

Scouting@Home



User Guide: 5 May 2020

During this time of uncertainty and change in our lives, it is vital that Scouting continues for our members.

Scouts provides social connection, support for positive mental health, supervision and a degree of normality when so much else is changing, and of course Scouts is fun, provides leadership opportunities and much more.

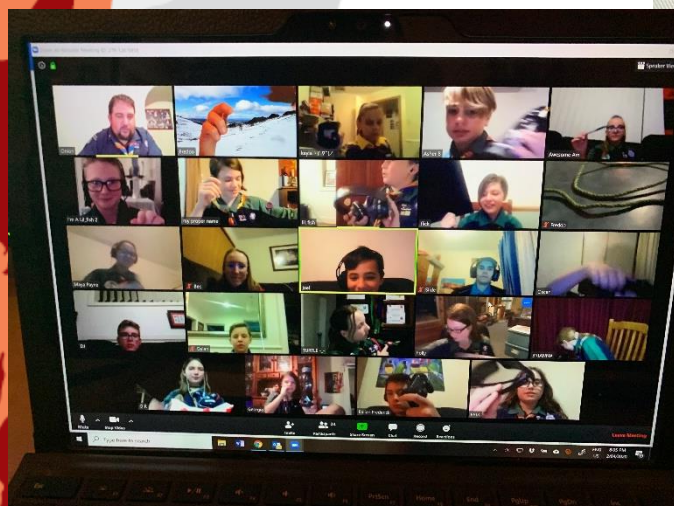
Many other activities are shut down completely – but Scouting can continue through our online programs.

Here are some thoughts for you on how you can look at Scouting in an online world

- Regular weekly programs
- Activities
- Technology
- Child Safety
- Preparation
- Inclusion

An important first step before reading on is to know your Unit!

- Does everyone have access to the internet?
- Can you still be inclusive?
- Activities you plan may need to vary – families and parents have a lot going on right now with changes so may not be able to facilitate a super active Scout program involving cooking, creating and lots of 'preparation'
- For those who can't be involved online, can you modify your weekly program to suit this and still include youth members?

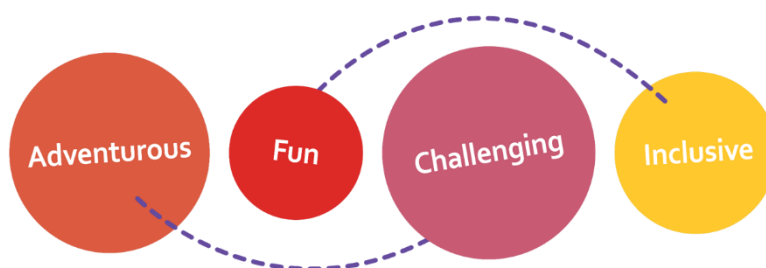


Regular Programming

There is no reason not to continue the framework of your regular meeting – however things will potentially look a bit different. Try to keep some level of normality but think about what works best for your Unit.

Ensure everyone wears their uniform – or at least a scarf! These are some of the basics of what we do week in week out.

A weekly online program could look like the below – but if your Unit Council and Leader team come up with something different that's fine too!



Your weekly program

Opening	Welcome Flag break? Attendance News or highlights to share (anyone's birthday?)
Plan>Do>Review>	Recap last week Acknowledge those who completed any tasks during the week What's coming up today?
Game	An activity/game to get people active and thinking Lots of ideas – send in your favourites to add to our idea bank
Activity/Program	Could be activity sheets Could be done together in the meeting Could be a demonstration for youth to try out later
Social time	An activity for everyone to connect Give some pre-warning before hand Tell a joke Show us your pet Baby photos – who is who?
A Skill	Set a challenge or a fun thing to practice for the next week Making scroggin How to make a coin disappear Finding north using the Southern Cross
Close	Ask youth for their highlights of the meeting Present badges virtually Investitures Reflection/review Flag down?

Activities

Scouts SA is working with a team nationally to develop a range of resources and activity ideas that can be used as part of your program.

