

Scouting@Home



Ideas for Non Face to Face

Scouting is an organisation that encourages positive thinking and resilience. Now is the time for our Youth Members to know that Scouting is still operating, even if they cannot see us face to face!

If you are struggling with some ideas on how to keep things going, we've assembled some ideas for you to consider looking into. We know that many will be busy caring for yourselves or other vulnerable people in your lives, and some of these ideas may be time consuming or not practical, but doing just one or two of these things may provide an opportunity for our youth members and keep them connected with Scouting.

Tip #1: Keep Regular Routines

Routines are important in times of uncertainty. They restore a feeling of normality amongst a pile of chaos and unknowns and help alleviate feelings of panic and anxiety. Keeping a regular routine will also keep your scouts in touch with the idea that scouting is a regular part of their lives and they are more likely to re-engage once all services resume.

How?

- If you send out newsletters, keep sending them when you usually would, just adjust your content. Even if it just gives a brief update of what you are doing with our time whilst scouting isn't happening as it usually would, it keeps the routine going.
- Send a message or activity just ahead of the time when you would usually have your scout meeting
- Create a safe, secure online chat group and be available for the time you would usually have your scout meetings. Alternatively, let scouts know you are at home and ready to answer their calls during normal scout meeting times.
- Hold online meetings – there are a range of options you can explore - <http://qstore.sa.scouts.com.au/scoutingfromhome/running-online> at your usual scout meeting time
- In the wake of major events being cancelled (like Anzac Day March), that your scouts may have been looking forward to participate in, think about what you can do instead. e.g, Send out an Anzac biscuit recipe and the story of the Anzac biscuit, and ask the scouts to bake Anzac biscuits at home

Tip # 2: Use Video engagement-

Kids are used to engaging in visual media. Think TV, YouTube, NetFlix, even TikTok. Why not engage this popular form of learning for your scout program? If scouts see and hear your voice or face, it also helps them to realise you are still around and willing to help them in their scouting journeys.

How?

- Create Your Own - so kids still see your face, send them short video instructionals that they can watch in their own time. Read a story from the jungle book or a yarn from BP, instruct them on how to do something (tie a knot, Make a tin can metho cooker, run a simple scout's own activity, the possibilities are endless!)
- Use someone else's hard work - provide a link to a cool you tube clip with scouting-related content for the kids to check out

Tip #3: Use your work!

If you've written a program for the term, don't waste it!

How?

Use this as a framework for something to send out in a newsletter or an activity for your scouts to do each week. Those who were helping to organise an activity can still help, generate ideas and put them into practice.

Tip #4: Encourage activities in the home setting

To take the initiative of keeping active in an isolated setting so they have something to focus on if all other extra activities have been put on hold

How?

- Set simple tasks they can do at home and encourage them to interact back with you if they complete them. As an example, make a fleur de lis out of stuff around your house, take a pic and email/text it in. Then the leader creates an “online gallery” of all the entries they have had so everyone can admire each other’s work of use of nature and scraps. They don’t always have to be typical scouting tasks. Sometimes they could just be something a bit fun, to keep up morale (i.e., pull a funny face or dress your pet up in something hilarious and take a funny photo). Set up an obstacle course for your family to complete.
- Look at your award scheme / personal progressions and see if you can set “personal progression challenges” or “badge work challenges” for Scouts to complete at home (e.g., Get into your back yard and create a bush shelter with whatever you can find, put your parent or sibling into the recovery position)
- Encourage the scouts to look through their record books independently and set their own challenges and goals for things they can achieve at home whilst meetings are in hiatus. Scouts can go through and check their “I can” “I have” statements. They can contact you with their ideas. Special Interest Areas are a perfect opportunity here!
- (Groups on the old system may have old badges to use up, so scouts may wish to research and earn a badge they wouldn’t have previously before they were stuck at home e.g. Art, Animal Keeper, Astronomer, Commerce, Communication, Craft, Cultural Heritage, Information Technology, Literacy Arts, Modeller, Multi Media, Music, Science, Technology, World Scouting)

Tip # 5: Create feelings of connectedness.

People are being put in more and more isolated positions as regular activities close down. Strong mental health requires social interaction with other human beings. It is important that we try and create this feeling amongst our youth, even if we cannot meet face to face.

How?

- Sharing what kids do with everyone else – encourage them to send tasks to you and then add these in your regular newsletters
- Use closed Facebook pages for older sections to interact with each other
- Send photos of what your group has done so far this year, or highlights from last year to your scouts to remind them that scouting is social

*NOTE: Ensure you check that members are happy to have images shared if you plan on doing this.

Tip # 6: Go old fashioned... Use snail mail!

Scouting is interactive and hands on. You can keep that element going.

How?

- Send an activity pack through the post. Ideas could be some cut up bits of that old rope in your scout hall for scouts to practice their whippings and splices with, materials to complete a craft activity (probably suits younger age-groups better)
- Have PL’s organise for scouts to call different patrol members on the phone or via video calls e.g. skype during what would be the meeting time each with a certain topic to discuss or just to touch base