



## Polar Award: Scout Group

Scouter's Edition

For Crean Polar Award, Scouts need to “Take an active role in your Group” and “As a member of the Patrol Leaders Council, engage with the Group Council”. These parts of the Awards can be achieved in several ways. This resources has several suggestions to help your Scouts meet this requirement. The main point is that you as Scouters should facilitate the Scouts getting involved in running THEIR Group as much as possible. Sometimes this may involve encouragement and support to give them the confidence and direction needed. Also, you may have to explain the importance of this youth involvement to other Scouters to whom this is a new way of operating.

### Group Council Meetings

Scouts should be facilitated in participating in the Group Council. Each Group Council should include a representative from the Scout Section, separate to the Programme Scouters. This can be a Scout or it could be someone who can speak on their behalf. When a Scout is participating in Group Council, please consider the following:

- Having at least two Scouts attend
- The Scouts and Programme Scouters share the Scout Section Report
- Meetings should be as youth friendly as possible
- Run the meeting at an accessible time
- Ensure each item is carefully explained, and background details are given (this would be useful for adults new to Scouting and Parents as well)
- Use of interactive methods, rather than a sit around a table format
- Ensure Youth Members are supported and encouraged
- Scouters should work with them beforehand to prepare their contributions
- Scouts should have a clear idea of what they want to discuss at a meeting

### Meeting with Group Council Representatives

At other times, it maybe more beneficial to have some members of the Group Council attend a Patrol Leaders' Council meeting. The PLs/APLs could discuss issues of importance with the representatives, such as the Group Leader and Treasurer. Afterwards, the Group Council could report back on progress made with the issues raised. You the Scouter can help facilitate these meetings.

### Group Roles

Scouts can also take on, or help with roles in their Group. For example, Scouts could be part of the Quartermaster/Bosun Team since each patrol has a quartermaster and they use the equipment a lot. Also, Scouts could take responsibility for the Group Social Media or a Leave No Trace programme.

