



ROVER SCOUTS

Guidelines *for* Roving 2



Guidelines *for* Rovering

A Scout Association of Malta Publication

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**THE *Scout* ASSOCIATION
OF MALTA**

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INTRODUCTION

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

By Rovering I don’t mean aimless wandering. I mean finding your way by pleasant paths with a definite objective in view.”

Baden-Powell, Rovering to Success

This book is one of a series of three books compiled by The Scout Association of Malta, aimed at developing your understanding of the Rover Section as well as providing useful ideas on how to be involved with a successful Rover Crew.

This book is an introductory guide to Rovering, designed to help new Rovers develop an understanding of the structure and operations of the Rover Section, and what it is that makes Rovers “tick”. It will introduce you to the basics of Rovering, including what you might expect to get out of Rovers, and what you will need to put into it to achieve your aims.

It is designed to be used in conjunction with our normal training methods, including Induction training (*my*Induction) and formal Scout training.

While this book provides a great starting point, it is no substitute for being a member of a well run Rover Crew. By reading this publication you will gain a better understanding of how the Rover Section works and be able to use this, along with the experience you gain as a Crew member, to become a valuable part of the Rover Section – and learn how to have a lot of fun doing it!

Rovering is the senior and last section of the youth programme, open to young adults, both men and women, between the ages of 18 and 26 years. It offers fun, fellowship and participation in areas of interest to all young adults. The specific areas of interest are chosen entirely by the Rovers themselves. The action takes place with a great bunch of friends in a Rover Crew.

The Rover Crew Programme offers you a whole world of activities that cover a wide variety of interests. These are based on the Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual aspects. Some activities offer the opportunity to be of service to other people, while other activities provide an opportunity to travel overseas. As a member of a Rover Crew, you will have input into the management of the Crew and the generation of the Crew Programme which means you get to do activities that interest you.


Joining a Rover Crew could be one of the most important steps in your life. It can open doors to new friendships, fun, adventure, and some unforgettable experiences while at the same time developing your leadership and organisational skills.




WHAT DOES ROVERS HAVE TO OFFER?

The Programme forms the basis of what you do in Roving, and therefore what you get out of Roving. A vibrant and exciting Programme is the foundation of a healthy and exciting Crew. The Crew Programme should aim to cater for everyone in the Crew, therefore covering a wide variety of interests. The more input you have into what your Crew does, the more you are going to enjoy the Programme. The more members of the Crew that give input, then the more interesting it is likely to become as you each get to try new things and learn from one another.


As one of the primary aims of Roving is the personal development of young adults, the primary objective of a Crew Programme is to provide opportunities for this development. Opportunities that expose Crew members to new and different activities allow individuals to challenge themselves while experiencing a variety of situations. This exposure and experience is what helps us develop as young adults. By basing the Programme around the basic aims of Scouting, all of these things can be achieved. Most importantly, however, the Crew Programme has to be fun and interesting for all the members of the Crew. Along with the friendships you will make, it will be the experiences that you gain and things that you try that will make Roving worthwhile.

 When designing the Crew Programme to achieve the Scouting aim, your Crew should try to include each of the following aspects which underpin The Scout Association of Malta basis for personal development:

- **Social**
- **Physical**
- **Intellectual**
- **Creative**
- **Emotional**
- **Spiritual**

 A good Programme should include the following criteria:

- **Balance**
- **Variety**
- **Participation**
- **Purpose**
- **Interest**
- **Ownership by the Crew**
- **Enjoyment**

 To ensure their effectiveness, these components should ideally be based around:

- **Service (the motto of the Rover Section)**
- **Outdoor pursuits**
- **Individual interests of Crew members**
- **Scouting fundamentals and Scout craft skills.**

Not every Programme idea will include these things and not every Programme will run exactly to plan, but as long as you are gaining the benefits of friendship, fun and personal development, then the Crew is running a successful Programme.

MAJOR EVENTS

One of the most enjoyable and exciting things about being in Rovers is the opportunity to attend and participate in a wide variety of major events. During such events it is a great opportunity to meet new people and have a really fun experience. 'Pjazza Rovers' (AGORA) is a Rover event held on a Group, District or National Level.

