

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 Scouts to discover and explore.

Unit Activity

A Virtual Camp

Camping is an activity all Scouts enjoy and there's no reason a Unit can't consider a virtual camp.



The Scouts can plan activities, games, and menu whilst guided by adults. All Scouts can participate, help assist and lead activities towards their Milestones.

Guided by the Unit Council, Project Patrols will be formed to plan the menu, activities, entertainment.

Consider a series of activities where Scouts participate and accumulate points. The prize: - a home delivered pizza for the winner – presented live in the meeting by the parents who know it's coming. Make sure you check preferred toppings.

The Scouts will camp overnight in their lounge room or bedroom, in their sleeping bags, just like any other outdoor camp.

Consider inviting Cub Scouts who may be shortly transition to the Scout Unit if they'd be interested in participating as part of their Introduction to Section badge.

District

Inter-Unit Activity

Most Districts plan and run events over the course of the year providing 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.

A friendly inter-Unit competition night

Suggest to the Scouts a friendly inter-Unit completion with a Unit in your District or indeed any other Unit. The Scouts themselves can decide which Unit to invite for the competition. Remember, this is the Scouts' program.

With regard to what will be completed, any number of activities from past editions of Scouting at Home lend themselves to a friendly inter-Unit competition.

The Unit Councils of each Unit will need to firstly meet to decide which activities will be contested. A Project Patrol of Scouts from each Unit might be considered to manage the overall event.

Then back with their respective Units, Project Patrols will be formed to prepare for the activities. Remember, a Scout can be a member of more than one Project Patrol. And why not have the Project Patrols made up of Scouts from both Units?

Who will be the judges, will there be a trophy presented to the winning Unit, who will be the MC? These are all details for the organising Project Patrol.

This activity could take a number of weeks of planning before the big competition event and be mindful that as most of the planning activity is within Project Patrols, there is no requirement that the Project Patrols meet on your normal meeting night. Each individual Project Patrol can decide to meet on a totally different night if that suits.

The Unit Councils might even want to make this an annual event.



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 Scouts. How about a Rover Scout or Venturer Scout who started their Scouting journey in your Group?

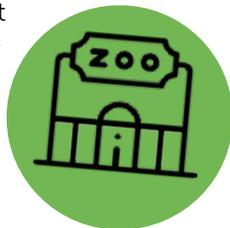
Our Wider State

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

