

Exploring Easter



Program Notes for Leaders

Introduction

Easter isn't over – Orthodox Easter isn't until April 19. Easter is the springboard for a brief discussion.

This links to badgework:

- Challenge Area: Community or Personal Growth
- Badge: Pioneer or Explorer Citizenship (Heritage)

It also allows chocolate and egg-related activities and a fun activity for social interaction.

These notes relate to the **Activity Sheet for Scouts: Week One**. If Patrol Leaders lead some activities they may need these extra notes. You may choose some or all or none of these activities. You don't have to run them in order, but the order presented here is for a balanced program.

Preparation

Section Leaders need to:

- Choose your platform for online meetings.
- Practise it. A meeting with fellow Section Leaders? Or Section Council?
- Read up on any security issues that you need to be aware of.
- Have current contact details for all your youth members, eg preferred family email, mobile numbers.
- A shared email or text number for Scout responses and queries.
- Confirm your program with Section Council and other Leaders. Who's doing what?

An email to all Scout families three days before your meeting:

- The date and time of the next online meeting.
- Details on how to join your meeting (eg a Zoom link and password).
- Dress code: full uniform.
- Anything they will need to have – items are listed on the activity sheet.
- The latest activity sheet.

More prep:

- Practise the activities the Scouts will do.

On the day of your meeting:

- Open the platform 15 minutes early and admit them from the Waiting Room to chat.
- Allocate a Leader who will assist with technical support for the meeting.
- Have a great, fun meeting.

After the Meeting

- Mail badges to youth members with a short note.
- Deliver any prizes won on the night.
- Share your ideas with scoutingathome@scoutsvictoria.com.au.
- Send your images to socialmedia@scoutsvictoria.com.au.

The Program

Summary

- Opening
- Guess the number
- Scavenger hunt
- Easter discussion
- Egg dying
- Tower of terror
- Chocolate apple
- Easter bonnet
- Help other people
- Closing

Opening

- Welcome
- Flagbreak (?)
- Roll call – check who's on
- Any news or highlights to share (like birthdays)

Guess the Number

What the Scouts were told on the Activity Sheet

How many items in the jar?

Be on time to see it.

Email your guesstimate to the Leaders.

Prize ...



Leader Instructions

Produce your jar full of Easter eggs or lollies or whatever. Slowly rotate it so Scouts can get a good look. Scouts should email or text their name and estimate before the end of the meeting.

Scavenger Hunt

What the Scouts were told on the Activity Sheet

You'll need: a pen to write down the objects to find.
Wait till Go, then race around the house.
Be first back on screen with the full list.
Wave to get the Leaders' attention!

Leader Instructions

Make a list of eight things, of increasing difficulty, found in most homes. Scouts wait with pens poised as you slowly read the list. They fill the grid on their activity sheet. On the word Go they race around their house. On return to the computer they should attract the Leaders' attention. When everyone is back, a brief discussion. The first 2-3 to return might show their collection.

A typical list:

Something ...

- Blue
- Soft
- Alive
- Musical
- You made
- That makes you smile
- From Easter
- Very old

Heritage Discussion

What the Scouts were told on the Activity Sheet

*Easter is still coming in many parts of the world!
Did you know the Christian Easter can be anytime from March 22 and April 25?
And the Orthodox Easter from April 4 to May 8?
Why do they shift around?
What dates are they this year?*

Leader Instructions

Who celebrated Easter last Sunday? For religious or chocolate reasons? For Orthodox Christians, Easter is still to come. Orthodox churches include the Greek, Russian, Ukrainian churches and many others.

How is the date set?

Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21. This calculation was set by the Council of Nicea in the year 325 CE.

Why is Easter different for Christian and Orthodox churches?

Christians follow the Gregorian calendar. This was created in 1582. Orthodox churches still follow the earlier, Julian calendar.

What dates are they this year?

Christian Easter = Sunday April 12, Orthodox Easter = Sunday April 19 (Some years they are on the same date.)

References for more background for Leaders:

<https://study.com/blog/why-is-orthodox-easter-usually-a-different-date-than-the-catholic-one.html>

Russian Orthodox Easter:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Kwm7YxwtRo&v=en&has_verified=1

The Scouts were also told on the Activity Sheet

What other dates move around on the calendar?
What other dates move around?

New Year's Day 2020

- Australia – January 1
- Lunar New Year – January 25
- Balinese New Year – March 25-26 (a day of silence)
- Jewish New Year – September 18-20 (called Rosh Hashanah)
- Parts of India – November 14 (Diwali – the festival of lights)
- And many others!