As well as Rover events, Rovers are encouraged to attend major events within the junior Sections alongside Leaders. You may take a leadership role, staff role or similar roles at a National Scout activity. All of these provide fantastic opportunities to gain a great range of experiences in a short time frame.

Overall, major events provide an opportunity to experience new things and meet fantastic people (often from all around the world), opportunities you would not ordinarily encounter outside Rovering.

SO WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF YOU AS A ROVER?

Like most things in life, you will get out of Rovers what you put into it. If you are willing to take an active role and put some effort into participating and even running parts of the Crew Programme, then you will get out of Rovers whatever it is that you hope to achieve. For a lot of people, fun, friendship and new experiences is what Rovers is all about.

Set goals for yourself and set goals for the Crew. Work together with the Crew to achieve these things and you won't go wrong.

Obligations of a Rover

As a member of the worldwide Scout Movement you are expected to take on certain individual obligations – most importantly to do your best and to live by the Scout Promise and Law. These require a commitment to live by Scouting principles and to become a valuable part of the community in which you live.

Your other obligations are to the Crew and your scout group. Rovering attracts a diverse group of people and, as such, Crews are usually as different as the members who make up the Crew. Just as Rover Crews vary, the obligations expected of members also vary. Some Crews expect Rovers to be very committed to the Crew and turn up to every meeting and activity, whereas other Crews are more relaxed. In either case, Rovers are obliged to support their Crew and fellow Crew members in achieving their goals, both individual and collective, not only within but also outside Rovering.

The motto of Rovering is "Service". This also carries obligations and from time to time you will find yourself spending time and energy on service projects, both for other sections of the Scouting Movement and for the wider community. Service activities vary greatly and often provide some of the most challenging and satisfying experiences you may undertake as a Rover.

Your Choice

Your choice will be based on certain aspects a crew will offer. The range of activities, methods of leadership and degree of formality will be governed by the particular focus of the Crew and the people who make up the Crew.

Whilst undertaking Induction training (*my*Induction), opportunities will be available to participate in a variety of activities. Following completion of Induction training and attaining the right to be a fully invested Rover, decisions will need to be made by each person about what they want from Rovering. Set goals for yourself, goals for your Crew and then set about achieving them together.

Most importantly, make sure you get the best out of Rovering – fun, friendship, new challenges and experiences. Scouting offers a wealth of challenges and opportunities, limited only by your ambition, enthusiasm and imagination. Your challenge now is to make the most of these.

GOOD LUCK, GOOD SCOUTING AND HAPPY ROVERING



ROVERS AND SCOUTING FUNDAMENTALS

WHAT IS THE BASIS OF ROVERS AND SCOUTING?

Lord Baden-Powell’s vision of Scouting was that of providing the opportunity for young people to challenge themselves and learn new skills, they would become better people. In turn, their community would benefit through having these people contribute to the well being of others within the community. During the formalisation of this Movement, a Programme of progressive self challenge and education was developed and formed the basis for what is now commonly called “the Scout Method”.

An important part of this method is the Scout Promise and Law, which is a voluntary personal commitment (the Scout Promise) to do your best to live by a code of ethics (the Scout Law).



THE SCOUT PROMISE

On my honour

I promise that I will do my best

To do my duty to my God,

and To my country

To help other people at all times, and

To obey the Scout Law

⇒ On my honour

Making the Promise “on your honour” means you are putting your reputation and your good name at stake. This may seem old fashioned in some ways, but it is still the most honest and realistic basis on which we can take an oath. As all Rovers know, there is nothing that means more to a Rover than their honour.

⇒ I promise that I will do my best

Promising to do your best all the time can be extremely hard work. No one expects miracles from Rovers, only that they do their best to honour their commitments. You may strive to achieve something and still fall short, however if you can honestly say that you did your best, you cannot ask any more from yourself.

⇒ To do my duty to my God

When Baden-Powell conceived Scouting, he considered God (he was referring to the Christian God) to be an integral part of one’s life. The idea that one should seek to find, understand and pursue their own faith has not changed in today’s Rovering.

