

Fellowship Focus

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A large part of 2022 was spent with a focus on Fellowship in Scouts Victoria; ensuring we were offering a product to adult members that is both rewarding and supportive to them as participants as well as of benefit to our youth program. Parts of a larger plan around the structure and operations of the Fellowship are still to come, but one key part of our Fellowship focus now begins.

Create Group Fellowships

We have now created Scout Fellowship roles at a Scout Group level. This will give Leaders retiring along with Rovers reaching the age of 26, the opportunity to stay connected to the program of the Group and Group life.

We know that for many in Scouting, the Scout Group is where their strongest attachment is and this new move allows adult members to maintain their support to a Group, while benefiting from the support of Group Leaders, Group council and Group committee. Like adult helpers, Fellowship members of a Group can support with youth programs, fundraising, recruitment activities, maintenance and administration depending on their skills and interest.

Supporting our Specialist Fellowships

We are also looking to better support and connect with our Specialist Fellowships like those supporting campsites, performing arts activities, major events and adventurous activities. Much of what is occurring in this base is background work, but the key move will be to advertise for a State Commissioner - Fellowship later this year.

A key aim of the Fellowship Focus is we would like to really increase the promotion of these fellowships so that a Leader retiring knows they have a range of choices, it could be to a fellowship that is linked locally to the Group, but it also could be to a campsite they feel connected to, or to an event they could support going forward or maybe it's to one of the many other choices from Heritage to performing arts.

Region Fellowships

We have opened, will grow and strengthen eleven Region Fellowships to replace the current District Fellowship structure. It will be easier to support and resource these Fellowships and longer-term support will come from the State Commissioner (SC) Fellowship.

These fellowships will focus on the support to the youth program that occurs at a Regional level as well as offer social engagement and opportunities to engage with Scouting when Group or Specialist Fellowship options may not suit. This does mean we are removing the current structure of District and Rover Fellowships. With Group level Fellowship forming the base of a local level Fellowship and members having additional choices of Specialist and Region Fellowships, the District level of Fellowship as well as the Rover Fellowship will be removed.

Shortly we will be asking the Leaders in Charge of these fellowships to work with the relevant next-level Program Support Leader to contact affected members and offer them a transfer into their Fellowship of choice. Luckily, the new electronic system to replace A2/3 has arrived in time for this process to occur all online. We ask Group Leaders to keep an eye out for an email of new adult

Fellowship members coming into their Groups.

Fellowship Focus has been a massive project of work and I like to thank everyone who shared their views along the way especially individual current members of the fellowship. I note the assistance of the ASF Vic State Council in the processes to date and their support of the State Leadership team.

We understand as these processes occur people may still have views to share or questions related to their journey in Scouting. These can be sent to wombat.lyons@Scoutsvictoria.com.au.

For now the homework start to ask our LICs of District fellowship especially to start the contact and transfer of these members and for our Group Leaders and LICs of specialist fellowships to be ready to accept their incoming members.