These can be accessed through the Q-Store at <http://qstore.sa.scouts.com.au/scoutingfromhome/>.

There are lots of other activities circling the internet too which are also great to look at and include if your Unit wants to. Remember access to resources and ensuring as many people can be included as possible.

Scouts SA is emailing out a weekly Scouting@Home email each Friday with a range of ideas – a weekly challenge that can be completed by anyone – you may be able to work this into your weekly program as well.

Ideas will be tagged by section and challenge area, making it easy to put together your balanced program.

Setting up your weekly meeting

Before your weekly meeting, remember to remind your youth members about the meeting

- The date and time
- A reminder on how to join your meeting
- Any materials they need to have
- Do you need to prepare a resources box – can be collected from the Scout hall for the next few weeks of activities?

How can I structure our program?

Here is the way one Cub Unit has looked to structure their programs.

- **Weekly Cub Unit meetings** where we get together via videoconferencing, share what we are working on and run some fun activities (e.g. Scavenger Hunt)
- **Challenges** designed for the Cubs to do at home, in their own time. They are aligned with the Scouting program so the Cubs can achieve milestones (badges).
- **On-line activities run by Scouts and Scouting-affiliated groups** that expose Cubs to different on-line experiences.

How to get started

Here is a short list to get you started – there are many more ideas out there though!

- Making pizza
- Origami lessons
- Sleepovers (at your own home)
- Dance parties
- Virtual hikes (digital map & co-ordinates, images)
- Research on ANZAC memorials and activities
- Virtual family camps – 24hours of activities and post, share photos
- Home based scavenger hunts
- Unit Councils
- Magic tricks
- Guest speakers

Technology

Learning new skills is exciting – for adults as well as youth.

There are many options including Zoom, Google Hangouts or a range of others!

Zoom

Across Scouting, Zoom has quickly become the standard for meetings across a range of formations, including weekly Section meetings, as well as Group Councils, District meetings and more.

There is a cost to Zoom if you wish to subscribe.

Scouts SA has some accounts available but these need to be booked by emailing hq@sa.scouts.com.au.



The free version would also be adequate if your meetings are less than 40 minutes. You can resend an invite to a second meeting when this one runs out!

- You can host up to 100 participants (that's a big Joey Unit)
- Unlimited 1-to-1 meetings
- 40-minute limit on group meetings
- Unlimited number of meetings

You can meet through Zoom by phone, iPad, laptop, desktop.

To join a Zoom meeting, you don't need to have Zoom installed on your computer.

However, if you're the host, you'll need to download and install the

software package.

The host sets up the meeting, and the invitation list.

The host needs to be familiar with many options available, such as muting all speakers, or allowing one to speak, letting us share their screen (e.g. a PL or Leader) or being the only one to share screen:

- For those who would like more assistance with using Zoom, check out our Leader Guide to Zoom.

We need to be aware of how to use the equipment safely, just like everything is we do in Scouting.

Here are some ideas of things to think about when running a Zoom meeting. For more information, include specific instructions, check out our Leaders Guide to Zooming.

Some functions to check out:

- Use the password function to avoid unexpected people joining you.
 - Use the waiting room, so you only let Scouting people in.
 - Set screen share to "host only"
 - Disable "join before the host". It's a bit like letting the kids into the hall before you arrive!
 - You could disable the chat function, including private chat between participants
 - Share the work: the host Leader can make a fellow Leader a 'co-host' so they can help manage muting and the supervision of the room. Just like at the hall, they can help with sharing content when appropriate. It also means, if you use "break out rooms", Leaders can move between "rooms" just like you do in the hall to check in on Patrols or Sixes.
- Be aware anyone could be recording your meeting, without permission.

- For younger sections, send meeting invitations to parents. For older sections, send to both parents and youth.
- Remember you are always visible.
- Don't eat or drink anything you wouldn't eat or drink in the hall.
- Keep your background blurred.

