

Outdoor Program Ideas for Venturers

Are you bored of wide games and night hikes? Well, this is your document!

The Victorian Venturer Council has put together guides of some of the activities that your Unit can add to their program. These are a series of documents divided into each of the 4 different challenge areas. Each Challenge Area has also been broken into a number of sub-categories to help you find suitable ideas.

These guides are just foundational ideas for your Unit to build on and change to fit your needs. Remember to make your program Adventurous, Fun, Challenging and Inclusive - Happy Venturing!

Sub-categories:

- **Adventure & Outdoor Sports.**
- **Astronomy & Science.**
- **Challenge & Strategy Games.**
- **Community Service & Engagement.**
- **Construction.**
- **Environmental Awareness & Education.**
- **Exploration & Travel.**
- **Film, Media & Photography.**
- **Food & Cooking.**
- **Nature & Environment.**
- **Games & Competitions.**
- **Recreational & Fun Activities.**
- **Safety & First Aid.**
- **Scout Skills.**
- **Social & Community Nights.**
- **Sports & Team Games.**

Adventure & Outdoor Sports

Activity	Explanation.
Action sports	Participating in cricket, netball, and soccer.
Air Activities	Engaging in various activities related to air sports.
Archery	Participating in archery activities.
Fencing	Learning and practicing fencing.
High Ropes Course	Navigate a high ropes course with challenging obstacles.
Horse Riding Excursion	Ride horses and learn about horse care and handling.
Judo	Learn and practice the martial art of judo.
Rifle Shooting	Learn firearm safety and marksmanship skills under the supervision of trained instructors.
Rock Climbing Trip	Visit a local rock-climbing facility to learn and practice climbing techniques.
Ropes Challenge	Make a stretcher out of ropes and sticks and raise to save a life ...
Scuba Diving	Learn about scuba diving skills with guidance from certified instructors.
Skiing - See and Ski Days	Enjoy skiing activities during designated "See and Ski" days, promoting outdoor recreation and fitness.
Surfing	Learn to surf and enjoy water sports activities at the beach, promoting physical fitness and outdoor recreation.
Survival Techniques	Learn essential survival skills such as shelter building, fire starting, and navigation in outdoor environments.
Team Activities at the Beach	Plan teamwork-based activities at the beach, promoting collaboration and bonding in a fun outdoor setting.
Bike ride	Going on a bike ride.
Bike ride to the city	A cycling trip to the city. Participants will enjoy exercise, scenic views, and a rewarding meal at the end.
Bike trails	Riding bikes on designated trails.
Get Lost Challenge	Navigate to a specific location without phones after being dropped off in a random spot.
Abseiling/Rappelling	Learning and practicing rappelling techniques.
Sea Kayaking	Going sea kayaking.
Snorkelling	Learning and practicing snorkelling.

GPS Scavenger Hunt	Participating in a scavenger hunt using GPS.
Hiking	Going on a hike.
Hoadley Hide Challenge	Participate in the Hoadley Hide challenge event.
Igloo night	Plan for an igloo trip or an emergency in the snow. Can you build 4 different types of igloo? (Block, Mound, Drift, Coffin ...)
3 Day Camp at Anglesea	A three-day camping trip to Anglesea.
Navigation night	Learning and practicing navigation skills.
Night Hike	Venture into the wilderness for a hike under the stars, experiencing nature in a different light.
Night Sailing	Set sail on a nighttime sailing adventure, experiencing the serenity of the sea after dark.
Night-time bush walk	A walk in the bush at night to view nocturnal animals.
Rock Climbing - Course	See info book for courses and activities.
Ropes Course	Navigate through a ropes course, tackling challenges that test balance, agility, and teamwork.
Rowboats	Enjoy rowing activities on lakes or rivers, promoting teamwork and physical fitness.
Rowing	Learning and practicing rowing techniques.
Yabbing	Go yabbing (catching freshwater crayfish) as a recreational activity, enjoying the outdoors and learning about aquatic life.
Yachting	Experience the thrill of sailing by organizing a yachting trip or lessons for Venturers interested in maritime activities.

