

	<p style="text-align: center;">Scouts Australia Queensland Branch Brisbane North Region</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VenMX 2008 – Quest for the Gold of Croesus</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of this event</p>	<p>APPLY To: venmx@bigfoot.com</p> <p>or VENMX 14 Widmark St Stafford Hts QLD 4053</p>
---	--	---

VenMX INFORMATION SHEET No.1

Rev

Apr08

MV_IS1

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. WHEN:

Over the MAY long weekend - Friday night to Monday afternoon.

2. WHERE:

Within approximately 160 km radius of Brisbane.

A little more specific data will be given in VenMX Information Sheet No.2

3. WHO:

All Venturer Scouts from South East Queensland plus Venturer Scout Leaders - and some Rovers and Adult Support Members - to assist with the running of VenMX.

NOTE: Ranger Guides and linking Scouts are welcome to participate.
Group Leaders and District Commissioners are also invited to participate.

4. PURPOSE OF VenMX:

(a) To allow Venturer Scouts, whether experienced or inexperienced, the opportunity to participate in a through hike in country of a rugged and challenging nature - as required for the Queen's Scout Award, Expedition 1 - with leader supervision and guidance appropriate to the experience and proficiency of each Venturer.

(b) To allow Venturers with hiking experience the opportunity to try themselves out against other Venturers, of like experience, in competition based on hiking skill, navigation, bushcraft, safety, observation, conservation, reporting and common sense.

(c) To allow Venturers, with prior approval and under the guidance of an approved examiner, to obtain their Queen's Scout Award Outdoor 1 award based upon Bush Walking.

(d) To demonstrate, to Leaders, the standard of country, hiking ability, navigation, bushcraft, reporting, etc that should be expected for the Queen's Scout Award, Expedition 1.

(e) To allow Leaders who are inexperienced in hiking, navigation, etc., the opportunity to gain this experience under the tutelage of experienced hikers.

NOTE : As they will not be involved in the planning, participation will NOT qualify Venturers, in any way, for the Expeditions 1 or 2 award. VenMX may be used for the Venturing Skills Award hike, providing prior approval is obtained and arrangements for assessment are made in accordance with Unit and District Councils.

5. TRANSPORT:

Except for Leaders and Staff involved in search and rescue, logistics and checkpoint functions, EVERYBODY will travel by chartered bus. For rationalisation of bus requirements, some Venturers may be transported in search and rescue or logistics vehicles.

No Venturer's vehicles will be permitted on VenMX.

Because of the significance of fuel costs in the overall costs of VenMX, and to limit the number of unnecessary vehicles on VenMX, reimbursement for fuel used will be made only to those Leaders and staff whose offers of vehicles are accepted. Accounts should be submitted to the VenMX Leader or Coordinator no later than one week after VenMX.

6. FOOD:

- (a) All Venturers are to provide their own food for meals other than Sunday evening.
- (b) Leaders and support staff are to provide their own mid-day meals, but morning and evening meals will be catered.

NOTE - GLASS CONTAINERS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

7. TENTAGE:

Hike tents or equivalent, such as hoochies or flies, are to be provided by Units for ALL Venturer and Leader participants. Sleeping under the stars is not acceptable.

Venturers will be required to erect their tentage on each night, including Friday night, and carry their tentage throughout the hike.

8. EQUIPMENT:

The equipment list for items that should be carried on the VenMX hike is now produced as a separate document, [Revised list of personal patrol equipment for VenMX (dated 13Apr08)]. This document contains two lists of equipment that is to be carried by patrols and which will be checked at least prior to commencement of hiking. One list is for Competition Patrols and one is for Non-Competition Patrols. Non-Competition Patrols also need to bring the items listed for the Competition Patrols eg sleeping bag, tentage; but these items will not be checked prior to hiking and will be transported by VenMX organisers if the Non-Competition patrol chooses to walk with day packs only.

Each list classifies equipment in three categories, critical safety item, required or optional.

- # Critical Safety Item: Patrols will not be allowed to hike without these items. This includes all personal critical safety items, as well as patrol critical safety items.
- # Required or "Points lost if not carrying": Patrols should have these items, but if a patrol does not them they will still be allowed to hike at the Hikemaster's discretion. The patrol may be required to demonstrate or explain what optional or alternative item they have in place of the deficient required item. Competition Patrols will lose points for not having these items.
- # Optional: Individuals or patrols do not need to bring optional equipment. The items listed as optional are at the discretion or consideration of each person and patrol.
- # In these lists, "or" means you have a choice, you do not need to bring all of them.