The search for spiritual understanding and the faith you choose to follow is an important part of growing up, and is something we often spend the most part of our lives trying to achieve. Many Rovers are confused about their own beliefs and are still searching for the answers to their own questions.

Rovering encourages you to seek out what you believe to be true and to develop your own spiritual understanding, as well as to respect the rights of others to follow their own spiritual beliefs and values. In seeking to find and understand your own faith, you will be doing your duty to your God.

Guidelines *for* Rovering

➤ **And to my country**

When we talk about duty to your country, we are not necessarily talking about serving in the armed forces and protecting our country that way. Duty to Malta can be performed in many ways.

Abiding by the laws of the land, contributing to your local community and taking an interest in the issues that concern Malta as a nation are some simple ways to accomplish this part of the Promise. Be proud to be a citizen of your country and strive every day to make our country an even better place.

➤ **To help other people at all times**

Service and sacrificing of you for the benefit of others is a cornerstone of the Rover ethos. Often we think of helping others as being hard work but it also means simply thinking of others ahead of you.

The rewards for helping others are in the task itself, in the humanity we all share and in the satisfaction of having done a good deed.

➤ **And to live by the Scout Law**

Finally, you promise to do your best to live by the Scout Law. In doing so you are committing yourself to a code of life which others should rightly expect you to follow. The Scout Law is not only positive, but implies that in order to live by these standards you have to actively pursue them.



THE SCOUT LAW

A Scout's honour is to be trusted

A Scout is loyal and obedient

A Scout duty is to be useful and to help others

A Scout is a friend to all

A Scout is courteous, kind and considerate

A Scout is cheerful in adversity

A Scout makes good use of his/her time and avoids waste of damage and property

A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed

➤ **A Scout honour is to be trusted**

This is easy enough to live by when someone in authority is nearby, but how far can you be trusted when you are not likely to be caught? How reliable are you? Can people really "take your word for it"? How often do you have to be reminded of promises you've made? When you say that you'll take on something – do you mean it – or just, "if I get around to it"? Do you really believe in the concept of a fair day's work for a fair day's pay?

➤ **A Scout is loyal and obedient**

Being loyal to someone or something simply means sticking up for them and sticking with them through hard times as well as good, but do you have to be loyal to someone for whom you've lost respect? Who or what deserves your loyalty? Have you ever dragged your feet on some project because you didn't think it would work? Are you ever two-faced? Can you be disloyal to yourself? Can you be disloyal to your God?

➤ **A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others**

This is so central to the idea of Scouting that it is an integral part of both the Promise and the Law. To be helpful to others is the basis of giving service. To be of real service to others, you have to give consideration to the needs and feelings of other people. It is only by being aware of what other people need from you that you can really help them. For Rovers, this is a central focus and forms the basis for the Rover motto of "Service".

➤ **A Scout is a friend to all**

Staying friends with everyone is a pretty tall order. Still, good friends are probably the greatest asset you can acquire in your life. Maybe you don't need all the friends you can get, but you certainly don't need enemies. How many of these enemies do you have?

➤ **A Scout is courteous, kind and considerate**

This is another way of saying that you should be a well behaved and polite person. First of all, courtesy, like everything else, begins at home. A 'Please' and a 'thank you' are easily said. By doing little chores you can make a difference to the person in need.

➤ **A Scout is cheerful in adversity**

This is not just about being a "Scrooge". It is about making the best use of your available resources including your time, your health, and the body you have. What about property? Do you look after things you have borrowed as if you had paid for them yourself? Do you return borrowed things promptly? Do you ignore that small tear in a tent you have borrowed from the Group, or ensure it is fixed before it gets too bad? But what about the money side of things? If you're earning money – what do you spend it on? Have you got a reasonable balance between spending and saving? What is it that you are saving for?

