

Venturer Scouts

Supporting the Peak Award



The Venturer Scout section peak award, the Venturer Scout Peak Award, may be the final achievement for a youth member in the Venturer Scout section. It is the role of members of the Unit Council to support Venturer Scouts in their chosen pursuits, including through the Achievement Pathways and, if chosen, the peak award.

There are six components to the Venturer Scout Peak Award.

These are:

- Completion of Program Essentials – Milestone 3
- Twelve progressions in the Outdoor Adventure Skills
 - » This must include achieving Stage 5 in each of Bushcraft (Pioneering and/or Survival Skills), Bushwalking, and Camping, if not previously completed
 - » This must include at least four achievements of Stage 4 or higher in any streams
- Six Special Interest Area projects
- An Adventurous Journey
- A Leadership or Personal Development Course
- A Personal Reflection

The Unit Council should be involved in the member's journey to achievement along the way. This is a guide to the Unit Council's role in each aspect of the peak award Achievement Pathway.

Program Essentials Milestones

Program Essentials Milestones are achieved through active participation in the program.

- The Unit Council supports all members to achieve all of their Milestones, including Milestone 3
- Members of the Unit Council will facilitate Milestone Reflections, with or without adult support, which will depend on the needs of each individual Venturer Scout.
 - » Reflections may or may not be in the presence of adult leaders.
- Members of the Unit Council present Venturer Scouts with their Milestone badges

Outdoor Adventure Skills

- The Unit Council members should support all members through their achievement of the core Outdoor Adventure Skills. These are Bushcraft, Bushwalking, and Camping.
 - » Remember to make sure your program has a range of opportunities for development in the core Outdoor Adventure Skills, and that Project Patrols are happening in your Unit!
- Youth members may aid in the facilitation of Outdoor Adventure Skills in which they have achieved Stage 3 or higher, using the principle of two-down assessment, mentoring and support.
- Most members of the Unit will be involved in some aspects of the Outdoor Adventure Skills with their peers.
- The Unit Council may need to support the engagement of subject matter experts and activity specialists to support Unit members participation in activities.

- The Unit Council confirms the youth member's log book upon the achievement of each Outdoor Adventure Skills Stage
- The Unit Council awards the relevant Outdoor Adventure Skills badge, following confirmation that a member has achieved a stage.

Special Interest Areas

- These may be completed as individuals or in Project Patrols.
- Goals for Special Interest Area projects should be set with the support of Unit Council for each individual Scout. This may or may not occur in the presence of adults.
- Goals for the Special Interest Area should be discussed with the Unit Council before the project is started.
 - » This may have occurred while the goals are being set, and should include feedback on whether the goals are appropriate for the Venturer Scout involved
- When a Venturer Scout believes they have completed their Special Interest Area project, they should discuss it with the Unit Council for confirmation. This may or may not include adult leaders.
- The Unit Council awards the Special Interest Area badges.

Adventurous Journey

The Adventurous Journey occurs when a Venturer Scout is working on Milestone 3. In the Venturer Scout section, youth members must plan and lead a 4 day, 3 night adventure.

- The Unit Council should be involved in reviewing the plans for the Adventurous Journey
 - » Plans should be discussed with the Unit Council prior to the journey occurring
 - » The Unit Council may be involved in the scheduling of Adventurous Journeys
- Members of the Unit Council should be encouraged to attend the Adventurous Journey
- Members of the Unit Council should be involved in the review of the Adventurous Journey
- The Unit Council may be able to support the Venturer Scout, by finding relevant experts to help their planning, doing, and reviewing of their journey.

Personal Development or Unit Management

- The Unit Council, or members of the Unit Council, might need to help find out about Personal Development or Unit Management. This may be supported by adult leaders.
- Members of the Unit Council should be involved in the Review> following the Personal Development or Unit Management Course.
- Remember, the course can be a suitable course completed outside of Scouting, that meets the requirements outlined in the Program Handbook and Scouts | Terrain.

Personal Reflection

The Personal Reflection is an opportunity to recall and reflect on the adventures that led to their peak award, to share some of the highlights (and challenges) as they conclude their journey, and to reflect on their development in the six SPICES areas. This is a great time for Scouts to look back on the Purpose of Scouting and consider their own personal progression.

The Reflection is not an interview! It also is not the time for others to decide whether a Scout deserves their peak award. The Reflection is an opportunity for reflection. The Personal Reflection does not require any written documentation – some members may choose to compile some written notes, others may have photos or videos, but some may have very little to show others about their journey and experiences, and can describe their personal development in other ways.

In Venturer Scouts, the Personal Reflection will involve members from within and external to the Venturer Scout Unit in which the Venturer Scout comes from. They will not necessarily have been a part of the Venturer Scout's complete journey, and therefore the Unit Council may need to provide support to these members, as well as the Venturer Scout who is completing their peak award, prior to the Personal Reflection occurring. Members who may be involved in the Personal Reflection could include the prospective awardee, members of the Unit Council, two members from outside the awardee's Unit (i.e. members of the District/Region/Branch Venturer Scout Council) and supported by adults (directly, indirectly or remotely).

