf and Woggle, and the Wood Badge.

The **previous** version read:

1. Rover Scouts wear badges as illustrated in Appendix 4.
2. Rover Scouts wear a shoulder knot of tan, yellow, green, maroon and red, and a shoulder badge with the World Scout Emblem and "Rovers" superimposed in gold.
3. Rover Scouts who have completed the requisite training are entitled to wear in uniform the Gilwell Woggle consisting of a leather two-strand Turkshead.
4. Rover Scouts who have gained the Wood Badge are entitled to wear in uniform the Gilwell Scarf and Woggle, and the Wood Badge on a leather thong around the neck.
5. Rover squires and trainees wear a shoulder knot of tan, yellow, green and maroon, but do not wear the shoulder badge.

This updated language will appear in a future update of Scouts Australia Policy & Rules. The uniform layout accessible on pr.scouts.com.au will also be updated to show the placement of shoulder knots and the Rover bar. The National Rover Council is currently working with the Scout Shop to amend the available products in line with this.

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The timeline for these changes will be...

- After 1 January 2021 – green shoulder badges may not be presented to new members.
- After 1 May 2021 – the 'Service' bar may not be presented to new members, and existing members must not purchase the 'Service' bar to replace their old one if it becomes damaged. Instead, replacements must be the 'Rovers' bar which will be available in the Scout Shop.

As there are changes to the green shoulder badges and the Service Bar, a grandfathering approach will be employed. This means that Rovers who currently wear the Service Bar or green shoulder badges are able to continue wearing these until the end of their time as a youth member in the Rover Scout section. As people need replacements, or join the section, they must purchase the new Rover Bar and new members should not be presented with green shoulder badges.