

Scouting at Home

The Manual



During this challenging time, it is vital that Scouting continues for our young people.

Scouting provides:

- social connection
- support for positive mental health
- supervision (Scouting and schools are better than shopping centres)
- a degree of normality in difficult times

We offer a number of things that schools can't – more fun, leadership opportunities for all, etc

Many other activities like sport, dance and cheer are fully shut. We're not.

Here are some thoughts on:

- Holiday program
- Regular weekly program
- Activity sheets
- Technology
- Child safety
- Preparation

... in an online world.

Program Now...

School is on holiday - Scouting isn't.

Traditional weekly program – online – mightn't start till the first week of Term 2.

But Joeys, Cubs and Scouts need things to do now.

We can help.

Some ideas that Sections are already doing on line:

- Making pizza
- Origami lessons
- Sleepovers (in own homes)
- Dance parties
- Virtual hikes (digital map & coordinates, images)
- Virtual family camp – 24 hours of activities to do, post, share
- Home-based scavenger hunts
- Section Councils
- Magic tricks
- Guest speakers

Celebrate Scouting!

Is this a uniformed meeting? Or a scarf?

Or does your program require something special?

Idea

Badge presentations and investitures can still happen on line, but what next?

Badges can be snail-mailed to youth members with a short note from the Leaders. Youth members hate waiting for badges. You can check their shirt, to see if it's sewn on, next time you're online.

Investitures can be repeated later when we're again meeting face-to-face – and preferably somewhere memorable: not in the hall, but on camp or Pack Holiday, or an urban hike, or beach night.

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Regular Program

This is what a weekly Scouting at Home program might look like in Term 2.

First, let's dress for success.

Uniform? At least a scarf? This is program as usual!

Program Name or Theme

Opening

Welcome

- flagbreak?
- roll call
- any news or highlights to share (like birthdays)

Plan>Do>Review> *

- recapping last week
- acknowledging those who completed the last activity sheet
- coming up today ...

Game *

- We have a set of games to share

Activity work

- The activity sheet should have been emailed earlier to all
- Choose a few activities on the sheet
- Some can be done together in the meeting
- Some can be demonstrated - for youth to try later *

Social time

Each meeting a different connection activity. Advance warning to youth, eg:

- Knock-knock jokes
- Show us your pet/favourite toy
- Baby photos in advance to the Leaders – who's who?

A new skill *

A challenge or a fun thing to practise in the week ahead, eg:

- The perfect Scroggin
- How to make a coin disappear
- Finding north by the Southern Cross

Close

- Ask the youth for their highlights of the meeting
- Badges presented virtually then mailed with a note
- Investitures (repeated later for real)
- Closing reflection by duty PL
- Flagdown?

* Many parts of the program could be led by youth members.

These programs assume you might use the Scouts Victoria **activity sheets** as the basis for your online program, followed by a few days of Scouting activity for your youth members.

If you want to do something better for weekly program, go for it!

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Activity Sheets

A week before each meeting, Scouts Victoria plans to email Section activity sheets to Leaders.

It's your task to share it with your youth members at least a few days before your online meeting.

This email reminder to your youth members could include:

- The date and time of the next online meeting.
- A reminder on how to join your meeting.
- Anything they will need to have (an orange, pen and paper, a meerkat).
- The latest activity sheet.

The activity sheet is:

- Identified by Section name and week number (but not necessarily the word 'week').
- 4- 6 activities.
- Brief text (about 50-120 words each).
- Most would have a small illustration.
- Plus program icons as appropriate (new or old or both).
- Plus a panel each week: Help Other People.
- Plus a panel where they collect signatures that they've done the 4-6 activities for that week.
- So these activity sheets could be 1-2 pages.
- They will be visually strong.
- Age appropriate (eg Joey pages might be softer, native bush, random animals; Cubs might be more oriented toward action like bikes, surfing, skating etc etc; Scouts might be like a video game; Venturer sheets might be inspired by, but not promote, graffiti).

Help Other People Examples

Help Other People 1: at home

Scouts of all ages help other people.

This week, let's do something extra at home.

Cook dinner or make a cake, vacuum the living room, help someone with schoolwork.

Just one extra thing that you don't usually do.

Help Other People 2: nearby

Scouts of all ages help other people.

This week we think of people outside our own family.

A relative or a friend or a neighbour.

You could make them something, or run an errand or mow their lawn, or just say hello (from a safe distance).

Help Other People 3: further away

Scouts of all ages help other people.

People need company.

But some people are not seeing many people at the moment.

Who can you phone or Skype or Zoom to have a chat? Grandparents ... cousins ... a friend who has gone away?

Help Other People 4: health workers

Scouts of all ages help other people.

This is a busy time for hospitals, doctors and nurses.

Let's say thanks to those who looking after sick people.

Make a card and send it to the team at your local hospital, or your family doctor, or a family friend who is helping look after other people.

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Technology

Learning new skills is exciting – for adults as well as youth.

There are many options:

- Zoom
- Google Hangouts
- Or whatever else you choose to use

Zoom

Across Scouts Victoria, Zoom has quickly become the standard for meetings across a range of formations, including weekly Section meetings, as well as Group Councils, District meetings and more.

Zoom costs \$23.09 a month for a Group to set up an account for the weeks or months ahead.