There is a weight limit of 20kg total equipment for any Venturer (including water) to be taken on VenMX. There is a limit of 15kg for hiking. Items taken on VenMX by Venturers and not required during the hike are to be placed in a Strong Waterproof Storage Bag with an attached Nametag and delivered to VenMX Organisers at the nominated time and place. These storage bags will be returned to their owner on Sunday evening. This applies to both Competitive and Non-Competitive Patrols. This will also allow individuals and Patrols who are combined with other Patrols or individuals to rationalise their equipment, and not be required to carry excess or duplicate items.

Non-Competitive Patrols hiking with daypacks only will be required to pack their equipment not taken in their daypack into individual backpacks, which will be transported to the next Biv site.

9. MAPS:

VenMX organisers will produce appropriate maps, which will be issued, free of charge, to patrols. These will be the Reference Maps for VenMX. For those units whose members prefer to operate with coloured topographic maps, details of the relevant map or maps will be published on the VenMX website, a few days before VenMX.

10. HIKE ORGANISATION:

Participants will hike in FOUR categories as follows:

(a) **COMPETITIVE** - Those participating in the Competition. They will hike in patrols of five to six, under their own navigation and under the conditions of competition detailed in para.14 below. They will be required to undertake a variety of interesting tasks and assignments, in camp and en route.

(b) **NON-COMPETITIVE** - For Venturers who want to participate under their own navigation similar to Competitive, but who do not wish to actually compete. While not compulsory for Non-Competitive patrols, the performance of the special tasks is strongly recommended - to add interest to VenMX and the opportunity for increased experience and competence.

Note: A trophy, open to all patrols, is also presented based upon results of the special tasks.

(c) **LEADER ASSIGNED** - For inexperienced Venturers or those not sure of their navigational ability. They will hike as small groups (composite patrols), doing their own navigation as far as practicable, under the guidance and supervision of a number of experienced Leaders or Rovers. Attempted performance of the special tasks is also strongly recommended.

Note: Non-Competitive or Leader Assigned Patrols may hike with either full-packs containing all equipment or daypacks containing listed items.

(d) **LEADER GROUP** - For Leaders who wish the opportunity for practical experience in navigation away from the gaze of their Venturers. Experienced Leaders or Rovers will be allocated to this group to provide help and guidance, as and if required, but participants will be expected to navigate as independently as possible within the party and should come appropriately equipped. They will only be required to carry a daypack, as they could be called upon to assist with broken down Venturers or control of Leader Assigned patrols. Their main gear will be transported between Bivouacs.

NOTES:

(i) In every Competitive or Non-Competitive patrol, a CLEAR MAJORITY of the Venturers nominated must individually be reasonably competent in navigation.

(ii) While it is the aim to let Venturers 'have a go', there is a limit. At the discretion of the VenMX Coordinator or Hikemaster, any patrol that demonstrates their unsuitability to remain unsupervised through

inadequate competence in navigation, or

irresponsibility in regard to ANY rules, instructions or Scout Laws (on the track or in bivouac), or

failure to make a genuine effort to fulfil the task requirements for their category, e.g. Special Tasks,

will be relegated to Leader Assigned at any appropriate stage of VenMX.

11. CAMPSITES AND CAMP ETIQUETTE:

(a) All participants – Venturers, Rovers and Leaders will camp at the same campsites - a different one each night - but Leaders and Rovers will be expected to camp together - separate from the Venturers.

(b) Mixed tenting will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Tents of female Venturers will be strictly out of bounds to male Venturers, and vice-versa.

(c) Units nominating Venturers for any category are required to ensure that adequate Leaders attend to provide supervision and to monitor Venturer well being. This may be by prior mutually agreed arrangement with a Leader, from another Unit, who is attending and who is prepared to accept responsibility for the nominated Venturers.

(d) A high standard of camp tidiness and camp hygiene will be expected and will be demanded of ALL participants. There will be no rubbish disposal between Friday night and Sunday night.

