



Andrew Kenny
Venture Director
AdVenture'26

To Whom It May Concern,

As part of our ongoing programme of youth development, SCOUTS Aotearoa organises and runs a Venture once every three years. Venture is an event designed for the 14 to 19 year old age group within Scouting (Venturers). The programme provides adventure, challenge, skills development and social activities that reflects and underpin the values of SCOUTS Aotearoa, as detailed in our Law and Promise.

The next Venture, AdVenture'26, is being held in Wellington from December 30th 2025 through to January 9th 2026. This is open to Venturers from both New Zealand and overseas and members of kindred organisations such as Girl Guides, St John Youth and cadets.

AdVenture'26 – 16th New Zealand Venture

We anticipate 800 participants will attend. In addition to youth, we will have over 150 leaders and adults working together as volunteers to deliver the event.

Youth will operate in teams, with a leader assigned to each. In keeping with our philosophy of providing youth the opportunity to lead, our leaders will be there in an advisory capacity to support these teams and oversee their welfare.

The event is divided into two parts – Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 commences in Wellington where participants will leave for their 'expedition'. An expedition is a five day activity, or number of activities, which individuals have pre-selected. There is a choice of 27 expeditions ranging from skill based such as photography and cooking schools, through to physical and mental challenges such as diving and amazing race, and many that are a mixture of adventure, self-development and personal challenge. The full array can be viewed on our website <https://venture.scouts.nz/> Expeditions will be based in the top of the South Island through to the Manaewatu and Taranaki.

Following Phase 1, participants return to the Wellington site for the remaining five days - Phase 2. The programme for this phase is a combination of onsite and offsite activities aimed at engaging, challenging and growing our young people socially, physically, intellectually, in character, emotionally and spiritually. This Phase is packed with lots of 'fun' activities as well as the more challenging.

To get an idea of our activities for both phases you are welcome to view a short video from our previous event in 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkmbuyAgxmY>

Costs

The cost for a youth member to attend Venture is between \$1,165 - \$2,165. This is made up of a \$865 base fee and an expedition fee. This fee will vary depending on which expedition they choose and they range from \$300 to \$1,300. On some expeditions individuals will also have the opportunity to complete a qualification such as their PADI certificate in diving. The fees include all expenses during the event but do not include transport to and from the event. Leaders incur a lesser base fee of \$350 but the same expedition costs apply as youth participants.

Benefits of Attending a Venture

With a primary role of youth development, Scouts aim to provide opportunities for our young people to challenge and stretch themselves on a number of levels - intellectually and socially, as well as

physically, in a safe environment. Experiences at Venture will build confidence, resilience and independence. Many of these experiences may not have been available to them otherwise.

For some, the practical skills and qualifications gained at the event, will set a path for their future. For others, it may be the friendships and alliances built, which will have the biggest impact. At the very least they will all achieve a degree of personal growth through adventurous and challenging experiences.

Venture is a component of our overall programme in Scouting which is geared to support confident, resourceful and responsible citizens. We believe Venture creates an environment which fosters this development through the new opportunities, experiences and the people the youth meet.

Most Venturers will get just one chance to attend this triennial event but we know from experience and feedback that for many, this has the potential to be the foundation of their future as young adults.

Ngā mihi nui,

Andrew Kenny
Venture Director

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