➤ **A Scout makes good use of his time and avoids waste of damage and property**

Our natural environment includes the land, air, water, plants and animals. Are you really concerned about the conservation of these precious resources, or do you not really ever consider them? Unfortunately we often don't consider the plight of our native animals until they're almost extinct – or trees until they're gone. The man-made environment includes our homes, cities, parks and playing fields. Do you look after your environment? We must care more for both the natural and man-made environment if we are to continue to live comfortably on this earth – and enable future generations to do likewise.

➤ **A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed**

Self-respect comes from doing to the best of your ability what you know to be right. Respect for others means believing that they also are doing their best to live according to their beliefs. Do you think of others who may be disadvantaged in some way as people? Do you laugh at, or feel sorry for the underprivileged, the insecure, the disabled? Isn't the best way of helping them to treat them as equals – as people?

HOW THE FUNDAMENTALS FIT INTO ROVERING

These “fundamentals” form the **value system** upon which Scouting, including Rovering, is based. It includes recognition of your duty to your God, a duty to your country, a duty to others whether they are close to you or a part of your community, and a duty to yourself to **become a better person** who is well equipped to take a **leading role in society**. It also encourages you to have fun and enjoy the life you create for yourself.

Whilst many people may not join Rovers purely because of these Scouting principles, they remain the foundation around which our activities are focused. It is the Scouting fundamentals that differentiate us from other youth organisations around the world, and it is from these fundamentals that many members gain the greatest benefits from Scouting – through improving their outlook on life and their attitude toward others.

It should be kept in mind that a full understanding of the fundamentals of Scouting is gained over time and through experience, not necessarily through a simple discussion or participation on a training course. This is just one more part of the progressive learning process that is Scouting.

An understanding of the fundamentals of Scouting can be achieved in the course of an effective Crew Programme that includes all areas of individual development (social, physical, intellectual, character, emotional and spiritual).

THE SCOUT PROMISE AND LAW FROM A ROVER PERSPECTIVE

Baden Powell wrote in his book “Rovering to Success”:

“The term Rover Scout stands for a true man and a good citizen. The Law for Rovers is the same as for Scouts, in wording and principle, but has to be viewed from a new standpoint – that is, from that of a man. In both cases the principle underlying the Scout Law knocks out Self and shoves in Good-will and Helpfulness to others. Don’t take this as instruction in piety, but as a direction to Manliness.”

It is important also for Rovers to realise their obligations, as the senior youth Section and as young adults in Scouting, to set an example for younger members of the Movement and to shoulder the responsibilities of leadership that come solely from being a person whom younger members may look up to and aspire to emulate.

Young people need a variety of things in order to grow emotionally and spiritually.



These include the need to:

- **achieve self-acceptance (of one’s personality and one’s body)**
- **achieve emotional independence (making your own decisions and organising your own life)**
- **develop happy and relaxed relationships (meeting and keeping a diversity of friends, and developing good interpersonal skills)**
- **develop a satisfactory vocational role (completing education, seeking job satisfaction, and defining and developing priorities and interests)**
- **develop an awareness for what happens in society and the world (becoming involved in causes, thereby developing a deeper understanding of citizenship and social justice).**

Duty to One’s God

One of the requirements Scouting asks of its members is to make a deliberate effort to develop one’s relationship with their God. As part of this process, various aspects of spirituality would normally be explored, for example, the purpose and necessity of religion and how one can demonstrate their faith. The Scout Movement includes members from most countries of the world, and from most religions. It is incumbent upon every Rover to respect this fact by making sure that every member is given the opportunity to develop their relationship with their God, and at the same time be a seeker of spiritual understanding. The educational approach of the Movement includes helping young people to search for the spiritual values of life. A basic knowledge of other faiths, including the understanding of one another’s habits, food, methods of worship, rules, is needed so that we as members of the Crew can support each other in seeking to carry out our Promise.

Scouting provides many opportunities for its members to pursue their beliefs. It may be part of a simple ceremony where a prayer is said, or it could be that we are asked to reflect on our own experiences and emotions, to look at ourselves and examine our own beliefs.

One way of reflecting on one’s duty to God is through participating in a Scouts’ Own. This should be a spontaneous act of thanksgiving by the Rovers themselves. It is not a substitution for a church service but is an alternative way of respecting your own and others’ beliefs. The format should be simple and sincere.

