

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 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, 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 Scouts running around getting rid of all that energy and excitement. Scouts have a fine repertoire of wide games and nominate a Patrol to run the first game. Remember this is the Scout's program and at the Scout Unit level the Scouts are more than able to run many games and activities.

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

"Chair basketball" is a game suited in a park. The "goals" are Scouts standing on chairs, one at each end with the teams playing off in a defined area.

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

The Patrol leading the game determine what rules apply to the game

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

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

The Scout leading the game has may have just "ticked" off a lead for their Milestone and suggest to the 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.

Practise pioneering skills via a timed race to build a ballista with ropes and spars to catapult a water balloon at least 25 metres. Consider this practice for early 2021 water games when there might be inter-Patrol ballista combat as Patrols work 20 metres apart.



Here are some images for Scout pioneering ballistae, <https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/media/3489/internal-compass-scouts.pdf>

Consider running games and activities 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 Scouts' restlessness.

Great activities to consider include a short yarn, a reflection. Refer to the Scout Australian Scouting's Internal Compass for inspiration <https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/media/3489/internal-compass-scouts.pdf>.

A reflection activity could be where a Scout throw a ball of wool to another Scout who says what they're thankful for now that Scouting has resumed. Not every Scout must say their thoughts; they can just pass the ball of wool on. Include your Leaders because they too will have reflections they might like to share. In the end you'll have a magnificent spider web of wool symbolising the Unit joined as one.

No doubt, there will be some 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 Scouts sign a letter to those Scouts?

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