Check <https://zoom.us/pricing>

But the free version would also be adequate if your meetings are less than 40 minutes:

- You can host up to 100 participants (that's a big Joey Mob)
- Unlimited 1-to-1 meetings
- 40-minute limit on group meetings
- Unlimited number of meetings

You can meet through Zoom by phone, iPad, laptop, desktop.

To join a Zoom meeting, you don't need to have Zoom installed on your computer.

However, if you're the host, you'll need to download and install the software package.

The host sets up the meeting, and the invitation list.

The host needs to be familiar with many options available, such as muting all speakers, or allowing one to speak, letting us share their screen (eg a PL or Leader) or being the only one to share screen:

- For those who would like more assistance with using Zoom, we're creating a Leaders Guide to Zooming. But here are some tips ...

We need to be aware of how to use the equipment safely, just like everything is we do in Scouting.

Here are some ideas of things to think about when running a Zoom meeting. For more information, include specific instructions, check out our Leaders Guide to Zooming.

Some functions to check out:

- Use the password function to avoid unexpected people joining you.
- Use the waiting room, so you only let Scouting people in.
- Set screen share to "host only"
- Disable "join before the host". It's a bit like letting the kids into the hall before you arrive!

- You could disable the chat function, including private chat between participants
- Share the work: the host Leader can make a fellow Leader a 'co-host' so they can help manage muting and the supervision of the room. Just like at the hall, they can help with sharing content when appropriate. It also means, if you use "break out rooms", Leaders can move between "rooms" just like you do in the hall to check in on Patrols or Sixes.

Also:

- Be aware anyone could be recording your meeting, without permission.
- For younger sections, send meeting invitations to parents. For older sections, send to both parents and youth.
- Remember you are always visible.
 - Don't eat or drink anything you wouldn't eat or drink in the hall.
 - Keep your background blurred.

Leaders are learners too:

- Understand some Leaders and youth members will be better at this than others - allow time for everyone to learn
- Look after yourself as Leaders too – this is a new world for you, ask to visit other Groups to learn and share your experiences (as travel isn't required this should be easier to do)
- Enable Leaders to share their experiences good and bad – learn by doing!

Idea

Leaders can't run their Zoom meeting from the hall.

But you can use photos inside your hall as your virtual background in Zoom.

Leaders are actually supporting the program from their homes but it looks like they're in the hall as normal.

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Child Safe Scouting at Home

Nothing is more important than the safety of the young people in our care.

Child safety in an online meeting is similar to regular meeting in the hall.

We follow the same protocols.

Parents are always welcome. Nothing is a secret in Scouting.

Parents will be curious to sit in on early online meetings. This is good!

One-on-one communications between Leaders and youth members are not OK.

Use a shared Section Leaders' email to send out activity sheets and reminders to your Section, and for them to send in any inquiries or examples of their badge work or activity challenges,

Communications – like emails about the next online meeting, or phone calls to parents – should be in normal Scout hours, not late at night or too early.

Our Code of Conduct and guidelines on unacceptable behaviour govern how we act as Leaders, whether in the hall, on camp, or running an online meeting.

You might remind your youth members:

To keep language and behaviour nice – it may not be apparent who is watching, like parents or younger siblings. The Scout Law and Promise still work in a virtual world.

To share their emails, photos and videos of their work with their parents before sending them to the Leaders.

Normal rules apply to behaviour between Scouts. No-one should make another youth member feel unsafe or excluded.

A youth member who feels unsafe, or unsure of what to do, should talk with a trusted adult as soon as possible.

Supporting our youth

Staying home may limit our youth members from the usual support they get from teachers, sport coaches, etc.

It is possible that a young person may ask you for help over a concern.

Just like regular Scouting at the hall, please for assistance by reporting this to our Child Safety Team who are available 24/7 on 1800 870 772 or childsafes@scoutsvictoria.com.au

Idea

Get a temporary email address to support online meetings.

For example, 1stwindyvalleycubs@gmail.com

All Section Leaders need the login and password to add this account to their emails.

When a Cub writes to a Leader, s/he is writing to the whole team.

When a Leader replies, they Reply All, so all Leaders see the response.

[Most Cubs will write from their parents' account, but this is still good practice.]

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Being Prepared

As a team of Leaders in your Section, there are a few things to do NOW:

1. Choose your platform for online meetings.
2. Practise it. A meeting with fellow Section Leaders? A Section Council?
3. Read up on any security issues that you need to be aware of.
4. Check you have current contact details for all your youth members, eg preferred family email, mobile numbers.
5. What are you doing as a holiday activity to keep your Section connected?

A week before your meeting:

1. Confirm your program with your Section Council and Leaders.
2. Prepare the information you need to send to your members.

Three days before your meeting:

1. Send your invite to members and parents
2. Include a list of equipment they might need and their activity sheet

On the day of your meeting:

1. Open the platform 15 minutes early, maybe have a prepared question they can answer
2. Allocate a Leader who will assist with technical support for the meeting
3. Have a great, fun meeting
4. Share your ideas with scoutingathome@scoutsvictoria.com.au and send your images to socialmedia@scoutsvictoria.com.au

Be Prepared for new members

When your youth members say they have a friend who wants to join in the online meetings, please make them welcome.

There is no charge at this time. Registration will be sorted later.

If your Section now has 24 members, why not 30 when you return to the hall and the outdoors?