Duty to your Country

The civic duty of a Rover, and indeed any citizen who considers themselves a valuable part of their community, is to actively seek ways to improve the community around them. This not only includes the local community but also the Maltese and International communities.

This is achieved in many ways in daily life – by contributing through your chosen career, by looking for ways to help others in the community, by supporting other causes and community projects as well as your own Scouting projects and so on.

The personal rewards for giving some of your time to others is a tremendous sense of satisfaction and self worth which usually far outweighs any personal cost.

By giving time to contribute selflessly for others, Rovers train themselves to lend a hand whenever and wherever they see a need – an attitude that will remain with you for life. Consider taking on a service project as a Crew, as an individual, or as part of a larger service project conducted on a national level, and incorporate this into your Programme.

Duty to Others

The Rover motto is **Service**. This is not a concept unique to Rovers, as all Scouts promise to “do their best” to “help other people”. However, in Rovers greater emphasis is placed on the need to provide service to others.

Again, service is an obvious choice for an area in which Rovers are able to demonstrate their duty to others. This is often looked at largely from the point of view of Rovers helping other people who are not Rovers. Importantly, part of our duty to others includes our duty to look out for other Rovers.

Many Rovers become very close with their friends in the Crew. Not everyone is best friends within a Crew – and nor are they expected to be. However, the welfare and well being of others in the Crew should be considered at all times as a part of your responsibility to each other. This includes involving each person in the Crew Programme and ensuring everyone feels part of the Crew all the time.

The interpersonal skills and relationship skills developed in Rovers will be a tremendous asset to you later in life, and recognising how we relate to each other as Scouts, as friends and as people living in the same community is a very important part of the fundamentals of Scouting.

Duty to One's Self

Amongst all of this, it is equally important to ensure that you are fulfilling your own aims and goals. Rovering allows you to find new experiences and challenge yourself in all the ways a person can challenge themselves. It also encourages you to develop yourself personally – in gaining new skills, developing a broader base of life experiences and developing clarity in your mind as to what you want to get out of life. This fulfils the part of Rovering often referred to as “Duty to Self”.

Often the requests for the assistance of Rovers are frequent and large, and the commitments we make supporting each other can demand a large amount of our time and energy. It is important that we spend time and energy achieving our own needs from Scouting. Without this balance, it can be very difficult to maintain enthusiasm and focus and this is a common source of “burn-out”. Looking after yourself and achieving what you want is just as important as looking after and helping each other.

If it all sounds a bit heavy - it isn't. Most people just do it without thinking about it. One of the rewarding parts about Rovering is that it encourages you to examine these things and when you have a clear direction in mind, it is easier to achieve more. Take the time to enjoy Rovering, to meet new friends, to try new things and have a lot of fun on the way. Without this, it would just be hard work!

IMPROVING YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF THE FUNDAMENTALS

As previously stated, gaining an understanding of these things comes with time and experience, but there are a number of places to get information along the way. Sectional training considers this topic and there are a number of publications available on the subject of Scouting fundamentals. The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) has a website www.scout.org with a number of downloadable and mail order references. It will be useful for you to read some of these before trying to get others to understand and incorporate Scouting fundamentals into the regular Crew Programme.

BECOMING A ROVER

Previous membership of either the Scout or Guide Association is not a prerequisite to becoming a Rover. Those who join with no prior Scouting experience are often referred to as having “just walked in off the street” to join.

Their understanding of the basic concepts of Scouting will obviously be quite different from those who have progressed from the younger Sections of Scouting, and consequently there are two slightly different paths by which they may become a Rover.

A person coming off the street, who is often a friend of a current Rover but with no Scouting background, needs to undergo some training in basic Scouting skills before they can be invested as a Scout.

For a person advancing from Venture Scouts to Rover Scouts there is a link badge. Both streams should provide opportunities for the candidate to “try out” the Crew by participating in a number of activities, including at least one weekend activity.

It may be a requirement of the Crew that all prospective members must attend a number of activities, to decide if they are compatible with the Crew and if it is the type of Crew they want to join. This is like a probationary period to allow the person and the Crew time to get to know each other.

