

Zoom-Lite:

Fun, simple, connecting



Check out these ideas from fellow Leaders – how they're avoiding Zoom burnout, having fun, minimising stress, and keeping their youth members connected.

A trip to Japan

We showed the Cubs my daughter's snowboard and safety gear. Got a family member to push the Cubs in the back to see which foot they fell onto, and to tell them whether they snowboard Natural or Goofy.

We watched a short You Tube of the snowboard final of the Extreme games held in Hakuba, Japan.

We did simple origami (they tend to cry and exit when it gets too hard!), then they really got into drawing a Zen garden. With a few inspirational pictures of temples etc.

Early into lockdown we went to Antarctica, and showed them how it takes 10 minutes to get dressed to go outside (You Tube). So the Victorian lockdown didn't look as bad. Did some penguin racing. Saw cute You Tubes of penguins and Antarctic wildlife.

Planted the seeds for a Traveller badge? Cause it's all about the badges.

Fiona Sealey, Assistant Cub Scout Leader, 10th Ivanhoe

Videos and poo

With a week's notice all Cubs were ask to make a short 20-30 second video. All Cubs made videos – some were good, others were fantastic. I suggested only short videos because we had 40+ Cubs but smaller Packs could make longer videos.

Another night a leader talked about poo! Yes, all Cubs listened to poo talk and shared their own poo stories.

Another night was True or False. Cubs came up with questions and a piece of paper with True on one side and False on the other. One by one each Cub asked their question while others held up the answers.

I think the simpler the night the better. Cubs don't want to be lectured to - they want to be heard.

Damien Buick, Cub Scout Leader, 19th Camberwell

Magic

We wanted to do something different and we booked Tim the Magician. Tim made each family feel part of the show and most youth members participated.

Tim charged us \$250 for 22 families for a one-hour show. He logged in 30 minutes before, warmly welcomed each family as they logged into the Zoom meeting, and fully engaged every single participant across the full show time.

From Tim's website: Tim is the president of The Australian Institute of Magic, he has been awarded Best Stage Magician and Best Close Up Magician, and he also headed a team to smash the Guinness World Record for the longest Magic Show – 85 hours!!

I recommend considering Tim for more shows for any Victorian Scout Group.

Nagy Mourad, Group Leader, Hallam

Painting

We had one of our Joey Scouts doing a Lead on Tuesday night. He had picked painting and we emailed everyone with what they would need ready for the night. When everyone was on Zoom we did a quick eye spy while everyone settled.

He then told them the theme, which was Australian animals. While we painted we just did a general chit chat: what are you going to paint, how are you going, how is Learning from home, were there any questions about the new program (as we had sent an info email to parents).

Then we showed our paintings all at once, I took a couple of photos of the screen, we did silly faces and I took some more photos. It was fun, it was relaxing, and no stress!



Dianne Taylor, Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 1st Hoppers Crossing



Reflection

We trialled the power of being grateful instead of a reflection being led by one person. And the night ended on a really positive note.

We got each Scout to share one thing that they were grateful for in their life.

It was diverse and varied but everyone got to speak and felt engaged and listened to.

I recommend it to other Scout Units.

Stuart Redman, Scout Leader, 13th Malvern

Animation

Here is an idea based around the Creative challenge area!

Computers and the internet are a great tool, with plenty of creative outlets. One to highlight this is stop-motion shorts. This is an animated film technique that uses models, that get manipulated each frame to make a moving video. Units can work on a project together for a night, or create your own masterpieces and show them to each other. Tools such as Pivot allow you to create your characters and make your movies. There are some really creative possibilities <http://www.pivotanimator.net/>

Michelle Saffin, Chairman, Victorian Rover Council

Social time

It's so important that our youth members currently feel socially connected with one another. This is why many of them (and us Leaders) get involved in Scouting, for the social aspect of it.

I've taken the approach that, if our weekly online Scout meetings are nothing but a time for socialising, chatting and having fun, then that is more important than any achievement of badgework could be right now.

Here in Melbourne, the youth members won't be mixing and hanging out with their friends as they normally would be, whether that is in the school yard at lunchtime, at footy training or at Scouts. Therefore, that 'virtual' face to face time in our online meetings can make up for that, and is vitally important for their mental wellbeing.

So, my opinion is, don't stress if you are running out of ideas or feeling like you aren't offering a good Scouting program. Ask the Scouts what they want to do, and treat your weekly meetings as a catch up session, playing games, and a place for socialising.

Darcy Bonser, Scout Leader, Hampton

Add a joke ...

We have about 19 Scouts and on average there will be about 12 to 14 Scouts on line for our Wednesday night Zoom meetings. Our Zoom nights started off well. They were all full of enthusiasm wanting to do as much as possible for the hour we were on line.

This lasted about 4- 5 weeks and then I started to notice that there were some tired faces and the joyfulness had dropped off, mainly with the older Scouts.

So one night I asked the Patrol Leaders and APLs to stay on line (we have three Patrols) for a few more minutes and asked them our long are they in front of the screen during the day. Being naïve, I thought they would log on for about 30-40 minutes then go off and touch base during the day with their teachers, only to find out that they were in front of the screen all day for up to 7-8 hours.

After that night I had a discussion with our Group Leader and decided that we would change things.

I sent an email to the parents explaining what we were going to do. It took a couple more weeks to get the balance right and the way we have it now seems to work well.

Our night consists of the first 20-30 minutes discussing activities that they were given and new Scout stuff.

And then it's over to our Jokemaster.

I have one Scout who likes to tell jokes, and really corny ones, so he is now the Jokemaster and at the start of the night he has to tell us a joke which start the others off. And now our meetings are going for up to 90 min and I'm having to cut them off some times.

