



# Staying on in Venturers after 18

November 2018

Scouts Australia has revised the age ranges for Sections. Policy & Rules R8.3 (9<sup>th</sup> Edition - November 2017) now allows youth members who turn 18 in Year 12 (VCE, VCAL, etc.) to continue to be a member in the Venturer Unit until 31<sup>st</sup> December of their current academic year.

*Young adults are able to commence their progression to the Rover Scout Section at any time after their eighteenth birthday, and will have completed their progression by their nineteenth birthday.*

*It is recognised some young people with special or cultural needs may require additional considerations regarding age and their developmental levels. As these cases will be highly individual, consultation should occur with the youth member's parents, guardians, the Group Council, and the youth member where possible.*

The fundamental aim is the recognition that there can be a great impact on the young person's wellbeing by removing them from long established social connections and engagement with friends due to the current age transition rule.

Scouts Victoria supports this change with clear guidance from the Unit and Group to allow continuation of activities and peer-support within Venturers, but also to identify and satisfy the adult requirements when the Venturer turns 18 for Duty of Care to other members.

- The decision to allow a Venturer to continue after 18 rests with the agreement and formal approval of the Unit Council and endorsement by the Group Leader
- Key points should be incorporated in the Unit Constitution
- Agreement for a Venturer to continue after 18 should be considered on a case by case basis by the Unit Council rather than a blanket approval
- Any disciplinary or other issues arising with 18 year old Venturers should be resolved in consultation with the Unit Council and Unit Leaders and informed by the Unit Constitution
- The Venturer needs to undertake the Adult Membership requirements prior to turning 18:
  - re-commitment to the Scout Promise & Law
  - Working with Children Check card
  - E-Learning – WHS Scouting & Child-Safe Scouting
  - Signing of the Adult Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics
- The Venturer needs to understand the following documents prior to turning 18
  - Child Protection procedures
  - 'Two Deep' Leadership
  - Social Media Policy
- The Unit Council in agreement with the Venturer will determine the extension period (term, semester, etc.). This should generally be until completion of Year 12 studies in the current year but may extend to the end of that calendar year
- Venturers must be willing to agree and abide with all conditions set by the Unit Council and the Group and should follow Scouts Australia's 'Code of Conduct'
- It is expected that Venturers continuing after 18 will still actively participate and support the Unit activities (understanding that study pressure may reduce their involvement)
- They should **not** hold a position on the Unit Council to encourage younger Venturers to experience leadership roles

- They may continue within the Venturer Award Scheme to complete Queen's Scout and the Endeavour Awards during continuing Unit membership
- They are encouraged to be involved in transition activities with a Rover Crew
- They may decide at any stage to transition to Rovers with the Group actioning this change
- Changes to auto upgrade on Extranet may have to be actioned by the Group Leader (to be determined how this will occur).

## FAQ's

- Are there any specific restrictions on 18 year old Venturers?
  - *most areas should be based on common sense*
  - *the DADS rule (No Drugs/Alcohol/Discrimination/Sex)*
  - *no transporting of youth members in motor vehicles or on motorbikes & any VicRoads regulations*
  - *a separate tent for sleeping at camps/activities*
  - *recognition of personal relationships and age differences*
  - *understanding of '2 deep' when with youth members*
  - *These and any others should all be covered in the Unit Constitution.*
- What if the Venturer becomes disengaged or disrupts Unit activities?
  - *Behaviour which disrupts the smooth operation of the Unit should be dealt with by the Unit Council with support from the Venturer Leaders and Group Leader*
  - *In most instances pointing out unacceptable behaviour in a quiet conversation outlining the impact on other Venturers and the Unit should be sufficient to address issues*
  - *If disciplinary action is required, the Unit Council may ask the person to consider leaving the Unit and moving into Rovers*
- Who can I ask to assist with guidance and support for unusual situations/issues?
  - *As these changes may need to be handled sensitively, the Victorian Venturer Council has agreed that the Venturer Commissioner – Region role will be the best source of guidance*
  - *VSC-R's will consult within the VVC Team to ensure that we provide a standard response as this change is implemented.*
- Do all Venturers in Year 12 have to stay in the Unit?
  - *No. This is an individual's choice and should be discussed well in advance of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.*
  - *A Unit may only have 1 or 2 members who ask to stay – make sure you support them.*
- Are there any benefits with 18 Year old Venturers?
  - *Older Venturers can deliver some great support and experience to the Unit without taking over*
- What will be the impact on linking to Rovers / Rover Crew numbers?
  - *Rovers need to understand this is a personal decision to remain in the Unit, rather than moving into another social set at a critical time in their Year 12 studies*
  - *There should already be good liaison and transition between the Unit and the Crew – just build on these experiences*
  - *We expect a higher propensity for Venturers to continue their Scouting journey into Rovers without the pressure and conflicts of year 12 studies*
- Will they be recorded on the Extranet as Venturers?
  - *At this stage, the Auto Upgrade function does not allow 'downgrading' a member to a lower section. In the future, the Subsidiary/Crewing function may be altered to allow links, but this is currently not available.*
- My questions are not answered here?
  - *Contact your Region VSC-R*
  - *E: venturers.comm.<your region>@scoutsvictoria.com.au (or check the Info Book)*
  - *These notes are available on the Scouts Victoria website – Venturer Resources*