



## VENTURERS VICTORIA UPDATE

1/10/2020

Hi Venturers and Leaders,

It's been a number of months since I last wrote to you directly, mainly as there wasn't much I could add once we went into the various stages of lockdown. With the arrival of spring, and the promising reduction in COVID cases and daily infections I think it's time to share with you some good news and what the future holds so that you can start planning towards "COVID normal" and face-to-face Scouting.

Recent Government announcements are giving us some levels of certainty of when we can do certain things and what that will look like, so we want to decode this for you and what it might mean for your Venturing. The following applies equally to regional and metropolitan and is based upon what step of Victorian Government Roadmap to reopening applies to that location. All advice is provided on the basis that you follow all government requirements (eg. masks), have a COVIDsafe plan, register all outdoor activities on scOUT & ABOUT and keep an eye on the Scouts Victoria COVID-19 information [here](#).

Step	Date (Actual or Estimated)	Scouting Activities
1 & 2	Melbourne - 28 September	Scouting @ Home
3	Regional- 17 September Melbourne - 19 October	<p>Outdoor face-to-face Scouting for up to 10 youth members (Leaders/adults required to run activity are not included in limits, no overnights)</p> <p>Should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do Outdoors badge work</li> <li>• Day walks allowed, these could be used for Expeditions but cannot camp</li> <li>• Virtual Expeditions still available as an alternative</li> <li>• First Aid courses should be available</li> <li>• Hold Unit Council meetings outdoors</li> <li>• Unit Management and Leadership courses will be available either on-line or face-to-face in limited cases.</li> </ul>
4	9 November	<p>Face-to-face scouting with limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoors - up to 10 youth members</li> <li>• Outdoors - up to 50 youth members, camping highly likely with limits/restrictions</li> </ul> <p>(Leaders/adults required to run activity are not included in limits)</p> <p>Should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return to overnight hikes and Expeditions</li> <li>• Virtual Expeditions still available as an alternative</li> <li>• Hold Unit Council meetings indoors</li> <li>• Unit Management and Leadership courses will be available either on-line or face-to-face.</li> </ul>
COVID Normal	January 2021	Regular face-to-face Scouting returns (with COVIDsafe plans)



Step 3 allows some more social interaction and movement, which means you should be able to meet outdoors and definitely can get back to Outdoor badgework activities and even first aid courses. Then the exciting Step 4 will allow units to get together (larger ones outdoors only) and you are very likely to be able to camp in small groups.

Obviously this is all dependent on Government decisions regarding easing of restrictions, but we encourage you to "Be Prepared" for when those decisions come so your Unit can be ready to put the "Out" back into Scouting!

So, start planning those hikes and camps so that you are ready to get back out there as soon as the Government confirms the Step 4 date!

If you have any questions or concerns, contact either the Scouts Victoria COVID team [coronavirus@scoutsvictoria.com.au](mailto:coronavirus@scoutsvictoria.com.au) for COVID issues, or for Venturer activities and award scheme questions email [support@vicventurers.com.au](mailto:support@vicventurers.com.au)

I'm excited to get out there and hope to see you on a trail or on the water.

### **Look Wide**

Duncan McColl  
State Commissioner – Venturers