



Scouts SA Communication

COVID-19 - 24 March 2020

Dear Leaders, Adult Members, Rovers, Parents, Staff and Employees,

AS AT 4.25PM Tuesday 24 March 2020

Latest Update

The singular source we use for our day to day advice on the changing situation is the Federal Health Department Website at: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/coronavirus-update-at-a-glance>.

This website provides constant updates and is the most current and authoritative source of information for COVID-19 developments.

Further to our advice of 18 March and in line with the latest Prime Minister's address to the Nation, on Sunday night, we can now provide our current understanding for Scouting for the coming months.

The Department has also issued its latest (updated 23 March) FAQ Information Sheet at <https://www.health.gov.au/news/read-our-frequently-asked-questions-about-coronavirus-covid-19>

The latest update has focused on the Government's perception of the general community's inability to demonstrate social distancing at non-essential gatherings. Current Face-to-face Scouting meets the 'non-essential' Government guidelines and although we have postponed large activities, our ability to demonstrate social distancing in groups is difficult to demonstrate widely.

What does this mean for us?

Together with Scouts Australia, we are advising all Scout Groups and Activities to move to “Scouting from Home” (which means Units will not meet in Groups) by the end of this week, (Friday 27th March) until further notice.

Whilst we won't have physical face to face meetings, we can look at the opportunities available to us to communicate digitally. Our program can still develop young people and build resilience and self-confidence – qualities that young people across South Australia need now more than ever. Indeed, this situation gives us the opportunity to excel in this and develop our systems further to the point where Scouting can flourish regardless of our traditional understanding of how we used to operate!

Our Program team is currently working with Program teams nationally to collate several resources to support this. Our Performing Arts team are already looking at alternate program ideas. One of these is radio plays! (please see <https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/radio-plays/10532028>) We will also be delivering some options of the best platforms for Scouting at Home and importantly how to use them safely.

It is important that our communication and engagement with both our youth and parents is increased to retain our members within Scouting during this period and through to the other side. This means not only SCOUT PROGRAM CONTENT but also 'engagement emails' ... 'How Are you' ... 'how is your hike planning going?'... 'Woodhouse is still open for holiday camps' Reminders that our Scout Shop sells 'on-line' ... for ALL YOUR OUTDOOR NEEDS... AND our wholly owned SRC IS STILL OPEN TO RECEIVE YOUR BOTTLE AND CANS for cash during these worst of times...

Our Scout Halls and Activity Centres are not closed! It is important to understand that we still need the Halls and equipment to be maintained, secured, monitored and developed. We just need to abide by the Health Guidelines of Social Distancing, Hand washing and Good Hygiene. It's "SCOUTING FROM HOME" rather than 'Scouting' is closed.

What about our Branch Support?

Scouts SA has developed a plan that will ensure we continue to support you and your Group. It is our intention to have all staff continue working, either at the HQ or remotely from home at all times. We have developed a BRAVO and WHISKEY shift scenario, where half of the staff are working from home, and team WHISKEY is physically at the HQ. If the worst situation occurs, team BRAVO will step-up at the HQ and the other shift goes home in self isolation. This means that any one time, you can phone, or email the HQ and someone will answer you. The CEO will be present at the HQ continuously. All our systems are

cloud-based and staff can access what they need to in order to continue supporting you. Your records and other information will have the same high level of security as they do now.

At this time, the preferred method of contact to ensure your enquiry is attended to in a timely manner is email to hq@sa.scouts.com.au. Our team will be able to then best direct your query. Otherwise, you can call us on 08 8130 6000 or Free call 1800SCOUTS. WOODHOUSE, our SCOUT OUTDOOR CENTRE and the SCOUT RECYCLING DEPOTS will all remain open at this stage. Please share this with your Scouting and general community.

How can you help?

We ask that where you have the ability, please forward all forms electronically to the hq@sa.scouts.com.au address. If you need to visit someone at HQ please make an appointment to ensure that person is available for you. We want to ensure you receive the same level of support (and more) through this period.

Scout GROUPS and SECTIONS will receive more operational detail in the coming days.

Scouting in South Australia will continue to follow the guidance of the Australian Government Health Department (AGHD) and the decisions of the Australian National Cabinet, as well as the recommendations and informed advice provided by State and Territory Health and Education departments, in relation to mass gathering limits, good hygiene, self-isolation, and social distancing.

The Scouts SA Branch Executive Committee, the Chief Commissioner and the CEO are coordinating our response to this global challenge which impacts on all of us. We are available at the HQ or through the Scout structure to provide guidance as you need. We will be closely monitoring these changing circumstances and will issue our next advice as new information and direction is received.

If any member is diagnosed with Coronavirus, this is to be reported to the Branch HQ in the quickest way possible (direct telephone in working hours (08) 8130 6000, or, the incident report line on (08) 8378 2412).

Please contact us if you are in doubt as to what to do, or how to react. Common sense is the key.

SO, at this stage ... it's "SCOUTING FROM HOME" ... from Friday 27 March. From this point, next Monday the SA Branch Scout HQ will also change into BRAVO and WHISKEY shifts. More detail on 'Program' to follow.

CEO and Chief Commissioner
Scouts SA