



Scouts
WA

Branch Youth Council

Venturer Scouts & School Survival Guide

Presented by the WA Branch Youth Council



Welcome to the updated Venturer Scouts and School Survival Guide. This guide is designed to help you understand how to balance being involved in the Scouting movement, while also maintaining your school commitments - whether that be WACE or other certifications/traineeships.

Venturer Scouts is a place where you will not only participate in a diverse, challenging, inclusive, and fun program, but also where you will learn a lot of skills that will be useful in the transition to becoming an adult - from time management, to organisation, to project planning. These skills can seem daunting at first, but your time in Venturers will help you develop them as you balance up all the things you have to do. Being a part of Scouting offers you a unique opportunity to learn these skills, and also has the potential to earn a Certificate II in business, or SCSA endorsed points towards your WACE. Speak to your school about how to register these points if you are interested.

Being a part of Venturers and the Scouting movement also allows you to improve your CV, which is super useful if you're starting to look for work. Scouting allows you to add skills, volunteer experience, and leadership roles to your CV, which are highly sought after features by employers.

Common problems experienced while doing Venturers as well as school commitments include that it is often difficult to juggle meeting nights and weekend activities, as well as homework, sports, work, and taking time to look after yourself. Not being able to find this balance often means people will drop out of Scouts, or feel like their program becomes very repetitive and not interesting. This guide aims to help change those attitudes!

This guide will help you program your weekly program around other commitments and offer some tips for completing your QSA while studying.

Structuring a Scouting program around other commitments

While you're in Venturers, you want to run a program that is fun and challenging, while also allowing it to be a time that you can relax. If a program isn't properly planned, it is likely your activities will fall through or not be very interesting, and you will see membership start to decrease. On the other hand, if you do not allow any flexibility in your program, people may be unable to meet the requirements of a strict program, and you will run less enjoyable activities. There is no one perfect program that will take into account the timetables, schedules, and preferences of all your members, however some of these tips will help your Unit organise a great program.

- Get everyone involved: Use all of your Unit members' talents and skills to run activities and weekly nights. Activities could be based around a skill they have that they want to teach, or something they are passionate about. By sharing around the organisation of your program, no one ends up getting too stressed out.
- Make time to Plan > Do > Review: Doing fun things isn't the only important part of Venturers. Taking the time to make good plans, and making your planning sessions fun, as well as ensuring that you review what went well, and what could be improved on.
- Take advantage of other Units: See if you can contact a local Rover Scout Unit, another Venturer Scout Unit within your District, and see if they're interested in running an event with you. This will help keep you connected, take some pressure off your Unit members, and let you see what other Groups in your area are doing, so you can use those ideas in the future.

Tips to achieve your QSA and school success

Are you looking to achieve your Queen's Scout Award while also completing Year 11 & 12? Here are some tips to make the process as smooth and stress free as possible:

- Get started early: The more that you can do during school holidays, or before school gets very busy with exams or assignments, the better. It is worth sitting down and drawing up a plan of the rest of the time you have left in Venturers and planning out when you will aim to complete each requirement. Planning and preparing as early as possible gives you room for plans to change, or events to get rescheduled, and will leave you a lot calmer and confident than if you end up rushing to get things completed with only a few months before your deadline.
- Use your extra-curriculars to your advantage: If there is an extra-curricular activity you are already doing, see if there is a way to create a Special Interest Area involving that extra-curricular. For example, if you play a sport, you could give coaching or refereeing a try, or if you're into the arts you could join a music ensemble or drama performance. Special Interest Areas give you the flexibility to undertake projects and improve skills. Identify current hobbies or activities you currently do, and see whether there are any further opportunities or improvements you could make on these hobbies.
- Keep it simple: It can be very easy to get swept away with very big, complicated plans for achieving OAS Progressions or Special Interest Areas, but especially during the final years of high school, it's likely that finding the time to complete a very big project might be a struggle. For example, a Special Interest Area project only needs to take twelve hours, including your preparation and review.
- Plan your Unit's program strategically: As discussed above, take into account when exam periods, big work commitments, and periods that are very busy at school when planning your program. See when everyone's commitments are so you can create a program that doesn't leave anyone

feeling overly stressed. For example, if Year 11s & 12s are busy with exams during November, this could be the perfect time for younger Venturer Scouts to Lead an activity if they have more free time. Getting your Milestones will be a breeze if you take the time to carefully plan a diverse program that addresses all the Challenge Areas within your timeframe.

- Check out what Scouting events are happening: Events like as big as Ventures and as small as District events can be a great way to move through your Achievement Pathway. You might be able to get some progressions checked off, or participate in an activity outside of your Unit. Plus, these events often happen during the holidays, so you're less likely to be busy and hectic with school.

Hopefully this guide has been helpful and you have picked up some strategies you can implement in your life and with your Unit. Remember, it is important to try to maintain balance, but prioritising your health and wellbeing is crucial, and if you ever need assistance with anything, try some of the contacts below.

Useful contacts

If you want to improve your Unit's program, or have a question about the Achievement Pathways: ba.venturers@scoutswa.com.au

If you have a general question about Venturer Scout, or want to stay updated about Branch Venturing opportunities: bvc@scoutswa.com.au

If you're interested in training opportunities available to Venturer Scouts: bc.vet@scoutswa.com.au