

Community



Thank you to everyone for the continued great work with our Scouts. And please keep those wonderful program ideas coming through to scoutingathome@scoutsvictoria.com.au

As you will have read in the Scouts Victoria update, effectively there will be no face-to-face Scouting across Victoria and this will probably last till the end of Term 3 and maybe beyond.

This is particularly hard for our Scouts, the younger ones in particular, who are Zoomed out, and dearly missing their friends. Schools not much fun either.

With youth being restricted to home, Scouting remains one of their few activities where they can interact with friends, be positive and rewarding.

Our challenge, and it's a big one, is to make Scouting different, fun and engaging. Each week needs to be something different – adventurous, fun, challenging and inclusive. Surprising, new, social and learning.

Our programs tend to be within our Unit and there's a whole world waiting for Cub Scouts to discover and explore.

Let's start local ...

Scout Group

A strong Scout Group is one where the Leaders and Scouts of each Section maintain regular contact and interaction. Your Scout Group is your family.



Inter-Section Activity

Ask the Cub Scouts what activities they would like to plan with the Scouts. Ideas might include a short movie night sitting in your sleeping bag munching on some popcorn or indeed any one of the many activities from past editions of Scouting at Home which can be adapted for Scouts and Cub Scouts.

Consider running activities in smaller groups so that Cub Scouts get the opportunity of interacting with the other Scouts and aren't lost in the mass of faces.

The Cub Scouts have the opportunity of meeting their Leaders as well as new Scouts.

Don't limit your thinking to just an activity with the Unit. Is there any reason why a Cub Scout Unit can't have an activity with the Venturer Scout Unit?

Group Activity

A Virtual Camp

Many Groups organise an annual Group camp and there's no reason a Group can't consider a virtual camp.



The Group's Scouts can plan activities and games while guided by adults, with Scouts provided the opportunity to participate. Scouts of all Sections can help assist and lead activities contributing to the Milestones.

Ask your Cub Scouts if they'd be interested in participating in a Group virtual camp.

District

Inter-Unit Activity

Most Sections plan and run District events over the course of the year providing Cub Scouts the opportunity of making new friends and an appreciation that Scouting extends beyond their Unit or Group. This is constantly reinforced as they transition to each new Section and as their activities broaden.

Why not plan an activity with another Unit in your District?

Think laterally as well. There is no reason why the meeting has to be on a week night. A Saturday or Sunday morning activity is a change from the standard week-night timing and you're likely to achieve a good level of participation.

Consider planning a virtual Around-the-World-in-60 Minutes hike taking the Cub Scouts to familiar countries.

Activities might include:

- Name that famous landmark (Gold Coast beaches, Sydney Opera House, the penguin parade, Uluru, the Great Barrier Reef, the Twelve Apostles, Sydney Harbour Bridge, The Big Banana, Parliament House in Canberra, the pyramids, Great Wall of China, Eiffel Tower)
- Guess which country this food belongs to
- Learn a new phrase in another language – the Cub Scouts could lead this activity
- Building a paper plane to take you around the world



Local Essential Services

We all have a police station, fire station or Country Fire Authority station close by. Possibly even an ambulance station.

Why not invite a police officer or firefighter to speak to your Joey Scouts about their job and how they help the community?

Plan to visit the police station or fire station when Scouting returns to normal.

But don't limit yourselves to these public services. Consider inviting a football player from an AFL footy team or past members of your Scout Group to speak to your Cub Scouts. How about a Rover Scout or Venturer Scout who started their Scouting journey as a Cub Scout in your Group.

Our Wider State

Across our State we have a wonderful array of local community attractions that would interest our Cub Scouts.

Once again, consider inviting a representative from the attraction to your virtual meeting. Visit the attraction sites to pick and choose activities for your Cub Scouts.



One such example is Zoos Victoria.

Melbourne Zoo have a myriad of engaging resources including:

- A virtual tour of [Melbourne Zoo](#)
- Fighting Extinction <https://www.zoo.org.au/fighting-extinction/>
- Consider inviting a keeper to talk about the animal that they care for.

Our Big Wide Land

Interstate

There are Scout Groups right across Australia providing an endless choice for a meeting with another Group.

Give your Cub Scouts the opportunity of deciding which Cub Scout Unit they would like to meet with. Turn choosing the final Unit into a game.

The Leaders will need to organise the meeting with the other Unit but offer Cub Scouts the opportunity to decide what they would like in the program with the interstate Unit.

Scouting – A Worldwide Movement

All Scouts will be in awe of Scouting around the world and hooking up with some international Scouts would be intriguing and fun for your Cub Scouts.