The Scouts look a lot happier, having fun, playing games, and joking and catching up with each other.

David Parker, Scout Leader, 1st Altona

Zoom-lite Scouting

Some of our winners for us, especially those that are less-reliant on Zoom, include:

- Teddy bear making ([this design](#))
- Making hearts as part of the [1000 Hearts project](#)
- 'Masterchef' night (mystery ingredient challenge): All Scouts had received a can of chickpeas (wrapped up so they didn't know what it was) in activity packs that we'd delivered a couple of weeks earlier. The week before we let them all unwrap them during the Zoom call, and they had the week to plan what they were going to cook. The week of, we came online on Zoom together, and then we gave everyone a time, encouraging them to leave their video on if appropriate (depending on what device they were on) while they cooked. The one issue we had was that while 75 minutes is nowhere near enough time for them to cook a meal as a Patrol on our ordinary hall-based Masterchef nights, most of them finished making the dish within 30-45 minutes when cooking solo!



- Terrarium-making was fun but didn't take anywhere near long enough – most had completed it within 25 minutes, but it was a fairly resource-intensive activity
- Talent night was really popular, and most of the Scouts contributed something – several music numbers (it was held between the lockdowns and four of the Scouts – in a band together – were all at one house so that they could perform their song together), some show and tell of artwork, skits involving siblings, and various other skills

Many of them are loving the craft ('it keeps my hands busy and my mind off lockdown'), and anything involving cooking has always been a winner with our Scouts (though after trying to coach them through cooking ANZAC biscuits for our ANZAC Day sleepover, I'm going to try and avoid any 'cook to the recipe together' style activities...).

Annie Asquith, Scout Leader, Carlton

Cake in a mug

Cake in a mug worked great for our Joeys. It took half an hour to go through it and demonstrate step by step and check in on the way.

Kitchen Equipment

- 1 measuring cup - preferably a 1/3 measuring cup if available.
- 2 small/medium mixing bowls- 1 for dry ingredients, 1 for wet ingredients
- 1 fork
- 1 whisk
- 1 tablespoon for measuring
- 1 teaspoon for measuring
- 1 sieve (for sifting flour)
- 2 coffee/tea mugs
- and ... one microwave!

Ingredients

- 1/3 of a cup self-raising flour
- 1 tablespoon of cocoa powder
- pinch of salt
- 1 1/2 tablespoons of firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons of milk
- 1 tablespoon of melted butter
- 1/4 teaspoon of vanilla extract

Recipe

In a small/medium mixing bowl use the sieve to sift the flour, cocoa powder and salt. Stir through the brown sugar.

Put the butter in a small bowl and melt in microwave for 30 seconds.

Crack the egg in the other small bowl and whisk it.

In the second small/medium mixing bowl whisk the egg, milk, melted butter and vanilla extract.

Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir with a fork until just combined.

Spoon mixture into mug. Microwave on high for 70-90 seconds or until the cake has risen or the top has just set. Do not overcook. Serve Immediately. Enjoy!

Email sent to parents

Hi parents,

For this week's meeting the Joeys will be taking over the (YOUR!) kitchen and making a Chocolate Mug Cake!

Important: Joeys will potentially require a little assistance during the challenge but we are confident that they should be able to make the mug cake mostly themselves.

In preparation for the meeting could all Joeys please:

1. Have a parent/guardian/family member or sibling on standby to help/supervise
2. Be set up with their laptop/iPad for the meeting in the kitchen
3. Have the required equipment and ingredients ready
4. Optional: Print out the attached recipe. We will be making the cake step by step with the Joeys so there is no need to print it out but if you want to the full recipe (with the equipment and ingredients required) is attached.

Sophie Van Rooyen-Senkans, Assistant Joey Scout Leader, 4th Preston

Heaps of ideas ...

Environment activities

Build a water filter each (empty water bottle, stones, grass, bark sticks, charcoal etc etc) during online meeting pour in muddy puddle water and see the results.

Everybody put a couple of pieces of toilet paper in a jar and cover with water-note the toilet paper brand and paper source. Next week hold up jars and see which ones are decomposing the best.

Start seeds in an egg container and or empty soda bottle and check progress each week. See who has most advanced plants for planting out after lockdown.

Organise to send a starter pack to each family and make terrariums or flowering bulbs or whatever to send into your local nursing home

Collect a local snail and conduct a snail race over maybe ten minutes. Make sure to clean up after and to take good care of the snail and return him to where you found him.



Learn how to build small frog ponds in home gardens and do so then share photograph of the results

Community

Discuss what this isolation must be like for the at-risk members of the community who are in nursing homes. Contact the local nursing home for a list of residents who are in need of a little extra love and encourage each youth member to write a card or letter. If your nursing home has a “window of love” contact them and arrange a short window visit with a resident who does not have visitors to the window.

Youth members decorate their footpath or front fence to bring a smile to others. Take photos and share the results.

Creativity

Learn some basic drumming rhythms then divide your group and drum together to get your groove on. Suggested “drums”: cardboard boxes, ice cream containers, saucepans

Create a new “Scout song”. Take one of the latest songs that all the youth know and work together to change the lyrics to be about your Section or your District or just about Scouts in general. Once you have it nailed invite all interested parents to join the “concert”

Youth members who have bikes, decorate with whatever can be found around the house: streamers, maybe sew a seat cover, etc

Father’s day crafts - especially something that Dads can join in the meeting

Footy

Dress up in team colours, and have a footy trivia quiz each youth member answering and giving questions on their favourite team.

Plus

Toilet paper handball – furthest and on target – make a target

Contact a line dancing teacher and ask them to join the meeting and teach a specific line dance

Claire Grinter, 1st Cobram

