

Joey 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.

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Modifications for OLD Award Scheme Groups

Caring and Sharing Badge: Joeys might can demonstrate their ability to complete this award at home, with family and neighbours. They can also demonstrate this with their local Front-Line Workers if they go to the shops with their parents.

Buddy Scheme Badge: Joeys can discuss and show an understanding of what the buddy system means and why it is important on Scouting events and generally in life. They can let you know how to stay in touch with their friends during this unusual time.

Environment Challenge Badge: All requirements for this award are adaptable and can be achieved from the Joey's home with assistance from their family members. A Review and presentation of their achievements could be done during your on-line meeting. There are lots of resources on the Joey Resources Facebook page:

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/JoeyScoutResources>)

Adventure Challenge Badge: Joeys can complete this badge whilst on a daily walk with their parents and possibly venture into a new location or include some geocaching. Another possibility is the use of google street view and take an online hike. Joey Scouts might detail their route and note the interesting things they see around the area.

Promise Challenge Peak Award: Joey Scouts can continue to prepare and present their portfolio. They could visually present a static portfolio, or it could be an online live presentation to the Mob Council. It is important in these times to remember awarding of a Peak Award should be to the individual's best ability and the current situation of isolation must be taken into consideration.

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.

Bushcraft Stage 1: This element can be completed via virtual meetings with the assistance and support of the parents / caregivers at home. Many of these Plan > Do > Review can be completed in weekly virtual meetings and should be able to proceed.

Bushwalking Stage 1: Consideration to utilising a previous bushwalk for the review process can assist to achieve this area. The walk does not need to be done in the bush and could be a walk they go on with their parents as part of their daily exercise.

Camping Stage 1: Joey Scouts could work with their family to set up a campsite in the back yard or family room. They could create a recount of the event to discuss with the Mob Unit Council as part of their review to demonstrate their knowledge and doing of the event.

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.

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.