



## VICTORIAN VENTURER COUNCIL

# VIRTUAL VENTURING AWARD SCHEME COVID-19 PROVISIONS EXPEDITIONS



The Victorian Venturer Council (VVC) has been contacted by Venturers impacted by the current COVID-19 conditions and who are working toward completing the Queen's Scout Award in 2021

With State Government isolation restrictions, some of the Award Scheme areas cannot be undertaken or completed in line with these restrictions.

Our key focus is to avoid disadvantaging Venturers in completing the Queen's Scout Peak Award and causing anxiety during a period of upheaval in school studies.

1. VVC has proposed the following to be adopted by Unit Councils and to be supported by District/Zone and Region Venturer Councils. These provisions will be in place until 31 October 2021 but may reviewed beforehand or extended depending on advice from Scouts Victoria. T
2. Preference will be given to Metro Venturers who are turning 18 and/or in Year 12 who have planned to complete the Queen's Scout Award in 2021. The expectation is that they have only 1 or 2 additional Award Awards for completion (other than Expedition).

### **Expedition**

To aid current Venturers turning 18 and at school/working this year, the VVC have created a minimally adjusted pathway to achieving their relevant level of expedition.

All current requirements for the expedition badge **MUST** be completed to a satisfactory standard, excluding the undertaking of the physical expedition. This means Venturers must continue to plan an expedition, fulfilling all of the planning contribution checklist which is stated within the Venturer Record Book.

To replicate the evaluation of skills and reflection usually gained from report completion following the undertaking of an expedition the VVC are providing scenarios that are to be discussed between the examiner and venturer. This enables the examiner to see the Venturer's understanding of certain processes and skills to ensure they have the necessary level or knowledge for their VA/QS Expedition.

Venturers will not be expected to physically complete a hike journey (walk, canoe, etc) and VVC will provide a panel of Examiners for Venturers undertaking VA or QS level Expeditions. This also applies for Ground Breaker Groups and the Adventurous Journey requirements for these Venturers in Our Program.

Once face-to-face Scouting returns, Venturers would not be expected to undertake the virtual Journey.

VVC will control the Expedition criteria:

- who is entitled to use it
- the process for Venturers to apply
- the assignment of an Examiner from a panel of Examiners

The Expedition will be based on:

- the Venturer providing details on previous (from age of 13 onwards) hiking experience. This can include Armstrong 500, Hoadley Hide, etc), other hiking activities outside of Scouting and forms the basis of assessment for RPL.

- a standard reporting process (the VVC endorsed *The Expedition Activity Report* document) found on the Scouts Victoria website).
- If an existing Journey has been planned but not executed, this would be used for basic of the discussion with the Examiner
- a maximum number of Venturers participating in this method Virtual Expedition is restricted to two for any proposed Journey.
- it is expected that Venturers would base their plans, equipment, food for a party of 5 young people participating.
- NO transport hikes will be permitted. This is a test of all aspects of a standard walk/canoe/etc journey.
- Examiners assessing the Venturer's preparedness, knowledge and planning with hike selection, route planning, first aid, emergencies, risk management, equipment and food lists, mapping, compass, and related Scoutcraft skills as per the VVC endorsed *The Expedition Activity Report*
- In detailing the virtual journey, Venturers are expected to describe features from the map and other material so that another person following their report could – **Walk the Walk**.
- Examiners will be providing several scenarios to Venturers which could be expected on the journey to assess Venturer's capabilities to respond to incidents
- all reporting via digital communication with the Examiner and completion of the required *The Expedition Activity Report*, together with scans of maps and other supporting documentation.

The Examiner will set a mutual timeframe for the activity documentation to be prepared and is it envisaged that a couple of review meetings (either voice, email or online) occur to ensure a suitable standard has been achieved. If the Venturer knowledge is considered as inadequate by the Examiner, they may be asked to undertake some Scouts Australia On Demand modules (i.e. Elementary Navigation, Navigation Skills).

All communication between the Examiner and the Venturer must comply with Scouts Victoria ChildSafe requirements (an Adult Leader or a parent must be part of any communication).

#### Approvals

- The Unit Council should approve the Proposal before submitting to VVC for an Examiner.
- VVC will advise the Examiner and their relevant contact details
- It will be the Venturer's responsibility to make initial contact with the Examiner to outline the proposed journey.
- The Examiner will liaise with the Venturer(s) and assess their prior experience as a part of the virtual journey.
- The Examiner's report (when finalised) will be submitted to the VVC for endorsement and the Unit Venturer Leader will be advised, so as the Venturer can submit their Completion to the Unit Council
- The Unit Council will be expected to provide approval based on the Examiner's Report.
- District/Zone and Region Venturer Council should be informed of the Proposal / Completion, but no interaction is required as VVC has endorsed these Examiners.
- No Public Transport hike will be approved as a part of this scheme.

#### **General**

Other Venturers not meeting the criteria (17+) are advised to continue to plan their Expedition to be conducted. Depending on the duration of the current restrictions they may or may not be included in this process. When face-to-face Scouting resumes, they can seek local Examiners via District/Zone/Region Councils.

To apply or for further information contact: [support@vicventurers.com.au](mailto:support@vicventurers.com.au)

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