

Cub Peak Award Requirements while Scouting @ Home



The COVID-19 Pandemic has seen life, as we know it, change to protect ourselves and each other. The way we Scout has had to rapidly change in the space of hours, which has seen the cancellation of face-to-face activities. Support has been implemented for Groups to continue their program by Scouting @ Home.

It is likely the COVID-19 Pandemic is going to disrupt traditional face-to-face Scouting and our Program for many months. The way each State or Territory is affected may also differ at times. Public Health strategies that are being implemented to stop the spread of disease include social distancing, lockdown, isolation and rolling phases of lockdown or isolation.

As the Scouts Australia Program Handbook states, “some Scouts may be limited by aspects out of their control. As an inclusive movement, we should always do our best to help these Scouts achieve as much as possible.” (Scouts Australia Program Handbook, page 83).

For those Youth Members currently undertaking their final steps towards achieving their Peak Award COVID-19 poses some significant challenges.

This is an outline of the modifications to be made to ensure no Youth Member is disadvantaged in completing their Peak Award, whilst we adhere to Federal, State or Territory Government social distancing policies.

Timeline & Impact

The following modifications are in force whilst Federal, State or Territory COVID-19 social distancing rules are being enforced within NSW.

Modifications are only to be made for Youth Members who would normally be completing their Peak Award during the time period that Federal, State or Territory COVID-19 social distancing rules are being enforced.

Modifications cannot be used to exempt or accelerate a Youth Member through their Award Scheme, Achievement Pathways or Program Essentials or onto their Peak Award.

Level 1, Quad 3
102 Bennelong Parkway,
Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127
ABN 42 460 434 054

PO Box 125,
Lidcombe NSW 1825

T 02 9735 9000

info@nsw.scouts.com.au
nsw.scouts.com.au



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Modifications for OLD Award Scheme Groups

Grey Wolf Hike (Adventurous Journey): The planning of an Adventurous Journey should still be undertaken. This is an element that can be easily facilitated in the Scouting @ Home virtual space. The Youth Member should also undertake a review of the plan they have created – this way they have facilitated the Planning and Reviewing processes of the Adventurous Journey.

Their journey may not be able to take place, but elements of the journey may be able to be accommodated, documented, and reviewed.

- The Cub Scout could take their immediate family members on a journey using their local neighbourhood, whilst parents ensure they meet government requirements. This does not need to be the same hike as planned. The purpose of this is to give the Cub Scout the experience of leading other participants and having to think about the basic requirements of a group outing.
- Calling out the nature items and information about these could be acquired online and shared in a portfolio.

A review is required of all elements including the planning and modified journey. This review should occur with the Cub Unit Council where the Unit Chair could ask some questions, allowing the Cub to demonstrate knowledge of:

- Appropriate dress for a hike, including shoes, sun safety and temperature control.
- Consideration has been given to what to do if there is an accident / incident and what first aid items might be taken on the hike.
- Why we walk at the pace of the slowest person and how important this is for safety
- Checking in with members as they are walking to ensure they are coping with the walk and doing okay.
- How to take the lead without being overly bossy.
- An overall review of the hike, what worked well, what not so well, how the patrol felt about the journey and if there is anything, they would change next time.

An Overnight Camp: Should the Cub Scout not have completed an overnight camp; this is achievable with the concept of Camp @ Home. Cubs can set up camp in the back yard, living room or porch and run a remote camp with their family. If they do not have a tent at home, consider

creation of a fort with blankets, tarpaulins and chairs the Cub Scout could sleep under. The possibilities of a Camp @ Home are endless.

All other areas of the Peak Award Scheme should be able to be completed in the Scouting @ Home environment. Considerations and integrations of these elements into your virtual program should occur and resources are available via many of the states Scouting @ Home internet pages and following the various groups on social media.

Modifications for Current Program Groups

Progressing through the Achievement Pathways and Program Essentials is a core part of our Program. Achievement Pathways and Program Essentials contribute directly to the personal development and informal education of our young people. These elements of our program rely on being able to actively participate in the program by doing activities with a Patrol or Unit, and this will continue. Scouting @ Home has been set up to assist with this and each State is preparing and distributing significant amounts of resources to assist here.