Preparation/Planning

- Who will be involved in the Personal Reflection?
 - » Which adults will be there or be supporting the reflection?
 - » Which youth members will be involved?
 - » Has sufficient notice been given to outside the unit Venturer Scouts to be invited to the Reflection?
- Have all members involved in the reflection been briefed on the purpose of the Personal Reflection?
 - » Are they aware this reflection is about personal growth and development, and that it is not about passing a predetermined standard?
 - » Do they understand that the reflection is the final step in the process for achievement of the peak award?
 - » The technical aspects of the award will have been achieved prior to the commencement of the Personal Reflection – do those involved in the reflection know and understand their role is to listen, support and facilitate reflection, not provide judgement?
 - » Have outside-the-unit Venturers been provided with relevant information about the peak award nominee, such as any Access and Inclusion arrangements made?
- Have all other requirements for the peak award been met?
 - » Have these been approved by the Unit Council previously?
- Has a list of questions for the Personal Reflection been prepared?
 - » Who is preparing these questions?
 - » Have all members who are involved been informed of the questions?
 - » Who will be asking the questions?
- When and where will the Personal Reflection occur?
 - » Is this convenient for everyone?
 - » Is this in a space where you won't be disturbed?
 - » Is this a space where everyone can feel safe, comfortable and supported?
- How is the Personal Reflection going to be documented?
 - » Has this been agreed with all members involved, including the Scout themselves?
 - » Is this a conversation?
 - » Is it a video?
 - » Is it through photographs?
 - » Are there any written parts?
- Have all members involved in the Personal Reflection had an opportunity to learn about the youth member's peak award journey?
 - » Outdoor Adventure Skills?
 - » Special Interest Areas?
 - » Their Milestone achievements?
 - » Adventurous Journey?
 - » Leadership and Personal Development Course?
- How long will the Personal Reflection go for?
 - » Do you need to have snacks, drinks, etc. available for everyone involved in the Personal Reflection?
- Does the individual feel like they are prepared to reflect on their peak award journey?
 - » Is there anything that might need to be done to ensure they feel prepared and supported?
- What other resources might be required for the Personal Reflection?
 - » Do you have or need the SPICES cards?
 - » Does each person need a copy of the I... Statements?

Doing

Some suggested questions or discussion points might be:

- Tell us about your time as a Venturer Scout.
- What did you learn as part of your journey through the Program Essentials?
- What did you find challenging to do?
- How have you helped to create a better world through achieving your peak award?
 - » What does creating a better world mean to you?
- How do the Promise and Law help you live your life?
- What was your experience of leadership throughout your peak award journey?
- How do you think you have developed personally as a Venturer Scout?
- Can you identify something you couldn't do when you started Venturer Scouts that you can do now?
- What made you set the goals that you aimed for?
- Why did you select the Special Interest Area projects that you did?
- What was the most memorable Outdoor Adventure Skills experience for you and why?
- Were there other goals you wanted to achieve, which you might explore now?
- What is the next adventure or challenge for you?
- What range of activities and adventures have you experienced in your peak award journey?
- Describe some significant experiences you had during your Bushcraft, Bushwalking, or Camping activities.
- What specialist Outdoor Adventure Skills have been explored on your peak award journey?
- What goals that you set at the start of your adventures in Venturer Scouts have you achieved?
 - » Have you gone beyond these goals?
 - » Did you revise these goals on your journey?
- How have you developed across the SPICES areas?
 - » Where do you think Scouting will take your personal development next?
- How did you lead and assist other Venturer Scouts?
 - » Were these Scouts from your section?
 - » Did you lead any Rover Scouts?

Reviewing

After we conduct a Personal Reflection, we need to review it so that we can make improvements for the next one we do.

- What do we need to do differently next time?
- What worked well?
- Was there anything that didn't work as well?
- Did everyone have the opportunity to participate?
- Was the location a place we could use again next time?
- Was everyone comfortable in the nominated environment?
- Did we ask the right questions?
- Did we give every opportunity for the Venturer Scout to be the best they can be?

Presenting the Peak Award

Once all of the requirements for the peak award have been met, the Unit Council submits the peak award Notification of Completion Form (found at pr.scouts.com.au/achievement-pathways/) to the Branch office for processing.

Planning for a presentation should commence. The Unit Council should consider:

- Where will the presentation happen?
- When will the presentation happen?
- Who needs to be invited?
- Family? Friends? Mentors? Peers? Past participants in the Venturer Scout's various adventures towards their peak award?
- Are there Group-specific special presentations that also will happen?
- Who will be presenting the award?
- How do we involve the Scout themselves, in planning the presentation ceremony?
 - » How will the personal development of the Scout be highlighted as part of the presentation ceremony?

The Unit Council should be directly involved in the presentation of the peak award, however may require adult Leader assistance to coordinate the event.