



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

SWAG is a registered operator of the Award Scheme as it provides further opportunities for the boys as well as providing an Internationally Recognised award that may prove helpful in gaining employment.

Young people between 14 and 25 are able to participate in the Bronze, Silver or Gold Award Programmes. They are encouraged to learn through experience, and to enjoy themselves in the process, but a degree of self-discipline, enterprise and effort is a basic requirement. The Awards comprise four sections: Service, Skills, Expedition and Physical Recreation. Gold also has an additional requirement - a Residential Project.



<http://www.swag.org.au>



Further Information

If you would like to know more about SWAG, there are a number of alternatives. "INfo for Parents" is a detailed booklet available from the leaders or our web site. You can come along on a Tuesday Night and see what SWAG is about in real life, or you can contact us if you have any questions.

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St. Giles Wilderness Adventure Group

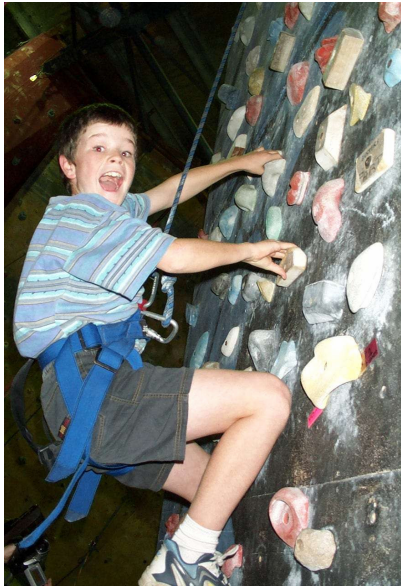


Introduction

St Giles Wilderness Adventure Group (SWAG) caters for boys from 8 years of age upwards. It aims to provide a way for boys to learn many new things and have experiences not normally open to them. Through a range of opportunities in both outdoor activities as well as skills and hobbies, SWAG encourages the boys to grow in maturity and in their relationship with God.

In a time where the mention of the word youth brings to mind struggles with a world full of irresponsibility, idleness, lack of purpose, even drinking, drugs and violence, SWAG provides a welcome alternative. The activities of SWAG are designed to direct high spirits into enjoyable but useful channels that promote maturity. In SWAG there is always another challenge ahead.

Aims of SWAG



St Giles Wilderness Adventure Group (SWAG) is a club for boys, designed to provide a witness for Christ and personal development for boys through adventurous outdoor activities.

As this description suggests we have a number of things we hope to achieve. Firstly, we aim to help boys have an understanding of God, and what he had done for them. Secondly, maturity is something we strive for in the boys,

physically, mentally and spiritually. A major part of that is discipline which is lacking in young people today. Thirdly, we hope to give the boys opportunities. Opportunities to experience the outdoor, different and new activities, develop new skills and interests, bond friendships, and develop character, self-esteem, confidence and ability.



Structure

SWAG is made up of three Divisions according to age. This allows the boys to build friendships and to engage in activities that are suited to their abilities.

1 Division One is for boys from 8 to 11 yrs of age and meet on a Tuesday Night from 6:15pm to 8:30pm at the hall. Each week the boys learn new and exciting things, involve in craft and games and begin to learn about outdoor skills. A number of times during the year they boys spend a Saturday or weekend on camp, or bushwalking, or in water activities.

2 Division Two is for boys from 12 to 15 yrs of age and meet on a Tuesday Night from 6:15pm to 8:30pm at the hall. As an older group there is more emphasis on outdoor adventure activities and more mature activities including photography, building, bicycle maintenance. During the year there are opportunities for abseiling, bushwalking, caving, canyoning, cycling, camping, boating and mountain bike riding.

3 Division Three is for young men 14 yrs and above. The sole aim of division three is to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's award They have a planning and training meetings on Tuesday nights



Division One and Two

Both Divisions meet in the Youth Centre Hall at Penshurst Presbyterian Church, (118 Penshurst St). They meet during the school terms and involve a weekly Tuesday night commitment as well as commitment to a number of Saturdays or weekends spread over the year. The highlight of the year for many of the families is the Annual Father and Son Camp, which is in a different special place each year.

The boys have a simple low cost uniform which promotes discipline and atmosphere. Encouragement will be given in many areas to try new things through an award system where the boys are challenged to earn badges for their uniform through learning and doing. Both Divisions cost \$60 per year to cover running expenses.



Division Three

They meet on each Tuesday night at Penshurst Presbyterian Church, (118 Penshurst St). The sole aim of division three is to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's award. Division three encourages leadership skills and self motivation. On Tuesday nights there are opportunities for leading the younger boys in games, activities and devotions. They also plan the expeditions needed to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's award which could be caving at Bungonia, bushwalking in the Budawangs, exploring Claustal Canyon or mountain bike riding along fire trails to the Coxes River. This group is much more informal and aimed at senior high and university students,