

Stages of Transition and Age Sections Policy (STAS)



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Keas Cubs Scouts and Venturers

What has changed in this policy?

We used to suggest that youth members move up to the next section in a group, at the start of Term 4 each year. Now, the policy suggests that youth members can move up to the next section at any time of year, and either on their own or with a group, depending on what is best for them.

We are also changing the sections to be based on age rather than school year.

Is there a set time of year we should transition our youth members to the next section?

No. There is no set time of year for young people to transition between sections, providing flexibility to suit the needs of the young person.

Is it better to transition a youth member on their own, or in a group?

It depends on the young person. They might wish or need to transition at a time different to their peers because it is the best time for them individually. On other occasions it may be appropriate for a cohort of young people to transition at the same time if they are at a similar developmental stage – this is acceptable as long as each young person is at the centre of the decision-making process.

What age should a youth member move up to the next section?

Typical transition period

The diagram shows a horizontal bar divided into five colored segments representing age sections: KEAS (yellow), CUBS (orange), SCOUTS (green), VENTURERS (red), and ROVERS (dark red). A bracket above the CUBS and SCOUTS segments is labeled "Typical transition period". Below the bar is a table with the same five columns, each containing the age range for that section.

KEAS	CUBS	SCOUTS	VENTURERS	ROVERS
5 - 8 years	8 - 11 years	11 - 14 years	14 - 18 years	18 - 26 years

Typically, a young person should be able to transition six months either side of the usual starting age of the section. In the example above, a Cub could transition to Scouts anywhere between the ages of 10½ and 11½ years old, as the usual starting age is 11.

Who should be involved in the decision about when to transition a youth member?

Decisions should always be made with the young person at the centre. Most important is that the young person must participate in or lead (based on age) the decision making process about when they are ready/wanting to move onto the next section.

The decision should also be discussed with parents/caregivers, as well as checking in with other leaders in the group to make a plan for the transition.

What factors should be considered before a youth member transitions?

The main factor to consider is their individual developmental needs. It is also worth considering how they would cope with that section's national events. The youth member's own opinion and readiness should also be the major factor in any decision.

My Kea is anxious about moving up to Cubs. How do we ease the transition for them?

- Consider moving them up in a group of their peers.
- Make the transition an 'event'. Conduct a ceremony that celebrates the transition of the young person and what they have achieved so far, and invite their parents and peers.
- In advance, find the opportunity for the young person to meet with the next section and take part in activities (this could be in the form of a Kea/Cub link camp, or a combined section night a few times a year). If a young person is needing some encouragement to participate, set them some challenges around engaging with others e.g. a game like seeking the name and some fun information about the next section's leader and three other young people.
- Instigate a buddy system so the new member is supported by a peer over the first few weeks after they've transitioned.

My 8 year-old Kea is becoming disruptive. Does this mean they are ready to move up to Cubs?

Potentially, yes. This kind of behaviour could indicate that the young person is bored and under/over stimulated in that section. We strongly recommend against holding them back because they are disruptive or as a punishment.

My Cub is turning 11. Should we transition them to Scouts now?

Not necessarily. It depends on their readiness to move up to Scouts, but this would usually happen before they turn 11 ½.

My Cub is turning 11 ½. Do we have to transition them to Scouts now?

In some cases a young person may want to, or may need to, stay on longer in the section rather than transition for various reasons e.g. health or learning related, access to peer support etc. Transitioning later than six months may need to be an option for this young person and requires a discussion with them, their parents/caregiver and the other leaders. Remember, as a leader you are empowered to make the best decision with young people being involved and at the centre of any decision making.

My 14 year-old Scout says they want to move up to Venturers, but their parents disagree. What should I do?

Involve the Scout in the decision-making process, and also discuss it with other leaders. Come up with an agreed plan and timeline with the parent and their child, e.g. they might decide to transition them at the start of the following Term instead of immediately.

We have just transitioned a new member into our section. What now?

- Remember to update OSM with the young person's details.
- Make the new member feel welcome and assign them a buddy to make sure they are looked after.

Why change?

As an outcome of the Better Prepared strategy, it was recommended the Rover Section undertake a review of the Section. This has been done and included amongst other questions, a review of:

- The Rover and Rover Associate age range, and
- Whether Rovers should be classified as youth or adult members.

The consultation included discussions with the Regional Rover leaders and the national Rover Council alongside a survey of the Rover Section and Rover Associates. Around half of Rovers recorded in OSM responded to a survey (147 responses) about the Section. All responses were reviewed and were incorporated into a paper that went to the SCOUTS New Zealand Board at the November 2017 meeting to consider the questions above.

(These FAQs look at questions about the age ranges. There is a separate FAQ sheet about the reclassification of Rovers).

What changes?

The Rover age will not change and remains 18 to 26. The requirement to have Rover Associates annually re-elected to a crew will be discontinued, and instead the Rover Associates age is capped at 28.

Those over 28, who want to stay connected with Scouting will have a number of formal options available to them: as staff at events, becoming a leader or becoming a Scouting associate for example.

The Scouting Associate Section (led by National Section Leader: Phil Prosser, associates@scoutmail.org.nz) will be well suited to the needs of those over the age ranges who want to remain connected to Scouting but can't or don't want to commit to becoming a Leader.

When will this come into effect?

Following the Rover Moot cycle, the changes will take effect from Easter 2018 and be fully implemented by Easter 2019. This will give Rover Associates over 28 some time to think about where to next in their Scouting.

For more information or answers to other questions, please contact: Andrew Kenny, National Rover Leader (kenny@nzrovers.com) or Kelly Warriner, Assistant National Rover Leader (kelly@nzrovers.com).