



VICTORIAN VENTURER COUNCIL

VIRTUAL VENTURING AWARD SCHEME – COVID-19 PROVISIONS



The Victorian Venturer Council (VVC) has surveyed Venturers working toward completing the Queen's Scout Award in 2020.

With State Government isolation restrictions, some of the Award Scheme areas cannot be undertaken or completed in line with these restrictions.

Our key focus is to avoid disadvantaging Venturers in completing the Queen's Scout Peak Award and causing anxiety during a period of upheaval in school studies.

1. VVC has proposed the following to be adopted by Unit Councils and to be supported by District/Zone and Region Venturer Councils. These provisions will be in place until 31 October 2020 but may reviewed beforehand or extended depending on advice from Scouts Victoria. This approach aligns with the Scout Council recommendations.
2. Preference will be given to Venturers who are turning 18 and/or in Year 12 who have planned to complete the Queen's Scout Award in 2020. Those in Year 11 will still be considered but will be given a lower priority as they have time to continue in the Award Scheme into 2021.
3. The State Commissioner – Venturer Scouts will grant a 3-month extension for those turned/turning 18 before 30 June 2020 but not enrolled in school for the Queen's Scout Award. The Unit Council would need to support this request and Staying on in Venturers after 18 guidelines apply. Apply by email to sc.venturers@scoutsvictoria.com.au with details of award scheme progress or what is left to complete, unit details, VL details, and date of birth.
4. Venturers can get digital or scanned signatures from Examiner or Unit Council for their Record Book.

AWARD SCHEME ALLOWANCES

Expedition

Venturers will not be expected to physically complete a hike journey (walk, canoe, etc) and VVC will provide a panel of Examiners for Venturers undertaking VA or QS level Expeditions. This also applies for Ground Breaker Groups and the Adventurous Journey requirements.

VVC will control the Expedition criteria:

- who is entitled to use it
- the process for Venturers to apply
- the assignment of an Examiner from a panel of examiners

The Expedition will be based on:

- the Venturer providing details on previous (from age of 13 onwards) hiking experience. This can include Armstrong 500, Hoadley Hide, etc)

- a standard reporting process (the VVC endorsed The Expedition Activity Report document found on the website)
- Examiners assessing the Venturer's preparedness and planning with hike selection, route planning, risk management, equipment and food lists, etc. as per the VVC endorsed Expedition Activity Report
- Examiners testing after submission of acceptable planning documentation, of several scenarios which could be expected on the journey to assess Venturer's capabilities to respond to incidents
- All reporting via digital communication with the Examiner and completion of the required Expedition Activity Report.

The Examiner will set a mutual timeframe for the activity documentation to be prepared and is envisaged that a couple of review meetings (either voice, email or online) to ensure a suitable standard has been obtained.

The maximum number of Venturers participating in this method Expedition is restrict to two for any proposed Journey.

Approvals

- The Unit Council should approve the Proposal before submitting to VVC for an Examiner.
- VVC will advise of the examiner and their relevant contact details, it will be the Venturers responsibility to make contact with the Examiner in the first instance.
- The Examiner will liaise with the Venturer(s) and assess their prior experience as a part of the virtual journey.
- The Unit Council will be expected to provide approval based on the Examiner's Report.
- The VVC will be provided with the Examiner's report for validation
- District/Zone and Region Venturer Council should be informed of the Proposal / Completion, but no interaction is required as VVC has endorsed these Examiners.
- No Public Transport hike will be approved as a part of this scheme.

Venturers who completed the VVC questionnaire and indicated that they need to complete VA/QS Expeditions, will be contacted to ascertain when they wish to register for an Expedition.

Other Venturers not meeting the criteria on page 1 are advised to continue to plan their Expedition to be conducted when face-to-face Scouting resumes and seek local Examiners via District/Zone/Region Councils

Outdoor

Currently many activities in an outdoor environment cannot be undertaken due to State Government restrictions. The Outdoor scope allows individual activities to develop exciting and challenging activities.

These could include:

- Cycling
- Walking
- Orienteering
- Any other appropriate activity which does not contravene distancing restrictions

To apply for the Outdoor award, it would be reasonable be expected that the Venturer will determine an understanding of the rules/safety requirements and develop of any skills associated with the activity and to provide a short report. Where the activity involves distance recording any associated tracker app / pedometer, etc would assist in reporting.

Whilst some of the above may also align with Lifestyle, their application for Outdoor is acceptable during the current restrictions.

The Unit Council would approve Proposals and Completions and they would not require District/Zone/Region Council approval.

Times

Venturer Award level: a minimum of 10 hours

Queen's Scout Award level: a minimum of 30 hours

Time periods (over 2 or 6 months) are no longer applicable under VVC changes endorsed in April 2020.

Unit Management / Leadership Courses

VVC is actively investigating online delivery of these courses.

For the Project aspects, Venturers can continue to:

Unit Management – undertake research and prepare a written report on the application of management and leadership principles. Seek advice from other Venturers what they have done.

Leadership – demonstrate application of management and leadership as outlined in the Record Book and under VVC changes endorsed in April 2020.

NOTE: this can now occur before, during or after a Leadership Course to satisfy the 6 months requirement.

First Aid

The Venturer website details a commercial provider who is still conducting Provide First Aid/CPR courses under social distancing requirements.

Initiative

Register for Hoadley Hide at Home – last weekend is 2nd/3rd May. Further virtual initiative courses may be made available over the coming months if required.

Service

Mobs/Packs and Troop leaders will welcome Venturers (especially with developing games & activities online) to help them out with regular meetings. Keep a track of your activities with the Service Within Scouting form.

Though not mandated, the Youth Helper course previously suggested for relevant training for QS level service to scouting is now 3 e-learning modules to develop your skills to work within a section (details are on the Venturer website).

Environment / Citizenship / Ideals / Lifestyle / Pursuits / Expression / Vocations

Virtual Venturing website provides many ideas for Units and individuals to undertake award scheme activities. Check them out and please let us know if you have a great idea which we can add to share with other Units. Everything else is achievable as per the Record Book in the current environment, Venturers just need to be inventive.

<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/age-sections-adults/venturers/virtual-venturing-2020/virtual-award-scheme-activities/>

Further assistance: support@vicventurers.com.au

Duncan McColl

State Commissioner – Venturer Scouts

27 April 2020