

Outdoors, Active



How amazing was Cosentino! We hope all of your Scouts had a thoroughly enjoyable time learning some magic tricks to impress their family and friends.

Like all that we do in Scouting, our Scouts will Learn by Doing, so encourage them to keep practising their magic tricks, seek new tricks, and offer the opportunity to show the Unit any new tricks they may have picked up.

Performing magic tricks in front of an audience is a great way for your Scouts to develop confidence, resilience and fine motor skills. All within an inclusive environment.

Well spring has arrived and it's time we encouraged our Scouts to be outdoors and active.

Here are a few outdoor activities that should be fun:

Local Area Nature Scavenger Hunt

You've successfully played this activity in the home, well it's time to take the activity outside.

Under our current Covid-19 restriction we are permitted one hour per day outside exercise and the Scouts can use this time to undertake a local area scavenger hunt.

The Unit Council will need to ensure all Scouts are aware of the restriction guidelines before the activity commences.

A list of objects and questions a Scout will need to collect and answer will be prepared by the Unit Council who will need to also ensure that the answers are readily available.

Once the activity has been completed the Scouts can compare answers.

Patrol Activities

Even though Scouts can't meet as a group that doesn't mean that activities can't be undertaken as a Patrol (working remotely, not actually together).

For example:

Standing Camp Construction

Each Patrol is instructed to build one gadget each for a standing camp. As a Patrol they will need to decide what

to build and who will build a particular gadget. That might be a washing stand, towel drying rail, or something more exciting!

Each member of the Patrol will build their gadget in their own backyard the combined gadgets built will be assessed by the Unit Council in terms of being useful in the camp setting and construction quality.

Outdoor Cooking

Each Patrol can plan a Patrol dinner with all the Scouts cooking the same meal. As a Patrol they will discuss the menu ensuring all Scouts are included. What will we cook, what are your cooking skills, what equipment do you have, what is the budget?

The big question may be, when will the Patrol cook their meal? That doesn't have to be the next Unit meeting. There is no reason why the Patrol can't decide their menu on the Monday night meeting and each cook their own meal – working remotely as a Patrol – the following Saturday evening.

At the next Unit meeting each Patrol can Review> their cooking night with the rest of the Unit.

Let the Patrol Decide

As always, the best activity program ideas come from the Scouts themselves so offer each Patrol the opportunity to discuss activities they can undertake within the Covid-19 guidelines that are active and outdoors.

Outdoor Plaster Casts

Our back yards are full of interesting shapes and vegetation, along with the occasional animal foot print. Your Scouts can design their own animal foot print, make a plaster cast and later address the Unit about their foot print.



Step 1: Gather supplies

To make a plaster cast you will need:

- Plaster of Paris – available at hardware stores
- Water
- A plastic bowl for mixing the plaster
- A plastic spoon for mixing the plaster



Step 2: Find an animal track to cast

- Search out animal tracks. Look for clean clear tracks. Once you have found a good track pick out any grass or rocks being careful not to wreck the track.
- Optional: you can build a little wall out of dirt encircling the track to contain the plaster if you would like.

Step 3: Make the plaster cast

- In the plastic bowl mix the water and plaster 1 part water to 2 parts plaster. It should be thick, similar to a pancake mix. Mix enough plaster to fill the animal track. Once mixed, work quickly as the mixture will harden within 10 minutes.
- Carefully pour the plaster into the track to fill it up and have some extra on top.
- You can smooth out the top if you want a flat surface on the back.
- Let it sit for 30 minutes to one hour. Once it is pretty hard you can dig around it and underneath it to get it out.
- Wrap it in paper towels and let it dry overnight.

Step 4: Finishing the plaster cast

- Brush the dirt off the cast
- After drying for another day you can wipe it with a wet cloth to get the rest of the dirt off

Tree Bark Rubbings

We have all seen trees either in our backyard or at the local park that have interesting bark designs and a collective of different bark rubbings can create a distinctive piece of art.

Have the Scouts explore their backyard to identify trees with interesting bark designs. Armed with several sheets of paper and a crayon they can then create their bark artwork by taking rubbings from different trees.

You might even suggest a theme for the artwork. Scouts could enhance their artwork by adding sticks or twigs, dirt or sand

When you're back as a Unit have each Scout describe their artwork and why they chose particular bark rubbings.

