



Program Jump Start - Part 8

Get Ready for Special Interest Areas

SIA content provided by Lisa Picking ACC Youth, Sarah Thom SC Stem and the team

It's almost time for the launch of Special Interest Areas, are you ready?

Special Interest Areas are an exciting part of the new program, because they give our youth members a chance to challenge themselves in areas that are interesting to them. Applicable to all sections, they allow youth members to try something new, or perhaps improve their skills in an existing area of interest.

This week, we want to help you get ready with our Jump Start Checklist! We will:

1. Explain the structure and requirements of a Special Interest Areas project.
2. Explore Special Interest Area project ideas and planning tools.
3. Examine the Special Interest Area Review processes and prepare the Unit Council for supporting Special Interest Area projects.
4. Challenge youth members as individuals, as a Patrol or Project Patrol to start a Special Interest Areas project of their own.

Visit the full [Special Interest Areas Jump Start Checklist](#) (see below) and make sure you visit the Special Interest Areas section of our [website](#) this week.

John Kerr – State Commissioner, New Program Implementation



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SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS - Jump Start Check List

Special Interest Areas content provided by Lisa Picking ACC Youth, Sarah Thom SC Stem and the team.

Plan>

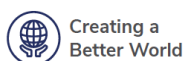
1. Learn what the six different Special Interest Areas are. A good way to do this is to read the parts of the [Guide to Special Interest Areas](#) that are relevant to your Section.



Adventure
& Sport



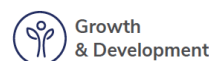
Arts
& Literature



Creating a
Better World



Environment



Growth
& Development



STEM
& Innovation

2. Brainstorm project ideas with your Patrol or Unit that fit into each of the six different Special Interest Areas. You might find the Matrix of Project Suggestions from the [Guide to Special Interest Areas](#) a useful starting tool, you could review past badges and programs your Unit have enjoyed, or you can even have a discussion with your Unit about what they currently do that interests them or what they are interested in that they don't do yet and think about how any of these ideas could be adapted to become a Special Interest Areas project.
3. Make sure that everyone understands each youth member's needs to set their own goal for their Special Interest Areas project. So even though a Special Interest Areas project can be completed as an individual, a Patrol, a Project Patrol or a Unit, each youth member needs their own goal(s).

These resources may help setting Special Interest Areas goals and planning projects:

- Special Interest Areas Project Planning Development Tool for [Joey Scouts & Cub Scouts](#) or [Scouts, Venturer Scouts & Rover Scouts](#).
- Youth Record books for your Section
- Scouts Terrain Special Interest Areas

Goals should be specific, measurable and attainable.

4. Discuss the best process for presenting Special Interest Areas projects to the Unit Council. Remember that approval from the Unit Council needs to occur at both the commencement and conclusion of a Special Interest Areas project. Think about different flexible options for scheduling meetings and approving Special Interest Areas projects.
5. If you need specific help or knowledge, reach out to someone in your network who can help you. Unit Councils can help you identify this person. It could be a fellow Scout, a Leader, a parent, teacher, coach or other subject matter expert. If there is no one in your immediate network to assist you, contact sia@scoutsvictoria.com.au to help you find a subject matter expert for your project.

Do>

1. Encourage youth members to start working towards their project goals.
2. Make sure youth members are recording and documenting their progress. Help them understand this need not be a burdensome task, some photos or a few sentences may be enough.
3. Conduct regular Unit Council meetings to allow youth members to set new project goals and review their completed projects.

Review>

1. Check that your youth members can nominate an activity and follow the process for turning it into a Special Interest Areas project with goals.
2. Can your youth members find answers online or in print resources if they need extra help?
3. Does your Unit Council have processes in place for reviewing Special Interest Areas projects?
4. Do your youth members know how to record their Special Interest Areas progress?
5. Can your youth members follow the review process for a Special Interest Areas project?
6. Have you asked for help if you need more support or resources to implement Special Interest Areas in your Unit?

Challenge 8

Ask every youth member to set a Special Interest Areas goal to begin working towards in Term 3. Aim to have every youth member finish a “Plan>” and commence a “Do>” for at least one Special Interest Areas project before the end of Term 3.



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