Astronomy & Science

Activity	Explanation.
Astronomy night - Observatory	Book in with an observatory e.g. Mt Burnett, and learn about the Night Sky above us while looking through telescopes.
Stargazing	Observing stars and constellations.
Night Sky Observation	Observing celestial bodies at night.
Bottle rocket night	Building and launching bottle rockets.

Challenge & Strategy Games

Activity	Explanation.
Blindfold wide game	Playing wide games while blindfolded.
Knot Tying Competition	Compete in various knot-tying challenges and demonstrate knot knowledge.
Mystery Hike Night	Embark on a hiking adventure with clues leading to undisclosed destinations along the trail.
Cardboard nerf gun war	Engaging in a nerf gun war using cardboard guns.
Chalk Chase	Participating in a chase game involving chalk markings. E.g. Two people run to a point, marking out chalk arrows at every turn. 10 minutes later the rest of the unit follows and try to catch up with the first two before they make it to the destination.
Drop and run	You are blindfolded then dropped in groups at some unknown location and find your way back.
Mystery Drop Night	Engage in a scavenger hunt where clues lead to mystery locations or items to discover.
Nerf War	Engage in an epic battle using Nerf guns, strategizing and teamwork.
Paintball	Engage in an adrenaline-pumping game of paintball, strategizing and teamwork required to outmaneuver opponents.
Raft Race	Assist Scouts in building rafts and participate in running a raft race event, promoting teamwork and craftsmanship.
Scavenger Hunt	Organize a scavenger hunt where participants search for specific items or complete tasks within a designated area. Use a list or restrict by something like the letter of the alphabet or a colour. 2 points if litter
Scavenger Hunt - Sounds	Record sounds: siren, price check at supermarket, parent reciting poem, squeaky gate, 5 items being scanned at a supermarket, order taken at a fast food joint, dog barking, baby crying, car horn, radio sound but not from house, car or smart phone, wonky wobbly shopping trolley, unusual sound, doorbell, balloons bursting, venturers singing a lullaby,
Tent Game	Challenge teams to set up a tent in unconventional locations like inside a supermarket, documenting their efforts with a photo inside the tent.
Water balloon fight	Engaging in a water balloon fight.
Yacht Racing	Racing yachts - any lake will do.

Community Service & Engagement

Activity	Explanation.
Volunteering at a Soup Kitchen	Give back to the community by volunteering at a soup kitchen, assisting in meal preparation and serving food to those in need.
Neighbourhood Paperclip Trading	Trade a paperclip with neighbors and share findings with leaders.

Construction

Activity	Explanation.
Construction night - Catapult	Building catapults -Flour bomb a target
Construction night - Chariots	Building chariots - Race to the finish
Construction night	Building structures or objects based on a theme.
Construction or badge work	A program night focused on construction projects or working towards earning badges.
Lashing Night	Construct a full-size obstacle course using poles and lashing ropes.

Environmental Awareness & Education

Activity	Explanation.
Environment.	Ask Branch Commissioner to come and speak to Unit
Local Birds/animals	Learning about local birds and animals.
Nature walk	Going on a walk in nature.
Shark night	Learning about sharks and participating in shark-themed activities.
Owl Prowl	Going on a night hike to observe owls and other nocturnal creatures
Planting trees	Participating in tree planting activities.

Exploration & Travel

Activity	Explanation.
Compass and mapping night	Learning about compasses and maps.
Map Reading	Learn and practice map reading skills for navigation and exploration.
Mapping night	Venturers are dropped off at a location and must find their way to a designated spot using maps.

Film, Media & Photography

Activity	Explanation.
Photo Scavenger Hunt	Explore the surroundings and capture photos of specific items or locations on a scavenger hunt.
Scavenger Hunt - Photos	Take photos of ... Use a list or restrict by something like the letter of the alphabet or a colour
Selfie challenge in city:	Selfie challenge in city: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with a policeman • with a statue • Fed square • On city circle tram • With tourists • Human pyramid • With water • With a Street vendor • With a busker • In a lift • With an animal • Doorway to church • Helping a little old lady across the road • Under the clocks at Flinders street • In a small space • With a luxury car
Outdoor Cinema	Set up a movie screening outdoors, complete with blankets and snacks for a cozy viewing experience.