INVESTITURE AS A ROVER

The Investiture Ceremony, the format of which is determined by the Crew, follows the induction period of a Rover. It may be a traditional ceremony, or it may be simple and fairly basic – this is up to the individual Crew to decide. The investiture also may be held anywhere, e.g. on a hike or camp, or again the Crew may have a traditional site it always uses.

The Rover Investiture is the most significant ceremony a Rover may take part in. It is a dignified and significant occasion and should be carried out with respect and sincerity. At some point during the Investiture Ceremony of the Rover confirms or re-affirms the Scout Promise and accepts the responsibilities and obligations of a Rover prescribed by the Crew. With the investiture he or she becomes a full member of the Crew.

Each Crew will have their own specific ceremony incorporating a number of symbolic gestures of commitment to the Roving way of life. The Rover should discuss the ceremony with their Mentor before undertaking it, to ensure they understand the significance of the ceremony and the process their Crew would normally follow.

Ceremonies

Rovers, and Scouting in general, have a number of ceremonies – enough in fact to fill a whole publication. Whilst we will not repeat the same information here, it is important to realise the importance of ceremonies. Ceremonies play an important role in Rovering. Like other Sections of Scouting, Rover formal meetings are opened and closed with a ceremony that involves saluting the Maltese flag and so on. Other significant ceremonies include the Induction ceremony, Investiture ceremony, badge presentation ceremony, and *my*Departure ceremony. These occasions are a formal way of marking significant events or achievements in a Rover's career.

The exact structure of these ceremonies is not as important as the manner in which they are carried out and it is of great importance that these ceremonies are conducted with sincerity, respect and in the spirit of Scouting and Rovering. The degree of formality that the Crew adopts is up to them. Some Crews have very elaborate ceremonies whilst others are quite simple – many of them have been handed down from generation to generation within the Crew and form a core part of the Crew's traditions.

Whilst there are a number of symbolic gestures each Crew should attempt to make the ceremony as significant and memorable for the person receiving the recognition as possible, being careful to retain the dignity and formality of the occasion.

For that reason a Rover should know the format of any ceremony they are going to conduct before they begin – so some preparation will be required. Make sure all the "props" or equipment needed are ready and any personnel who should be attending (such as a Rover Mentor or Sponsor) are invited. Use words and phrases that are significant to the people involved and try not to just read words without meaning.

Be mindful of the history of the Crew, so if there is a traditional Crew ceremony that has been used for as long as anyone can remember, this should be used as the starting point. In all cases, sincerity, significance and respect for both the person and the occasion should be of paramount importance.

ORGANISATION

SCOUTING STRUCTURE

Scouting in general is a structured organisation, that is, it has a supporting framework through which the Movement works. The Rover Section is just one part of this structure. There are identifiable lines of communication to access all the resources of the Association, and all the decision makers. Understanding the place of the Rover Section within this structure ensures Rovers to maximise their experience.

The Overall Picture

Rovers are the most senior youth Section of the Scout Association of Malta. A member can join Beaver Scouts (the youngest Section of the Movement) then progress through Cub Scouts, into Scouts, on to Venture Scouts and eventually become a Rover – a programme spanning 20 years.

It is important to understand that Rover Scouts are still an integral part of the Youth Programme and such a programme is to be followed.

At each step in this progression, the responsibility for the running of the Section is shared more and more with the youth members until they reach Rovers, which is an entirely self-governing Section. The whole way through, the Scout Method is applied to run the Sectional Programmes, encouraging Leaders to ensure their young Scouts are learning by experience and having fun along the way – and things are no different in the Rover Section. The main difference is how the Section is organised and managed.

The Crew as Part of the Organisation

The basis of the organisational structure within the Rover Section is the Rover Crew, which is a group of Rovers bound together for fun, fellowship and activity. A Crew is usually comprised of 6 or more members.

It is led and run by a Rover who takes on the responsibility of being the RCC.

The RCC is responsible for the management of all aspects of the Crew and is the person who must answer for the Crew's successes and failures – both to the members and to the supervisors (Group Leaders and Commissioners) of Scouting.

