

POLICY

Version 54 (published 27 Jul 2010 20 Feb 2011)



First Emerald Abseiling Team is a Scout adventurous activity team and operates under the auspice of the 1st Emerald Scout Group. FEAT manages and administers financially the Mt Dandenong Region Abseiling Team MDRAT. The greater team is promoted as FEAT Mt Dandenong Region Abseiling Team.

Services and Costs

The team provides tower and rock face abseiling services to registered Scouts and Guides. Guide groups must provide evidence of written permission from Guides Victoria in hard copy. Branch Activity Commissioner prohibits provision of services to non Scout bodies.

The team is not for profit and aims to be cost neutral. To recover costs the team charges for services. The team aims to be self sufficient for registration, training and abseiling equipment maintenance and upgrade costs. The team enjoys the hospitality of 1st Emerald Scout Group for use of group facilities. In return the team does not charge 1st Emerald Scout Group members for abseiling activities.

The team provides:

- Casual abseiling - \$8 per person per session. Note: Putting on a harness triggers payment. Youth, Leaders and Parents all contribute.
- Scout Proficiency badge ~~\$10~~ \$11 per youth including pre-work kit and badge
- Venturer Outdoors 2 service hours (post VBAC training) (\$nil).

Where a group / unit / crew provides a team member and that team member contributes at least 10 hours of service per year that group / unit / crew will be granted a 25% discount on any activities during that year.

The team will provide services at other venues (eg. District camps, Gilweroo, etc) providing team members are available, the service is cost neutral to the team, food is provided by the hosts and a suitable tower or rock face is available. Actual cost is by negotiation and depends on the need to purchase or replace equipment. Tower, site and permit costs are the responsibility of the hosts. It is unlikely that the team has the numbers to run a large event exclusively and will work with or within another team to run the event.

Insurance

The activities are covered under the Scouting Insurance Scheme. The Tower is insured for loss by 1st Emerald Scout Group.

Members

Members are required by Scouts Victoria to be current members of the Scouting Association and to have training appropriate to their operational position. Members may be from groups other than 1st Emerald Scout Group. All members of the team shall be current members of the Scout Association of Victoria as one or more of:

- Activity Leaders (Guide or Instructor)
- Section Leader
- Adult Support (First Aid position only)
- Youth participants (youth under 18 years cannot be Activity Leaders)

Members may be Activity Leaders at Guide or Instructor level or Assistants at Participant level. Abseiling skills training is provided and certified only by Victorian Branch Abseiling Council (VBAC).

Training

Activity Leaders

In line with SRO and Scouts Victoria requirements all Activity Leaders are expected to gain and maintain the minimum requirements of:

- current VBAC abseiling skills,
- Activity Leader Basic (covered by Scout Advanced and Venturer Basic),
- Train the Trainer 1 – Training Methods and
- Hold a current Workplace First Aid certificate (equivalent of old Level 2).

Scouts Victoria requires that an Activity Leader who is not registered as an active Section Leader (any troop) must be registered with the Branch Activity Council.

Assistants

Assistants are expected to gain and maintain a VBAC Participant qualification.

Training & Registration Costs

FEAT will pay the costs of training and registration according to the table below:

Scenario	Activity Leader Basic	Abseiling Skills	First Aid (Note 1)	Train the Trainer 1 (Training Methods)	Registration
Activity Leader working only with the team	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Activity Leader working with multiple activities	Pro rata % of	Yes	Pro rata % of	Pro rata % of	Pro rata % of
Activity Leader who is a current Section Leader	No (Home Group responsibility as part of Scout Woodbadge or Venturer Basic)	Yes	No (Home Group responsibility as Required in Section Leader Role)	Yes	No (Home Group responsibility)
Adult Participant (nee Assistant)	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
Youth Participant (nee Assistant)	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	No (Home Group responsibility)

Note 1: If a member chooses to attend an equivalent Workplace First Aid course outside Scouts, FEAT will pay the same amount as the cost of the Scout First Aid course as published in the Infobook for the current year. The member must pay the difference.

Note 2: A Leader must self fund wood badge in Activity Leader should they choose to pursue it.

Note 3: Abseiling Skills will be reimbursed after four sessions or 10 hours of service whichever comes first.

Note 4: For those who qualify to have their annual membership paid, they must attend a minimum of five sessions or at least 12 hours service per year to have their membership paid in the next year.

Recruitment and Workload

- New members will be sought and actively encouraged.
- The team aim to maintain a big enough pool of members that no-one member has to attend every activity.
- All members are expected to participate in activities, where a member consistently fails to participate, the team may elect to remove that person.

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Prospective new members will be interviewed and have an opportunity to work with the team. After several sessions the team will be decided by majority if the new prospective member is acceptable and will only then invite them to join the team on the proviso they meet all the Scouting requirements.

Note: The prospective new member must hold a current Working With Children Card.

Activities

All activities will conform to Branch rules and policies. All abseiling activities will conform to the VBAC rules and methods as they are published in the VBAC Abseiling Manual.

At each activity there must be at least one member who holds the Scout Abseiling Guide, Leader or Instructor qualification to fulfil the Site Controller position. This is a requirement of the Scouting insurance.

Assistant (Participant) members must be directly supervised by a qualified Activity Leader regardless of holding an Abseiling Skills qualification.

Security

The Tower and Abseiling Store cupboard are locked by key. Key management is by 1st Emerald Scout Group Leader. Only members of FEAT, the GL, and maintenance personnel will be granted access to The Tower or Abseiling store.

The Tower

The tower is maintained by the 1st Emerald Scout Group. The team shall provide input to any design changes to ensure the facility remains safe and suitable for abseiling. The poles and other structural parts of the tower will be inspected for integrity every year by the 1st Emerald Group Leader and the FEAT LIC. If the tower has degraded then the group may call in an Engineer.

The tower is designed for the specific purpose of abseiling and may not be used for any other purpose and will be kept secured when not in use for abseiling or maintenance.

The tower will be swept and inspected prior to each use during setup. The use and any defects noted shall be booked in a diary note kept in the abseiling pouch for this purpose.

Equipment

All equipment shall be closely inspected annually and on each occasion of use. Any equipment found to be defective or unsafe shall be condemned and removed from service by destruction. Condemned items may be retained for training purposes after being clearly tagged.

Each inspection and any condemnation of equipment shall be booked in a diary kept in the abseiling pouch for this purpose.

Equipment must be kept clean, dry and secure when not in use.

Meetings

The team shall report at the 1st Emerald Group annual general meeting where a financial report, and training summary will be delivered. The team shall review any issues that require resolution.

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Other meetings will be held as necessary generally before or immediately after an activity session.

The team will send a representative to the 1st Emerald Group Council and Annual General Meeting.

The team will send a representative to the VBAC AGM and where possible VBAC meetings.