



UNIT LIFE SURVEY – strengthening our unit PROJECT EVOLVE SILVER PART B – YOUTH SURVEY

- How are the units across our state functioning?
- Does the Scout Method effectively meet their needs??
- Do our youth members enjoy their Scouting experience?

To help us understand the needs of our youth members and learn how to provide better support for success, we have developed a simple survey for all youth members to complete.

Background – how the survey was developed

- Scouts Australia and Curtin University agreed to have university researchers develop a survey to understand the strength of “Unit Life” within the Scouts Australia Youth Program.
- The assessment was geared towards understanding the current effectiveness and implementation of unit life ideals through two avenues:
 - 1) Youth perceptions of the Scout method and
 - 2) Youth psychological outcomes due to Scout participation.
- Survey questions were developed to better understand the psychological outcomes of the Scouts, centred upon their participation in Scouting; these items were generated to assess feelings of belonging, confidence, enjoyment, identity, and impact on self/others.
- In the initial item generation phase, 93 questions were developed to be pilot-tested and validated for statistical strength and utility.
- The items were sent via a Qualtrics survey link to Youth members across the different Australian States.
- Following the testing of the initial 93 items, 17 items were found to meet acceptable thresholds on variability and non-redundancy.
- The final 17 items were categorised into the following groups:
 - Growth and Motivation: To capture Youth’s learning and engagement during Scouting activities.
 - Youth Leading: To assess Youth’s empowerment during Scouting activities.
 - Team health: To capture Youth’s perceptions of their unit’s functioning and their sense of belonging.
 - Scout Identity: To assess Youth’s identification as a Scout and its values.
 - Adult Leadership: To capture Youth’s perceptions of their leader’s effectiveness.
 - Nature/Outdoors: To assess how Scouting helps Youth value nature and the outdoors.
 - Impact on Community: To gauge Youth’s perceptions of having an impact through Scouting activities.
- Further demographic analysis from the pilot testing determined that the full 17-item survey would be administered to older youth (Scouts, Venturers, and Rovers), while 11 items were suitable for Joeys and Cubs.

DATA SECURITY

- Individual youth members can't be identified through the survey. The survey does not collect name, address, date of birth or other personal information.
- Survey data is stored on the Scouts SA servers within Australia.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Survey Item	What it measures	Use for Joeys and Cubs	Use for Scouts, Venturers and Rovers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am – Joey Scout/Cub Scout/Scout/Venturer Scout/Rover Scout • Group • Unit • How many years have you been in your section? (free text) • How many years have you been in Scouts (free text) • What is your gender – Other/Female/Male • What is your age 			
1. Scouts helps me to feel good about myself	Growth and Motivation	X	X
2. I am given opportunities and support to develop as a person	Growth and Motivation		X
3. I enjoy scouts	Growth and Motivation	X	X
4. I want to stay in Scouting	Growth and Motivation	X	X
5. All scouts get a chance to lead activities	Youth Leading	X	X
6. All Scouts play a part in planning, doing and reviewing what we do	Youth Leading		X
7. We get along	Team Health	X	X
8. I am proud of my unit culture	Team Health		X
9. I feel like a scout	Scout Identity	X	X
10. I follow the promise and law	Scout Identity	X	X
11. My adult leader/rover advisor is fun	Adult Leadership	X	X
12. My adult leader/rover advisor is happy to see me when I arrive	Adult Leadership	X	X
13. My adult leader/rover advisor is someone I can rely on	Adult Leadership		X
14. We learn how to protect nature	Nature/Outdoors	X	X
15. We do exciting things outdoors	Nature/Outdoors	X	X
16. Our unit is very active in the community	Impact on Community		X
17. Our unit helps people outside scouts	Impact on Community		X

HOW TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY

- The survey requires a maximum of 10 minutes.
- If required, the questions could be read by another youth member or adult leader, and the helper enters responses for a youth member. Youth members from older sections could assist younger youth members.
- The survey can be completed on any device.
- Units may have devices to use, youth members might bring a device from home, or a couple of tablets, iPads, phones, or laptops are shared by the unit to complete the survey.

- If required, paper copies can be completed. A template of the survey is attached. The paper copies can be scanned and emailed to lauren.bolster@sa.scouts.com.au
- For assistance, please email lauren.bolster@sa.scouts.com.au
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INTRODUCING THE SURVEY – A script you could use

1. *We would like every youth member to participate in the Scouts SA Unit Life survey tonight.*
2. *The purpose of this survey is to allow you to provide us with feedback on your experience with Scouts. We encourage you to use this opportunity to be as honest as possible. Your answers will be used to help improve Scouting across south Australia.*
3. *The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.*
4. *The questions are all in Multiple-Choice format.*
5. *No personal information is collected (including your name).*
6. *Take time to think about your answers.*
7. *If you do not understand a question please ask for help.*
8. *Please ask if you need to start again or help with your device.*

If required, the link can be shared with youth members to complete the survey at home.

SURVEY LINK: surveymonkey.com/r/QRFVFFY

The link will also be shared through a youth update.

WHEN COMPLETED

Please email lauren.bolster@sa.scouts.com.au to inform our team that all members have completed the survey so that the data can be collated.

SURVEY FEEDBACK

- A summary will be returned to the Unit Leader and Group Leader. This will include basic information on how to interpret the data.