A Group Crew

A Group Crew is one that is associated with a particular Scout Group, e.g. XYZ Rover Crew would be the Rover Section associated with the XYZ Scout Group.

These Crews have the advantages of drawing on the Scout Group for access to resources, equipment, facilities and support. They also tend to have a Venture Scout Unit to draw on for members and to join in activities with. They have a responsibility to be a part of the Group like every other Section.

A District Crew

This is a new concept which would see Crews forming on a District Level. The main reason for a District Crew is to bring together Ventures who cannot experience Rovering within their own group. The operation of such Crew is the same as that of a Group Crew.

Due to this, District Crew will need to be a little more self-sufficient, stronger leadership is required from the RCC in order to ensure that fundraising, maintenance, cleaning, and related activities continue.

CREW STRUCTURE

Each individual in a Crew will play an important part, whether they are the RCC or the new Rover. The functions or jobs that need to be carried out in a Crew may be allocated either to individuals (office bearers) or groups (committees).



Roles within a crew consist of:

- **The Rover Crew Coordinator**
- **The Assistant Rover Crew Coordinator**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Quartermaster**
- **Rover Mentor**

The Rover Crew Coordinator

The Rover Crew Coordinator (RCC) is a Rover who takes responsibility for the Crew. It is up to the Coordinator to make sure things run smoothly, according to plan and see that the Crew is achieving the goals they set for themselves as a Crew. It is a job they cannot do by themselves, so they will have to learn to delegate and utilise the people in their team to get the job done. Becoming the RCC is one of the most important responsibilities a Rover can take on during their career in Rovers.



It is preferable that the RCC is someone who already:

- **is a fully invested Rover**
- **has some Roving experience**
- **has some leadership skills and has a desire to build on these skills**
- **has attended the relevant Rover section training course**
- **has a desire to see the Crew grow and progress toward their goals**
- **is regarded by the Crew as being responsible and mature enough to take on the responsibilities.**
- **Woodbadge Holder**
- **The RCC adopts responsibility for a great many things – but they don't need to do everything themselves.**



The Rover Crew Coordinator (RCC) is usually responsible for such things as:

- **chairing meetings;**
- **conducting ceremonies;**
- **ensuring paperwork is complete and correct (including activity notifications);**
- **representing the Crew at other meetings such as Group Council;**
- **monitoring the progress of the work or duties allocated to members of the Crew Executive, committees or individual members of the Crew;**
- **setting an example of behaviour and enthusiasm;**
- **motivating the Crew to set and achieve goals;**
- **ensuring new members are made welcome;**
- **ensuring the Crew is living up to its objectives as part of the Scout Movement;**
- **ensuring Crew members do not over-extend their commitments to the Crew and run the risk of burning themselves out.**

There is a range of people the RCC will need to become familiar with and develop a good working relationship with. The most important of these is the Rover Mentor, but the list should also include the Group Leader, Venture Scout Leaders and Group Committee members.

Assistant Rover Crew Coordinator

The Assistant Rover Crew Coordinator (ARCC) essentially assists the RCC to achieve the aims of the Crew, and can be an invaluable resource to the RCC. The RCC should ensure the ARCC is kept up to date on issues affecting the Crew and see that they are introduced to the appropriate people and attend meetings so they can assume the responsibilities for the RCC at short notice. At other times, the ARCC may well act as an "Executive Officer" for the Crew, helping to ensure things run smoothly.

The actual duties allocated to the ARCC will depend very much on the size and needs of the Crew at any given time. They may be responsible for coordinating training, coordinating Programme activities, monitoring the Crew members' Award Scheme progress and so on. These duties will undoubtedly vary from time to time and from Crew to Crew.

The ARCC should observe and learn from the RCC and Rover Mentor during the course of their term of office, as they often make excellent candidates to take over as RCC for the next term. As such, when selecting a Rover to undertake the role of ARCC, Crews should look for the same sort of qualities (or potential to develop these qualities) as they would look for in a RCC.

Secretary

This person is responsible for the administrative work of the Crew.