Leaders are learners too:

- Understand some Leaders and youth members will be better at this than others - allow time for everyone to learn
- Look after yourself as Leaders too – this is a new world for you, ask to visit other Groups to learn and share your experiences (as travel isn't required this should be easier to do)
- Enable Leaders to share their experiences good and bad – learn by doing

Scouting@Home in MyScout

Scouts SA will shortly be introducing a new module within MyScout to support Scouting@Home.

This portal will include the functionality to

- Chat with your Unit and Patrol
- Plan activities
- Upload photos of activities
- Facilitate unit council ideas and planning

More on this new module very soon!

Scouts SA

[Go Back](#)

Happy Valley Cub Unit 1 (Pathfinder)

Unit Chat

Current Topic
test

Next Scheduled Topic
test

Activities & Forum

My Messages

Unit Gallery

Group Gallery

SA Gallery

Unit Meeting

Next Scheduled Meeting
Test 1
How to Participate

Email Broadcast

Create A Patrol

Schedule Meeting

Add a Story

Congratulations Term 1 Achievers!

Cub of the Term... Most badges earned... SPICES award all this and more. [\[MORE\]](#)

Term 2 Program

Lots of fun challenges and ways to cover all six SPICES [\[MORE\]](#)

Patrols

Unit Council

Microsoft Teams

Office365 and Microsoft Teams is also being rolled out across our organisation – this will enable Groups and Activity Teams to meet and collaborate easily as well.

Child Safe Scouting

Nothing is more important than the safety of the young people in our care.

Child safety in an online meeting is like a regular meeting in the hall. We follow the same protocols.

Parents are always welcome. Nothing is a secret in Scouting.

Parents will be curious to sit in on early online meetings. This is good!

One-on-one communications between Leaders and youth members are not OK.

Use a shared email to send out activity sheets and reminders to your Section, and for them to send in any enquiries or examples of their badge work or activity challenges.

Communications – like emails about the next online meeting, or phone calls to parents – should be in normal Scout hours, not late at night or too early.

Our Code of Conduct and guidelines on unacceptable behaviour govern how we act as Leaders, whether in the hall, on camp, or running an online meeting.

You might remind your youth members:

- To keep language and behaviour nice – it may not be apparent who is watching, like parents or younger siblings. The Scout Law and Promise still work in a virtual world.
- To share their emails, photos and videos of their work with their parents before sending them to the Leaders.
- Normal rules apply to behaviour between Scouts. No-one should make another youth member feel unsafe or excluded. A youth member who feels unsafe, or unsure of what to do, should talk with a trusted adult as soon as possible.



Scout Safe

While Scouting@Home it is also important to ensure our activities are safe for everyone to participate in.

When planning activities, please keep in mind the principles of our Scout Safe and manage the risks as you would do for an activity at the hall and in line with our Safety Standards and Procedures.

Ensure that activities you are planning for Youth Members factor in if adult supervision is required (i.e. cooking) to ensure no incidents in the home environment. Similarly, activities like scavenger hunts we are not asking youth members to run around their house to collect things.

Parent Permission: By sending through the details for an online meeting, we are inferring parent consent for the attendance and participation in Scouting@Home programs. Please ensure links to every meeting are being sent to parents of all members under 18 as part of your regular communication with families.

Please ensure the program is outlined in detail in the parents email, to help them with consent.

Be Prepared

As a team of Leaders in your Section, there are a few things to do NOW:

1. Choose your platform for online meetings. (check out the Q-Store for some ideas, discuss as a Group)
2. Practice it. A meeting with fellow Section Leaders? A Section Council?
3. Read up on any security issues that you need to be aware of.
4. Check you have current contact details for all your youth members, e.g. preferred family email, mobile numbers.
5. Are you doing anything in the holidays to keep your Section connected?

A week before

- Confirm your program with your Section Council and Leaders.
- Prepare the information you need to send to your members.
- For the Youth members who may be assisting or leading an activity, do you need to prepare anything specific with them?