Queen's birthday 2020

- Victoria and most States – June 8
- Norfolk Island – June 15
- WA – September 28
- Queensland – October 5
- England – June 13
- Her actual birthday – April 21

Egg Dying

What the Scouts were told on the Activity Sheet

You'll need: eggs, onions, elastic bands, saucepan

Leader Instructions

Method One

1. Peel the dry outer skin from about 10 red or yellow onions.
2. Place your eggs in a bowl of warm water so they don't crack when you add them to boiling water.
3. Put enough water in the saucepan to later cover the eggs, add the onion skins and boil for 5-10 minutes.



4. When the water has changed colour, carefully add your eggs with a spoon. Don't splash!
5. Boil for about 7 minutes, turning the eggs occasionally.
6. Remove the eggs to a bowl of cold water. When they are cool, dry with paper towels.
7. Maybe rub some oil on the shell to give them a nice shine?

Method Two

1. Peel the skin from 1-2 onions and wrap the eggs.
2. Secure the skin with elastic bands.
3. Put the eggs in a saucepan of water and bring to the boil.
4. Boil for about 7 minutes then remove the eggs to cool.
5. When they are cool, remove the elastic bands and skin.
6. You can decorate further with paint, glitter etc

This is a program break from screentime.

First discuss the project.

Who is doing Method 1? Who is doing Method 2? When they are ready, everyone is to leave and be back in 12 minutes. With their still hot eggs. Synchronise watches. Back at [TIME].

When everyone or almost everyone is back, you might share some traditional egg-cracking action.

<https://youtu.be/Wr93oljFRpo>

Tower of Terror

What the Scouts were told on the Activity Sheet

You'll need an egg and a damp cloth if you get this wrong. Instructions will follow.

Leader Instructions

Now the dangerous part. You have an egg and a wet cloth in case of disaster. Without leaving your seat – you must remain on screen – build the tallest tower you can. Grab things that are within reach and put the egg on top of your tower. After a few minutes, call a pause.

Who completed? Who crashed? Who has the tallest?

Chocolate Apples

What the Scouts were told on the Activity Sheet:

You'll need: an apple, a peeler, a corer or knife, a square of aluminium foil, chocolate bits or M&Ms or broken chocolate, an oven.

Peel and core the apple.

Place in the centre of the square of foil and fill the core with chocolate.

Wrap the apple in foil.

Heat the oven to 180 degrees.

Place the apple in foil in the oven.

Set your timer for 50 minutes.

Ideas: Instead of chocolate you can fill your apple with brown sugar, dried fruits, pumpkin seeds, or whatever. Double-wrap your apple in foil, and practise cooking in hot coals in the backyard for your next camp or hike.

Leader Instructions

This is an activity to prepare in the meeting but cook after the meeting. It is a good dessert for camp, and there are many variations on filling. Discuss the preparation methods. Perhaps open the foil on one cooked earlier. Spend 5-6 minutes preparing then put aside to continue the meeting.

Easter Bonnet

What the Scouts were told on the Activity Sheet

You'll need: a very random hat (be imaginative).

Another Easter tradition was wearing a special Easter hat or bonnet.

Let's have our own Easter parade.

The Leaders will say when it's time for everyone to put on their hat.

Leader Instructions

Every program has a moment of simple social interaction. A moment when everyone gets noticed and we learn a little about each other.

Tell the Scouts to have their Easter 'bonnets' ready but out of sight. Leaders put on their crazy hats.

A few words about Easter bonnets and Easter parades.

Maybe play the last 40 seconds of "Easter parade" from the 1948 film "Easter parade"

<https://youtu.be/Yac9O3GYTM>

Then ask the Scouts to produce their hats, unmute all for a burst of chaos!

Help Other People

Week One: At home

What the Scouts were told on the Activity Sheet

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.



A brief discussion

We all have to help each other through the current situation. Anyone doing a little extra at home? Maybe we could all something this week?

Week One Activities Checklist

Explain that there will be a special badge at the end of "Scouting at home". Please complete the table on their Activity Sheet – get someone to sign off the tasks. Email or text the completed checklist to the Leaders.

Task	Done!
Guess the number	
Scavenger hunt	
Easter discussion	
Egg dying	
Tower of terror	
Chocolate apple	
Easter bonnet	
Help other people	

Closing

- Ask the Scouts for their highlights of the meeting
- Review any completed eggs
- Winners ... (Guess the number, Scavenger hunt, Tower, Easter bonnet)
- Badges presented virtually then mailed with a note
- Investitures (repeated later for real)
- Closing reflection by duty PL
- Flagdown?
- Now finish their baked apples with chocolate
- Till next week ...