The Secretary's duties may include the following:

- **taking minutes of meetings and distributing final copies before the next meeting;**
- **issuing meeting notices and agendas, in consultation with the RCC;**
- **receiving inward correspondence and writing and sending outward correspondence;**
- **Maintaining and filing all records and papers for future reference;**
- **being responsible for the Crew's mailing address;**
- **maintaining the Crew contact list and register of Members;**
- **ensuring proper communications are maintained between the Crew members – such as maintaining the email list or organising mail outs and so on.**

The Secretary also has an opportunity to give input on matters considered by the Executive.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is the financial controller for the Crew.



The Treasurer's duties may include:

- **making outgoing payments as authorised by the Crew;**
- **receiving, receipting, and banking all incoming money;**
- **maintaining an accurate record of all monies received, paid, and held;**
- **preparing financial reports of transactions made by the Crew for business meetings;**
- **preparing Annual Financial Reports and having the books audited for the Annual General Meeting;**
- **preparing a budget for the coming period, when required by the Crew, to allow planning of fundraising and spending.**

The Treasurer also has an opportunity to give input on matters considered by the Executive.

Quartermaster

The Quartermaster (QM) maintains or organises the maintenance of all Crew or Group equipment:



The QM's duties may include the following:

- **inspects the condition of equipment and reports to the Crew as required, so as to ensure that no equipment is in disrepair when it is needed;**
- **arranges for the periodic cleaning and maintenance of HQ furniture and fittings, and equipment;**
- **maintains an inventory of equipment so that the Crew knows exactly what it's got;**
- **responsible for recommending the purchase of new equipment and organising repairs and maintenance of equipment when required.**

The Crew may decide to budget a certain amount of money for the QM so they can purchase minor equipment without always needing the approval of the Crew, or alternatively to specify an amount up to which they can spend.

Rover Scout Mentors – Supporting Individual Rover Scouts

The Rover Scout Mentor has the role to support Rover Scouts individually. The Rover Scout Mentor is somebody a Rover Scout could choose for her or himself, thus emphasizing the voluntary nature of the partnership involved. Also, depending on the Rover Scout's needs and wishes, the mentor might not necessarily have a background in Scouting.



The role of the Rover Scout Mentor is to:

- **Help individuals identify personal challenges and set up personal plans**
- **Open fields of discovery, action and responsibility**
- **Help individuals become involved in personal, team and unit activities**
- **Provide opportunities for personal training**
- **Encourage to progress and overcome limits**
- **Help individuals evaluate progress and identify potential**

The mentor could be mentor to more than one Rover Scout at the same time.

Other Specialist Roles

The Crew may choose to appoint any number of officers of the Crew to maintain specific aspects of the operations of the Crew.



Examples of this may include:

- **Log Bookkeeper – to maintain records of activities with photos and reports etc. This may involve the maintenance of a website containing this info.**
- **Public Relations Officer – to keep all promotional equipment up to date, organise any events, issue media releases and maintain a relationship with journalists from local newspapers and radio outlets.**
- **Service Coordinator – to organise any Service activities that the Crew may participate in.**
- **Activities Coordinator – to organise Programming nights and to make sure that each Crew member has a copy of the Programme**

Committees

There may be time when the Crew wishes to form a committee for a special purpose. The committee should have a defined task and a set of operating guidelines detailing their specific responsibilities. For example, the Crew may have a committee when organising national/international activities.

National Rover Council

The National Rover Council is made up of Rover delegates and chaired by the Assistant Commissioner for Rovers within the Training and Programme of the Rover Scouts Section department.



Its functions are:

- **to exchange information between Crews important**
- **to promote the extension and development of Roving through establishment, revision and implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Rovers**
- **to assist in the planning of National Rover projects**
- **to assist in the planning of major service activities and exploration activities on a national basis**
- **to advise on policy for the Rover Section and on the preparation and publication of books, periodicals and pamphlets on the aspects of Roving**
- **to convene National Rover Conferences.**



ROVER SCOUTS

Guidelines *for* Roving

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THE *Scout* ASSOCIATION
OF MALTA