

Return to Outdoor Scouting Directions

November 23 2020

All Scouts Victoria Groups were able to return to limited face-to-face outdoor scouting from October 28 2020.

Key messages

- Groups can undertake face-to-face outdoor Scouting as a whole Unit limited to 50 participants
- From November 23, there is no longer a requirement to split into Patrols or small groups
- Overnight camping for one or more nights is permitted in groups of up to 15 in tents, cabins or bunkhouses
- Scouting activities should still follow general COVID safe practices including physical distancing, hand washing and non-attendance if unwell

Outdoor Program Activities

Outdoor Scouting program activities can go ahead subject to the following rules:

- All outdoor activities that are undertaken away from a Group's hall grounds must be registered in [Out and About](#).
- Record a list of people who have attended for more than 15 minutes (Leaders, youth members, parent helpers, etc).
- Physical distancing and personal hygiene requirements must be in place as below.
- All activities should follow existing guidance for preventing injuries to avoid putting undue strain on Victoria's health and emergency services.
- All activities should follow existing requirements for Child Safety

Attendance at outdoor activities

By default, participation numbers are limited to 50 participants plus those required to conduct the activity. Those required to conduct the activity could include Leaders, adult helpers, rostered parents and carers.

Events of greater than 50 participants require approval from coronavirus@scoutsvictoria.com.au and must be in line with DHHS Public Event Framework

Any parents in attendance for more than drop off or pick up must be included in the participant numbers

A record of people who have attended each activity must be kept (Leaders, youth members, parent helpers, etc). This information should be kept by the relevant Section Leader and Group Leader for 28 days.

District and Regional Events

Outdoor program activities can be undertaken as District or Regional events in line with these directions.

Overnight Camping

Overnight camping can be undertaken for one or more nights in tents for groups of 50. Camping must be split into smaller groups of up to 15 participants plus leaders.

A record of who shares a tent, cabin or bunkhouse must be recorded and members must share the same tent for multiple nights.

Campsites

Campsites can open for Scout camping and for Scouting day-activities.

Further Information on Campsites can be found in the Campsites Directions.

Training

Members can access government COVID-19 Training:

- Infection control training <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>
- How to safely wear a face mask <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-masks-vic-covid-19>

Physical distancing and personal hygiene requirements

The following requirements must be implemented

- No one is to participate if they are unwell, especially if they have cold or flu-like symptoms
- Face masks do not need to be worn outdoors
- Adults (Rovers, Leaders, helpers, parents etc) must continue to practice physical distancing requirements wherever possible between other adults and youth members
- The 1.5m separation requirement does not need to be enforced outdoors between youth while actively participating in activities.
- Avoid shaking hands or hugs
- Hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitiser to be available to each participant and used at the beginning, end and regularly throughout the activity
- Equipment that is worn on the face / head should not be shared during activities
- Cleaning of equipment and frequently touched surfaces before and after use
- No sharing food or drink after it has been cooked

If somebody gets sick while on a Scout activity

If somebody becomes unwell at Scouts, they will need to return home.

If they show signs of COVID-19 symptoms, especially fever:

- Isolate them from the rest of activity (see below for additional considerations if the participant is a youth member)

- Contact their parent to take them home (note that an unwell adult can drive themselves if able)
- Advise the participant, or their parent, to self-isolate and be tested for COVID-19
- Call 000 if the condition becomes serious, such as difficulty in breathing

Explain to them or their parents that they should call the COVID-19 hotline 1800 675 398 or contact their GP. If their symptoms include fever, the Leader in Charge should contact the Scouts Victoria Emergency Line on 03 8543 9877

Extra care is required during isolation if the unwell participant is a youth member.

- It is important to keep the youth member relaxed, and not arouse concern in others. Calmly ask them to follow you away from the space where the main activity is occurring.
- The youth member should remain 2m away from others and wait in a separate area away from others for their parent to collect them. Try to be in-sight of other adults at this time.
- Leaders need to reassure and support the youth member. They should not feel forgotten or criticised by others.

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 previously attended a Scout activity

The detection of a positive COVID-19 case at a Scouting activity will result in a standard public health response, which could include quarantine of an individual or group, and close contacts, for the required period.