(e) Lightweight portable stoves (either gas, liquid or solid fuel) will be required for all patrols. In line with current bush walking practice open fire cooking will not be permitted.

(f) A campfire will be conducted during VenMX, but this fire will not be used for cooking purposes. Where a properly constructed fireplace exists at a campsite, it will be used. Fire safety precautions, eg fire buckets; beaters etc will be available at the campfire site.

NOTE: Fires and stoves are dangerous. Horseplay will not be tolerated.

(g) Obviously, latrines, which will be erected at each Bivouac site, are to be used exclusively by, respectively, males and females. Please consider those who follow you and observe sensible hygiene.

(h) Venturers, Leaders and Rovers should not need reminding that alcohol is NOT permitted on any Scouting activity where youth members are involved.

(i) Based on previous Ventures, some Venturers need reminding that crude and obscene language not only belittles them, but also is down right offensive to a large number of their peers and Leaders. **OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

12. FIRST AID KITS:

Patrol first aid kits should be in a fairly waterproof, non-breakable container and contain the items listed in the separate document [Revised list of personal patrol equipment for VenMX (dated 13Apr08)]. The first aid list of items for both Competitive and Non-Competitive patrols is the same.

NOTES:-

- (1) A personal first aid kit with band-aids, panadol, and specific personal medicines that a Venturer may need (eg asthma medication, medication for allergies) and a small container of body salts e.g. 'Staminade' should be carried by each hiker.
- (2) There will be a first aid post at each bivouac site, but these will not have any panadol etc, if venturers feel they will need them they must take them as part of their personal medication.

13. SURVIVAL KIT:

Patrol survival kits should be in a suitable non-breakable container and include the items listed in the separate document [Revised list of personal patrol equipment for VenMX (dated 13Apr08)]. The survival kit list of critical and required items for both Competitive and Non-Competitive patrols is the same.

NOTE:- Emergency rations, puritabs, etc., are at the discretion of each patrol.

14. COMPETITION CONDITIONS

- (a) Competitors must be in patrols of **FIVE or SIX** Venturers. All Venturers in each patrol should be from the one Unit and, in effect will be competing, for their Unit, for a Unit trophy.
- (b) If any Unit has insufficient starters for a complete patrol, they may still compete, as a COMPOSITE PATROL with Venturers from another Unit who are in the same position. This should be arranged directly between Units. As a last resort VenMX organisers will, if possible, help to arrange a composite patrol.
- (c) Individual Venturers packs should not exceed 12 kilograms in weight, including tents and water. If AVERAGE pack weight of a patrol exceeds 12kg, points will be lost.
NOTE: Inexperienced hikers should keep their pack weight below 12kg. Also, note the absolute pack weight limit of 15kg.
- (d) Water will be available at Bivouacs. It will be available at one nominated checkpoint each day. Taking water from this checkpoint will incur a loss of points for Competitive patrols.
- (e) Equipment listed as critical safety items or required items in the separate document [Revised list of personal patrol equipment for VenMX (dated 13Apr08)] must be provided and carried.
- (f) While individual performance will be important, each patrol will be assessed as a whole, i.e. the overall performance of all patrol members.
- (g) First aid tasks (if any) could involve knowledge of first aid to a level covered by anything contained in the 'Australian Scout Handbook'
- (h) Knowledge of bush walking safety procedures and search and rescue techniques, as contained in the Venturer Manual and in the Scout Handbook, will be necessary.
- (i) Knowledge of writing expedition reports, strip and route mapping, preparation of field notes, panorama and thumbnail sketching, and collection and presentation of field specimens will be required.
- (j) All other tasks will be based on common sense, estimation, observation, general knowledge, current affairs, entertainment, etc.