Outdoor Adventure Skills: Outdoor Adventure Skills are not easy to modify, as a significant element of progressing through the Stages involves completing outdoor pursuits.

Some elements of the Outdoor Adventure Skills and their Stages will be able to be completed virtually - either through self-directed learning and evidence upload or by instruction. Virtual completion of these elements also allows for the Two-Down approach to be continued - linking members virtually to achieve the goals required.

If a Youth Member requires only one progression to achieve their Peak Award, consideration should be given to awarding the Peak Award with one less progression than mandated as to not delay their personal progression through to the next section.

Nights Under Canvas: Youth members are encouraged to think outside the box in order to complete their Nights Under Canvas or Camping Requirements. This could involve setting up a camp in their backyards, living rooms, veranda's - the opportunities are endless! Youth members should be creative and seek the support of their parents when considering their camp location.

Modifications to Participate, Assist, Lead: Even in a virtual environment, Participate, Assist and Lead can still occur. This is easier to facilitate in the younger sections in a virtual environment.

For the older sections, particularly when it is expected that Assists and Leads involve a sustained effort over a period of time (such as organising an event or camp), they should be encouraged to continue with their chosen Assists and Leads or supported to modify their goals. Emphasis should be placed on the planning and reviewing of the process and modification of goals if required.

Evidence: Whilst undertaking the Scouting @ Home program and modifications to the Achievement Pathways, collection of evidence will be key for Units. All youth should be encouraged to record their progress within the digital system. Photos, vlogs, reports, posters - the recording of evidence is up to each Youth Member and the Unit to decide together what works best for the individual.

Leadership / Personal Development Course: Whilst undertaking the Scouting @ Home program and State and Region teams will work to reconstruct an online, virtual delivery of this course. It is likely the Youth Members will need to perform some pre-course work to be presented in their online session and will need the support of the Unit Council, Leaders and Parents to complete the elements. Construction of a visual portfolio including video might be an option for this.

Until such time as an online program has been developed, the Unit Council should assess the Cub Scout against the learning outcomes of the Cub Scout Leadership / Personal Development Course.

The Unit Council should schedule an online meeting with the Cub Scout as a formal but comfortable gathering, where the Unit Council is able to review evidence from the Cub Scout demonstrating their experience in each of the learning outcome areas. This is a reflection process and there is no pass or fail. This online meeting is to help the Cub Scout review the skills and experience they have gained while in the Cub Scout Section and how they have applied these learnings in their every-day life.

- Problem Solving
- Communication
- Task Management
- Leadership
- Planning
- Community Involvement

Leadership / Personal Development skills should be learnt in the weekly Scouting program if the youth member is active in the program. The attendance at such a course should be an extension of this learning.

Simple Principles for Supporting Scouts Achievement During This Scouting @ Home period.

With more people staying at home, Scouts should be encouraged to work independently or in small groups (Activity Patrols) on their Award Scheme or [Achievement Pathways](#). This is particularly important for young people who will progress to the next section in the next six months and wish to achieve their Peak Award.

As there are many different methods of doing Scouting @ Home, these simple principles have been developed to support each youth member continuing with their progress in the Award Scheme or Achievement Pathways which recognises their personal achievements.

- No youth member is to be disadvantaged during the pandemic and should be actively encouraged to work on their Achievement Pathways or Award Scheme.
- At all times, standards, rules and regulations set by the government must be followed. [Click here](#) for up to date NSW information.
- Resilience should be encouraged and recognised through any adjustments that are made.
- Working on some aspects of the [Outdoor Adventure Skills](#) and most of the [Special Interest Areas](#) are highly achievable and transferable to the Old Award Scheme.
- Leaders should support each member to make available, every opportunity to complete award requirements
- Modifications may be needed, and youth and leaders should consider how best to achieve outcomes given the restrictions of the pandemic, to ensure youth can still achieve the same educational outcome.
- In the younger sections, parents should be involved to ensure personal challenges are attainable and assist with supervision given their specific circumstances.
- Each Scout must be challenged personally and participate in the Plan>Do>Review> process.
- Wherever possible, members of the Unit Council should be involved in the approval process. This can happen via online meetings in your virtual Scout Halls.
- Where possible and appropriate, small activity patrols involving other Scouts or other people who are non-Scouts (brothers and sisters) could be involved.