Food & Cooking

Activity	Explanation.
Parent Dinner	Venturers cook and host a dinner for their parents, showcasing their culinary skills.
Trangia Cooking Night	Host a night where participants use Trangia stoves to prepare meals, encouraging outdoor cooking skills and creativity.
Campfire cooking night	Cooking meals over a campfire.
Lightweight Cooking	Prepare meals using lightweight cooking methods suitable for camping and outdoor adventures.
Trangia Dessert Night	Explore sweet treats and desserts cooked using Trangia stoves, providing opportunities for culinary experimentation and enjoyment.

Nature & Environment

Activity	Explanation.
Great Victorian Bike Ride	Participate in a multi-day bike ride event during summer.
Cycle Treasure Hunt	Participating in a treasure hunt while cycling.
Map making	Learning and practicing map making techniques.
Gardening Night	Engage in gardening activities such as planting and tending to plants.

Games & Competitions

Activity	Explanation.
Glow stick night	Conducting activities using glow sticks.
Jousting	Engaging in jousting activities.
Pancakes on the Move	Create a mobile pancake station with a BBQ setup to make pancakes while exploring different locations.
Gnome Night	Participate in a scavenger hunt to photograph garden gnomes in various locations.
Flashlight tag	Playing tag using flashlights.
Go-Karting	Have an exhilarating time racing go-karts at a track.
Homemade Slide	Create a slippery slide using a tarp, water, and detergent for sliding fun.

Mystery Location City Orientation	Explore the city while solving clues to navigate to mystery locations.
Rain Gutter Regatta	Racing miniature boats in rain gutters.
Red Rover	Playing the game Red Rover.
Soap Basketball	Play basketball with soap as the ball and a bucket of water as the goal, adding a slippery twist to the game.

Recreational & Fun Activities

Activity	Explanation.
Easter Egg Hunt	Participating in an Easter egg hunt.
Caving	Exploring caves with the Victorian Scout Caving team.
Fishing	Learning and practicing fishing techniques.
Lawn Bowls	Enjoy a game of lawn bowls, a relaxing and social activity.
Raft building	Building rafts and testing them in water.
Ride Around the Bay	Organize a cycling trip around the bay area, enjoying scenic views and physical activity.
River rafting	Going river rafting.
Rock Climbing	Scale rock climbing walls, learning about safety procedures and climbing techniques. Consider options like indoor/outdoor/bouldering
Running	Going for a run.
Sailboarding	Experience sailboarding at a water activities center, learning about windsurfing techniques and water safety.
Sailing	Learn sailing skills and techniques while enjoying time on the water.
Ski trip	Going on a skiing trip.
Spelunking(caving)	Exploring caves.
Swimming	Going swimming.
Water skiing	Learning and practicing water skiing techniques.
Amazing Race themed night	A night themed around the popular television show "The Amazing Race," where Venturers race around the city to complete challenges.
Firing Range	Go to the local rifle range and shoot some bullets at a target in a controlled environment

Fishing - Skills	Learning and practicing fishing knots or make hooks even go fishing both options would be better as it can help in a survival situation and is a great life skill .
Full Moon Hike	Going on a hike during a full moon.
Geocaching	Use an app to locate geocaches. You choose where to start.
Golf Driving Range	Practice golf swings at a driving range.
Ice Blocking	Slide down a grassy hill using giant blocks of ice, akin to tobogganing in summer. Hint: Freeze a rope into your block to hold on to.
Ice Skating	Enjoy skating on ice, either at a rink or an outdoor location.
Kayaking	Going kayaking.
Minigolf	Play a round of miniature golf, testing precision and skill.
Minigolf Glow in the Dark at Docklands	Experience a unique twist on minigolf with glow-in-the-dark courses at Docklands.
Mountain Biking	Going mountain biking.
Night Bike Ride to City, Home on Train	Enjoy a nighttime bike ride to the city, followed by a return trip home on the train.
Shooting Range	Learn firearm safety and marksmanship skills at a shooting range under the guidance of trained professionals.
Shooting Range Visit	Visit a shooting range to learn about firearm safety and marksmanship.
Tag (Tiggy) with prizes and rankings	A game of tag with prizes and rankings for participants.
Torch Paintball	Play with torches
Water Fight Night	Beat the heat with a fun-filled water fight night, featuring water balloons, squirt guns, and other water-based games.
Water Pistol Battle	Engage in an epic battle using water pistols, promoting friendly competition and outdoor fun.
Wheels Night - Rollerblading, Roller-Skating	Hit the pavement on wheels with a rollerblading or roller-skating night, promoting fitness and enjoyment on wheels.
Skimboarding	Learning and practicing skimboarding techniques.
Water Slide Games Night	Set up water slides and inflatable obstacles for an exciting night of water-based games and activities.
Laser Tag	Engage in an exciting game of laser tag, navigating through obstacles and tagging opponents.