Three days before your meeting:

- Send your invite to members and parents
- Include a list of equipment they might need and the activity for the week

On the day of your meeting

- Open the platform 15 minutes early, maybe have a prepared question they can answer
- Allocate a Leader who will assist with technical support for the meeting
- Have a great, fun meeting
- Check off your attendance and record as you normally would
- Share your ideas with program@sahq.scouts.com.au and send in images of you Scouting@Home
- Ensure you send out a follow up email
 - Seek feedback from youth members
 - Seek feedback from parents
 - Who couldn't attend? Do you know why? Make sure to try and include everyone

Be Prepared – for new members!

- When your youth members say they have a friend who wants to join in the online meetings, do you have a plan in place?
- At this stage, focus on expanding the Scouting adventure for all!
- Some may choose to just participate online for now.
- If your Section now has 24 members, why not 30 when you return to the hall and the outdoors?
- Can you promote in your local community that Scouting is continuing – a recruitment opportunity

What else to consider as part of the program

- Encourage families to share activity examples where they are comfortable sharing – to your Group pages, Scouts SA etc
- Do you need to update your Unit Code for an online world?
- What can you do as a Group to encourage the section transition for those ready to move to the next section?
- Can you create project patrols across sections for specific interests? Musical instruments?
- If Leaders are not able to facilitate online, can sections pair up or can someone in the group assist?

Tips and Considerations for Inclusivity

Avoid Assumptions

It is important to avoid making decisions about your Unit's Scouting@Home program without consulting with every youth member and their families first. Use the school holidays to contact all families by phone and check in with them. In these uncertain times, we should not assume that everyone's situation is like yours. We have provided some ideas for questions to ask below.

Compassionate Inclusion

Many families are currently grappling with complex issues such as unemployment, financial difficulties and potentially domestic challenges but it is important that youth remain connected with Scouting.

In this challenging world climate, you may find that some families wish to disengage from Scouting during the pandemic and social restrictions. If you come across this, ensure you display an understanding demeanour and discuss ways to stay in contact to make sure they can resume when restrictions are lifted.

Also discuss ways that they can continue engaging by doing SIA projects.

Technological Inclusion

There is much discussion circulating about how to support members with limited internet access. Many families do have internet access, but it is important to consider that some families may have inadequate devices or technological skills. Not all devices support apps like Zoom and many families would be limited to tablet technology like phones and iPads. Some may not have a laptop or may be operating outdated systems. Be considerate of this and accommodate accordingly. Technological challenges should not be a reason to exclude members. Get creative.

Social Inclusion

Scouting attracts and welcomes many types of people. It is likely that we all know youth and adults who thrive at Scout halls in different ways than most. We usually see many young people with sensory or social challenges including Autism, ADHD, ODD (oppositional defiance disorder) and anxiety disorders among others in our halls weekly.

Scouting provides them with a stimulating, challenging and safe environment to explore the world around them in relatively informal settings. Consider how to best include these young people.

Their parents often know them best so don't be afraid to ask for ideas about how to engage them in the Scouting@Home program. Be considerate and patient with the fact that some people (including some adult members) will find online environments like Zoom chats quite overwhelming.



Follow this link to read more about supporting people with disabilities with online learning experiences:
<https://blog.learnfasthq.com/how-to-improve-accessibility-to-online-learning-for-people-with-special-needs>

Questions to Ask Families

Ask each family the following questions and if there appear to be limitations for any families discuss ways in which they can still participate

- How are you? Are there any changes in your lives you would like to share with us?
- Tell us about your access to technology. Do you have internet access? What devices do you use to access the internet? Have you or your child used any types of video call software?
- How can we best support you and your young person to access our program?

The Scouts SA Inclusion team is ready and willing to support members throughout Scouting@Home.

Like us on Facebook at 'Scouts SA - Diversity & Inclusion', email us at bc.inclusion@sa.scouts.com.au and request to join the 'Inclusive Scouting Australia' Facebook group to network with leaders across Australia about matters of Diversity & Inclusion.

