

# WEEKLY PROGRAM



## OVER TO YOU ...

In a blink of an eye 2020 will be over and, more than at any time, it's so important we end the year with a night that celebrates the huge journey undertaken by every Joey Scout in your Unit. And not just Joey Scouts. The celebration can include their family, supporters and other members of your Group. Why not? We were all in this together.

With only a few meetings left in the term, you should by now have communicated the date of your last meeting to the Unit families. If not, make this a priority so that the Unit's night is locked in the family calendar. Be sure to include the start time and finish time.

Any successful night requires careful planning and here are a few important "must tick" activities: -

**Date and Time:** You've communicated the date and time to the Joey Scout families and a good practice is to send a reminder email the week prior as a gentle reminder.

**Where:** So important. Where you have your celebration will largely be determined by the type of activities and format of your celebrations. Will you be requiring a large open area for a few games and space for the Joey Scouts to run around?

Will a local playground provide activities for the Joey Scouts? Or will your Scout hall and its surrounds suffice?

Either way, you need to have the location of your celebration determined for inclusion in your communique to the families.

**What to bring:** The starting time of your celebration will influence what catering is required for the celebration. Remember that some of your Joey Scouts might have an early dinner so the start time will determine whether families arrive having had their dinner or bring their own picnic.

If you are considering to provide a sausage sizzle or the like remember to check the Scouts Victoria [Covid-19 Update](#) for the latest information.

**Be Safe:** Be sure to clearly communicate to the Joey Scout families the COVIDSafe Plan for the celebration and ensure your Leaders are equally aware of the COVIDSafe Plan and are vigilant throughout the activity.



Make sure you have adequate supplies of hand sanitiser readily available.

**What to do:** This is where the imaginative ideas for fun activities from the Joey Scouts truly makes the celebration one to remember.

Towards the close of your next meeting, ask the Joey Scouts what sort of fun games and activities they would like at their end-of-year celebrations. As well as being fun, suggest that the activities should also be inclusive, challenging and adventurous.

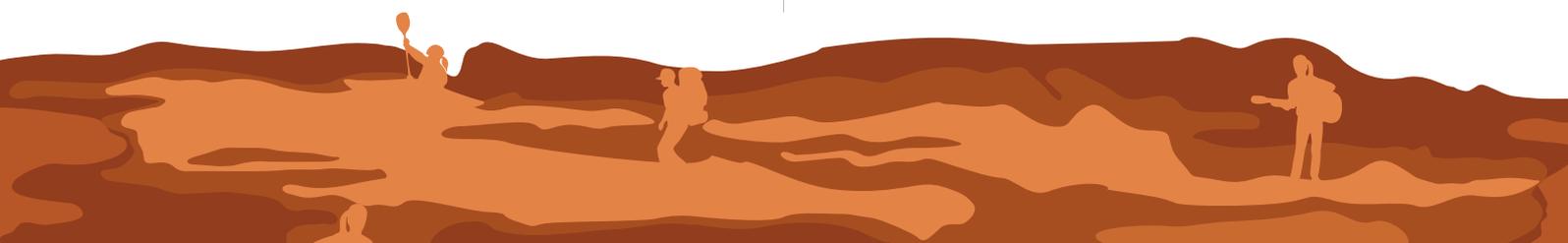
Activities that include water, particularly if the evening is hot are always a favourite.

Aim for a list of at least six games or activities that you can run at the celebration and endeavour to include the Joey Scout parents in the activities. Parents just love playing games involving water and Joey Scouts relish the opportunity even more.

Finally, make sure you leave time for the Joey Scouts to create their own fun, to spend a quiet moment with their friends and just be Joey Scouts.

**The formalities:** The night is about celebrating our collective achievements and formal speeches should be kept to an absolute minimum. Thank the Unit's Leaders for their commitment, parents for their contribution each week in supporting their Joey Scout in their virtual Scouting world, and leave the biggest thank you to the Joey Scouts themselves for their commitment, resilience and above all participation in their program.

Finish the formalities with a brief outline of some of the adventurous activities planned for 2021.



**After the celebration is over...:** After the last Joey Scout has headed home take a deep breath, grab a chair and share a refreshment with your Leaders. The conversation shouldn't be structured but at some point thank your team for their collective efforts and to be proud of what's been achieved.

The opportunity to really unwind as a leadership team could be a barbecue at a Leader's house or a meal at a local restaurant. Either way, plan to catch up as a team to share a few laughs and re-energise for 2021.

From the team at Scouting at Home, thank you for your dedication, commitment and perseverance throughout 2020. Your efforts have meant Scouting has remained an important part of each Joey Scout's survival kit during 2020.

In years to come we will all look back in awe at the challenges that confronted our Joey Scouts and will each experience that feeling of gratitude at being able, in some small way, to support the Joey Scouts in the Unit.

