

WEEKLY PROGRAM



What a cause for celebration and great news for Scouts across Victoria! Scouting is back with halls being able to open – with conditions – and the weather encouraging wide-ranging outdoor activities.

A Scouting outdoor program should be our foremost focus for everyone with whole Units meeting outdoors, in separate Patrols or small groups. While meeting inside halls is possible you need to be aware of limitations and whether any approvals are required. Have your Group Leader check this out so you can communicate your Scout families as soon as possible.

While restrictions have been relaxed, we still need to be on our guard. Throughout Covid-19 the Scouts Victoria's Covid-19 Update has been the place to go for up-to-date information on the changing conditions, questions from Leaders covering a myriad of scenarios and you need to visit on a regular basis at [Covid-19 Update](#).

Registering your away-from-hall activities on [scOUT & ABOUT](#) is all about keeping our Scouts safe whilst enjoying their Scouting and thank you to those Units who now have scOUT & ABOUT as part of their outdoor adventure Plan> process.

Our virtual program environment has run its course, enabling youth to remain engaged with Scouting and meet with their friends. Our Joey Scouts have shown significant resilience in lasting the distance and our goal is now to get all our members re-engaged with face-to-face Scouting.

Outdoor Scouting is the ideal environment for programs that are adventurous, challenging, fun and inclusive.

Plan for a night at your local park for the whole Unit but split into Patrols or small groups that work separately. The area surrounding your Scout hall might be fine.

The emphasis is on fun, Joey Scouts re-engaging with their friends and generally being excited.

Endeavour to return to a pre-Covid Scouting by programming activities as if you were in the hall.

Start with an opening activity with the rope for the Australian flag over a tree limb or a flag pole.

Games are the order of the day with the first always a "steam off" game that has the Joey Scouts running around, getting rid of all that energy and excitement. The best type of steam off game is a tiggly type game with the golden rule of no eliminations. If you do have a game with eliminations, plan it so that any eliminated Joey Scouts rejoin after a very short break.

A simple tiggly game is to have a small piece of cloth hanging out behind the Joey Scouts with the tagger having to capture as many tags as possible. Make sure you have a good supply of tags when Joey Scouts are eliminated and keep an eye on the tagger Joey Scout. If they're tiring nominate another Joey Scout as the tagger.

You can follow the steam off game with a game that isn't as physically active but still active all the same.

A relay-type game is a good follow-up as the Joey Scouts are active but still have a chance to catch their breath and interact with the other Joey Scouts. We'd expect your Unit has played many relay games and think how you can make the relay fun and exciting as well as matching the location and weather conditions.

All Joey Scouts love water. How about a relay game where the Joey Scouts are in their relay lines with each line standing behind a bucket full of water and 10 metres in front is another bucket, but this time empty. Each relay line has a plastic cup.

On the word go the first Joey Scout fills their cup with water, runs to the other bucket and empties the remaining water in in the bucket. Fast running Joey Scouts are bound to spill a lot of water!

The Joey Scout runs back to their line and passes the cup to another Joey Scout who repeats. The winning team is the one that fills the bucket to a set level.

For an extra degree of difficulty swap the plastic cup for a soup spoon or a large sponge.

A keepings off type game works well if you have a large area. For this game you will need a Frisbee. Divide the Unit into two teams and off the Joey Scouts go.



Be mindful of the rules of the game. What might you include? Set boundaries for the game, will you need an umpire, no pushing-and-shoving or snatching?

Why not take a few minutes and ask the Joey Scouts what rules they think should apply to the game. This process will help the Joey Scouts when they come to lead a game for their Milestones and also reinforces that the Joey Scout have a real say in their program.

Consider adding another Frisbee or a large ball just to make the game exciting.

Now will be a good time to offer the Joey Scouts the opportunity to suggest and lead a game. Have the Joey Scouts briefly tell the Unit about their game, the rules and why they would like to run it. After, say, 6 Joey Scouts have presented their game have the Unit decide which game they would like to play.

The Joey Scout leading the game has may have just "ticked" off a lead for their Milestone and suggest to the Joey Scouts whose games weren't picked that they can run their game next week. And in the process they too will have "ticked" off a Milestone lead.

Consider running as many games as you feel necessary however at some point you will want to have a few quiet activities leading up to the meeting close. Quiet activities will reduce the Joey Scouts' restlessness.

Great activities to consider include a short yarn, a reflection. Refer to the Joey Scout Australian Scouting's Internal Compass for inspiration <https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/media/3484/internal-compass-joeyscouts.pdf>.

Why not have the Joey Scouts throw a tennis ball to another Joey Scout who says what they're thankful for not that Scouting has resumed? Not every Joey Scout must say their thoughts; they can just pass the ball on. Include your Leaders because they too will have reflections they might like to share.

No doubt, there will be some Joey Scouts who may have dropped off during virtual Scouting and who may not have attended your night back. Why not come prepared with an A4 sheet emblazoned with "We miss you!" and have the Joey Scouts sign a letter to those Joey Scouts?

Finally, remember to close your meeting on time. We expect parents to deliver their Joey scouts to your meeting on time so the least we can do is return the respect by finishing on time.