Safety & First Aid

Activity	Explanation.
Beach/water safety night	Learning about beach and water safety.
First Aid Scenarios	Practicing first aid skills in various scenarios.
First Aid Techniques	Learning and practicing first aid techniques.
Mock Emergency Hike	Simulate an emergency situation during a short hike.
Marine First Aid	Learning first aid techniques specific to marine environments.
Safety on the water	Learning about water safety.
hypothermia and hyperthermia	Learn about hypothermia and hyperthermia.

Scout Skills

Activity	Explanation.
Anything Goes	An open-ended night where any activity can be chosen.
Armstrong 500	A race involving building and racing billy carts.
Fire lighting	Learning different methods of lighting fires.
Meeting Up with a Different Unit	Collaborate with another unit to share programming ideas and activities.
Open Fire Cooking	Cooking meals over an open fire.
Orienteering	Navigate through outdoor terrain using maps and compasses to locate checkpoints.
Preparation for camp	Preparing gear and learning camping skills.
Vic Gathering	Attend the Victorian Gathering event to connect with Scouts from across the state and participate in various activities and workshops.
Purifying Water.	How do you purify water? Spend a night learning how to purify water.
Practicing knot night.	Practice your knots.
Packing.	Collect the correct equipment that is needed for an upcoming activity and demonstrate how it should be packed, including clothing, footwear, sleeping gear, food and water containers and wet and dry gear.
Pitching Tents.	Pitch a tent and fly.
Camp sites.	Teach/ learn about what makes a great camp site.

Gear care.	Learn/ teach about correct gear care. and what factors can impact the requirements.
Menu	Plan a menu for an activity. Considering the groups needs, activity type, time spent active and weight and size restrictions.
Rubbish and waste disposal.	discuss the correct methods of rubbish and waste disposal while out on an expedition.
Fire restriction.	Consider the precautions and restriction of an area. Why are they in place? What does that mean about the environment and season?
Fire Extinguishing.	Learn how to safely extinguish a fire.

Social & Community Nights

Activity	Explanation.
Bubble soccer	Playing soccer while encased in giant inflatable bubbles.
Country weekend	Spending a weekend at a country scout hall.
Dodgeball	Playing dodgeball.
Penny Hike Night	Embark on a hike with twists and turns determined by penny tosses at intersections.
Raft/Houseboat trip	A trip on a raft/houseboat.

Sports & Team Games

Activity	Explanation.
Boxing fitness class	Participating in boxing fitness sessions.
Fitness Bootcamp	Participating in a fitness boot camp.
Hockey	Go to a local sports club
Mini Olympics	Compete in a series of mini Olympic-style games and activities.
Swimming	Enjoy swimming activities for fitness and recreation, improving water safety and aquatic skills.
Volleyball	Organize volleyball matches or tournaments to promote teamwork, coordination, and physical activity.
Croquet	Playing croquet.
Olympic Night	Hosting Olympic-themed competitions and activities.
Football	Playing football.

Football (AFL) night	A night focused on Australian Rules Football.
Frisbee Golf	Playing Frisbee golf- At the hall or look up a nearby park
Golf	Playing golf.
Kart racing	Going kart racing.
Soccer	Playing soccer.
Tandem Bike Riding	Riding tandem bicycles. You can make them out of 2 hard rubbish bikes (Bendy bikes)
Track and Field	Participating in track and field events.
Ultimate Frisbee	Playing ultimate Frisbee.
City Night Drop	Being dropped off in an unknown location in the city and finding the way back.
Cycling	Going on a cycling trip.
Gymnastics Session	Participate in gymnastics activities and exercises.