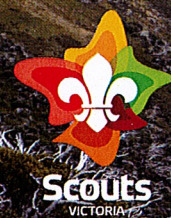


CHALLENGE AREAS



DEFINITIONS OF CHALLENGE AREAS

Scouting's diverse program of activities should fall within one or more of the four Challenge Areas of Community, Outdoor, Creative and Personal Growth.

When it comes to deciding which Challenge Area an activity fits there is no one right answer. For all of the right reasons you might decide that an activity fits within the Community, Outdoor and Personal Growth Challenge Areas whilst another Leader undertaking the same activity might conclude that the Creative and Personal Growth Challenge Areas are appropriate.

You are correct. Your interpretation of where an activity fits within the Challenge Areas best meets the needs of *your* youth member's personal progression as will the interpretation of the other Leader.

But how might we define Community, Outdoor, Creative and Personal Growth?

COMMUNITY

When we generally talk about community we most often think about our local geographic environment such as our neighborhood or suburb. We align community to a group of people such as the local school community or a particular ethnic community. Your Scout Group is a community. If this is how you would define community then you're on the right track.

You can define community by the shared attributes of the people in it, and/or by the strength of the connections among them. A small or large social unit that has something in common, such as norms, religion, values or identity. A familiar thread that brings them together to advocate and support each other. The supporters of a football team can be deemed a community because they share a common interest or doctors because they share the common value of saving lives.

Different types of Communities might include: -

Interest – Communities of people who share the same interest or passion

Action – Communities of people trying to bring about change

Place – Communities of people brought together by geographic boundaries

Practice – Communities of people in the same profession or undertake the same activities

Circumstance – Communities of people who are connected by an event or action.

As human beings, we need a sense of belonging and that sense of belonging is what connects us to the many relationships we develop. A community brings people together.

CHALLENGE AREAS



OUTDOOR

Scouting is synonymous with challenging outdoor adventurous activities and for many youth members the opportunity to participate in outdoor adventurous activities is the reason they joined Scouting and remain in Scouting.

We all understand the notion of being “outdoors” because of the variety of activities that we currently undertake including backpacking, caving, climbing, hiking and abseiling.

Being “outdoors” doesn’t always have to mean being in a bush setting, natural or semi-natural setting out of town. Water sport activities such as sailing, canoeing, SCUBA diving and water skiing are equally outdoor activities as are air activity days and gliding.

Activities that you might ordinarily run within your hall can easily become outdoor activities. The Outdoor Challenge Area gives you the invitation of taking indoor activity outdoors with the opportunity of applying a new and unique twist to the activity. Look beyond the doors of your hall for outdoor opportunities.

CREATIVE

More often than not we think creative as bringing together unrelated objects and making them into something new. Turning new and imaginative ideas in reality, into something totally different. Our program is well represented by creative activities ranging from painting a new design on the Crew’s Mud Bash car to making papier mache figurines to making catapults out of icy poles. All valid examples of being creative.

Being creative can also mean solving a problem in a new way, changing your perspective, involve breaking with routine and doing something different for the sake of doing something different. Being creative helps you become a better problem solver, helps you see things differently and better deal with uncertainty. It provides opportunity to try out new ideas of thinking, encourages self-expression and prepares you for future unknowns.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Personal growth is a journey that never ends and is the continuous process of developing and understanding yourself to achieve your full potential. Think of it like always striving to achieve a new personal best. You assess your current skills and qualities, then set goals in order to realise your potential.

For our youth members, personal growth is about them knowing who they are, setting goals that are achievable and which will give them renewed confidence and passion for life. Personal growth is about creating a plan that they own and will lead to them getting better every day. Taking people out of their comfort zone and encouraging them to try something new or do things they would not normally do is all part of personal growth.