- (k) Identification tags must be shown to staff, by each member of a patrol, upon arrival at AND before departure from, each checkpoint on each day.
- (l) Venturers whose Leaders are also on VenMX may not draw, in any way or form, on the resources, knowledge or assistance of such Leaders – or - from any other source outside their own patrol -from the time of arrival at the first Bivouac site on Friday night till the conclusion of the competition on Sunday night.
- (m) All Rules and Instructions relative to VenMX must be complied with fully.
- (n) To allow equal opportunity to all patrols, regardless of resources, and to encourage development of basic skills, use of electrically operated navigational equipment (GPS) including any mobile phone or other device with GPS capability is not allowed. Cameras (either disposable or digital) may be carried and used at the owner's responsibility and liability for damage or loss.
- (o) Boom boxes or similar are not to be brought on VenMX. iPods or MP3 players are allowed as long as they have earpieces and are used only during recreational time in campsites, they are not to be used while hiking or during any other formal activity.
- (p) If a bladder (eg Camelbak) is used to carry water, at least 600ml is also to be carried in a complying container. Bladders are not to be the only source of carried water when hiking.
- (q) Patrols are required to be "Sun-Smart" when hiking. A hat with a brim (not a baseball cap) is to be worn. Shirts with collars and at least short sleeves are to be worn; "tanks", "tees" or other collarless shirts are not acceptable. Competitive and Non-Competitive patrols can earn extra points by wearing patrol themed shirt and hat "uniforms"; but these must comply with the above requirements.

15. IDENTIFICATION TAGS:

Each Venturer shall wear an Identification Tag on which his/her individual VenMX Number is marked. Individual numbers will be advised at the commencement of VenMX.

Each Leader shall wear an Identification Tag on which his/her first name is marked.

The numbered tag must be worn in a prominent position, on an outer garment. It must be worn on all hiking days of VenMX, and returned at dinnertime on Sunday.

16. TROPHIES:

A perpetual trophy for the May Venture, the time and craftsmanship for which were kindly donated by Mr. Robert Dunlop, formerly a Senior Scout/Venturer Leader and District Venturer Leader of Sir Leslie Wilson District for many years, will be the subject of the competition. This will be presented to the winning patrol at the end of VenMX.

There are other more recently instigated trophies. One is for the "King/Queen of the Mountain" competition held during the morning of day 3. Another, open to all patrols, is awarded based on results of the special tasks conducted during VenMX. A third is awarded for the best campfire presentation.

The trophies must be returned to the VenMX co-ordinator not later than the end of March of the following year.

17. ASSEMBLY PLACES:

To be advised in Information Sheet No.2.

18. ASSEMBLY AND RETURN TIMES:

To be advised in Information Sheet No.2.

19. COST:

To be advised in Information Sheet No.2.

20. APPLICATIONS:

Closing date for applications will be advised in Information Sheet No.2 (usually one month before VenMX). Application forms will be emailed out and will be available for download from the VenMX website.

21. VENTURER EXPEDITIONS MANUAL:

A revised version of the Brisbane North Area 'Venturer Section Expeditions Manual - Edition 2' has been prepared in PDF format and is available for download and distribution from the VenMX website. It has been produced as five separate Guidelines as listed below.

Guideline No 1 - Production of an Expedition Report (no attachments)	7 pages
Guideline No 2 - Production of a Route Map and Map Updates	8 pages
Guideline No 3 - Field Notes (Covers: Traverse Field Notes, Panoramic Sketching, Thumbnail Sketching, and Field Specimens)	12 pages
Guideline No 4 - Map Reading and Navigation	Not yet available
Guideline No 5 - Wilderness Walking	21 pages

Other additional information specifically relevant to VenMX, viz:-

- Information Sheet No.2 – 'Specific Information'
- Information Circular No.3 – 'The Competition Points System'
- Information Circular No.4 – 'Rules for Participants'
- General Hike Instructions No.1- 'Etiquette & Courtesy'
- General Hike Instructions No.2 - 'Safety & Lost Procedures'

are also available in PDF format from the VenMX website.

George Rowlinson (Venture Leader)
ARC (Venturer Scouts)
for
VenMX VENTURE COMMITTEE
Brisbane North Region

1st.Edition 1978/IJC
Revised Mar 88/IJC
Revised Mar 92/IJC
Revised May 92/IJC
Revised Feb 93/IJC
Revised Feb 95/IJC
Revised Mar 99/GCR
Revised Apr 00/GCR
Updated to Word2000 – Apr 03
Minor amendments and converted to PDF – Apr 04
Updated for VenMX conditions and rules. Mar 06/GCR
Minor amendments – Apr 07/GCR
Updated with references to separate equipment lists and Rules and Requirements for VenMX 2008 and renamed MVIS1 – Apr 08/GCR