

# Scouting Outdoors



It's great to be back outdoors but remember there are some limits on how we manage this.

But let's get out there! Most youth members don't return to face-to-face school till June 9, but they are hungry for Scouting and to see their friends and Leaders again.

## Limited outdoor Scouting

Regular Section meetings remain online.

There are no meetings yet in Scout halls or private homes.

But small groups of up to 10 - including Leaders and Adult Helpers - can enjoy a wide range of outdoor adventure. (But not overnight, at this stage.)

Please read the full details at <https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/media/4341/limited-outdoor-scouting-from-monday-may-18.pdf>

## When?

A short Section night activity, midweek.

Or a weekend activity. (But not yet overnight.)

## The whole Section or one Patrol at a time?

It might be easier to send out one small group each week. But that has its downside too.

For 3-4 weeks the Section is not whole; there's always a small group missing.

And that means the group on outdoor adventure misses the Section meeting.

And there's no program efficiency for the Leaders - in addition to organising for one group each week, they still have to run a full program online for the others.

It may be less work and less disruption to run the outdoor program for the whole Section at the same time - in different locations.

## Staying connected

The small group might like to see what the other groups did at the same time.

Options include:

- Emailing a link to a cloud folder (eg Dropbox).
- Printing a small set of photos and mailing or delivering a copy of each photo to Joeys to make their own poster to show everyone else in next week's online meeting.

## Food

Food is often part of outdoor activities. But today that means no sharing.

So, for outdoor activities youth members would generally self-cater – bring a packed lunch or snacks and drink from home.

No shared plates or cups. Each person responsible for their own gear.

Hand sanitiser before and after a refreshment break.

Food safety has become a lot more serious. We can't be careful enough!

## Being prepared

What's Plan B if bad weather causes your outing to be postponed?

How and when will you advise youth members and families?

## Program



## Train hike

Joeys need: fuel (fruit, chocolate, drink etc), appropriate clothing and footwear

There is no actual public transport involved, so leave your Myki at home!

This is a 2-km local ramble but like a figure 8, or a more complex set of circles if you can design one to suit your local area. Some spots are marked as "stations" with interesting local names.



Email the map to your Joeys before the weekly meeting.

Joeys each arrive separately at their "station" or starting point. Each group of Joeys starts from a different station. They will finish there one hour later.

As per the timetable, each Joey train leaves the first station at the same time (eg 5 minutes after the official arrival time)

Like trains, small groups of Joeys with a Leader will follow the course. Along the route is a series of 'stations' possibly with a stationmaster (a friendly parent).

As they follow their route, they may cross tracks with other Joey trains. But, like trains, they will observe the stop signal and wait about 100 metres back while the first train crosses. (They can wave!)

As they pause at each station, they fuel up: a slice of orange or apple, a square of chocolate, a drink.

When they reach the station where they started, about 60 minutes later, the trip is over. Parents should return to shunt them home.

A followup activity is to share photos for Joeys to make posters for next week's online meeting, decorated of course with tracks, signals and more.

## Heritage walk

Someone in your local area knows all the important historic landmarks - and, more importantly, their stories. Can they help map a route to visit them, and provide speaking notes for the Leader to tell the stories at each stop?

Who is that road named after, and why?

What is your area's connection with WWI or WWII?

Maybe some faded old signage that still remains on some shops.

Or a few photos to show landmarks as they were in the old days. That major junction was once a narrow muddy track. That petrol station stands on an old dance hall. Etc.

Like a circular hike, this could be a giant loop. But unlike a night meeting, there is no pressure to physically space the separate groups of Joeys - you can do it with time. You have the whole weekend. Consult on preferred times and advise the Joeys when and where their team will meet, and when and where they will finish.

A heritage walk can count toward badgework.

## Bike hike

A bike hike can start at the front door of the Scout hall. Bike trails can offer an interesting perspective, away from roads and housing. Many families already use these - perhaps you can lead your small group in a new direction?

But Joeys still need to be prepared: clothing, footwear, food and drink.

The Leader needs to carry a phone, first aid gear, and a bicycle repair kit.

## A real hike

As there is no car sharing, parents may not want to drive too far for each youth member. But there are plenty of great walks within an hour of your home.

Check <https://www.victoriawalks.org.au> and 'find walks'.

This is a one-day activity, or much shorter for Joeys.

But Joeys still need to be prepared: clothing, footwear, food and drink. The Leader needs to carry a phone and first aid gear.

Remember, too, this is a chance for all to Participate, Assist or Lead in a team project.