It is likely that the Group will be made aware of a potential close contact through being informed directly by the affected person (or their parent) or as part of a follow up of confirmed cases by public health officials or from Scouts Victoria.

- Call the COVID-19 hotline 1800 675 398
- Provide attendance records of meetings that the affected person has attended to public health officials
- Notify the property owner (e.g. local council, Parks Victoria, etc)
- Notify the Scouts Victoria Emergency Line on 03 8543 9877
- Notify WorkSafe Victoria on 13 23 60 if the confirmed case occurs at a workplace
- In conjunction with public health officials and Scouts Victoria, notify other attendees that they may have been exposed and follow DHHS advice on quarantine requirements.
- Depending on the location of the contact, the venue may need to be closed to enable clean and disinfect of the spaces where the people in attendance may have been.
- Permission should be obtained from Scouts Victoria before restarting activities.



Health of our Members

Members who are in “at-risk” groups or who do not wish to attend face to face Scouting at this time

No Leader, youth member, parent, etc should feel pressured to attend face to face Scouting at this time. Scouting remains a voluntary organisation.

Leaders and youth members with health issues that put them at risk of serious illness from COVID-19 should not participate in face-to-face activities but can support in other ways. Discuss options within your Group Council and your District can support with resources too.

Group Rostered Parents and Adult Helpers could help with providing a second adult on activities.

The Victorian Department of Human Services has information for people at risk available at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#who-is-most-at-risk-of-being-very-sick-from-coronavirus-covid-19>

If you have any questions about the requirements for returning to face-to-face Scouting, please contact Scouts Victoria on coronavirus@scoutsvictoria.com.au

Mental Health and Anxiety

Some of our members feel that they are struggling with restrictions lifting. Now, as we start to return to normality, we may find moments where we are uneasy – and our youth or adult members feel anxious about going back to some aspects of normal life.

When you return to face to face Scouting, start with simple activities – this isn't the time to try something new or unusual.

Members with disability, medical needs or additional needs

As we return to face-to-face Scouting, we will need to show understanding to those members whose disability, medical needs or additional needs may impact their involvement. Groups should contact members with those needs as an opportunity to discuss any anxieties about return to face to face Scouting, reconnect and update on program (if they haven't engaged in Scouting at Home) and to explore needs, modifications and accommodations needed for activities.

First Aid

In the event that you need to apply first aid during a Scout activity, you should:

- Use appropriate PPE when administering first aid, such as a face mask and disposable gloves
- If you need to administer CPR, use a resuscitation mask - if you don't have one, strongly consider just providing chest compressions
- Dispose of PPE between patients, wash hands and use hand sanitiser
- Try and maintain 1.5m distancing, unless you need to be within this distance to conduct a specific task



Scouts Victoria and Victorian State Directives

Our guidance during the coronavirus pandemic contributes significantly to our obligations for a Duty of Care to our members and the wider community. Not meeting the guidance could put our responsibilities to our members and the wider community at risk. At all times, groups must follow the directives of Victorian Public Health Authorities and Scouts Victoria. Localised outbreaks may require groups to again restrict activity and those groups must respond accordingly.

The Group Leader is responsible for implementation of and monitoring compliance with the COVID-19 directions at the local group. The Group Leader may be referred to as the COVID Contact or COVID Officer for the Group, if necessary. District and Region Commissioners are responsible for assisting Groups in implementing and monitoring COVID-19 directions consistent with their defined roles within Scouts Victoria.

The responsibility for development, implementation and monitoring of COVID-19 directions, policies, rules and guidelines is with the Scouts Victoria Coronavirus Emergency Management Team (Coronavirus EMT) consisting of the Chief Commissioner, Deputy Chief Commissioner, Assistant Chief Commissioner - Personnel, State Commissioner - Risk and Safety and Executive Manager.

The State Commissioner - Risk and Safety can be referred to as the COVID Contact or COVID Officer for Scouts Victoria, if necessary.

The Chief Commissioner has ultimate authority over all uniformed activities within Scouts Victoria.

If you become aware of a Scout activity that may not be compliant with the requirements, contact the Scouts Victoria 24-hour Emergency Line on 03 8543 9877

Questions

If you have any further questions, refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or send an email to coronavirus@scoutsvictoria.com.au