

URGENT SCOUTS WA COVID-19 UPDATE

22 March 2020 at 15:00 hours (AWST)

On Sunday evening, the Prime Minister, on behalf of the National Cabinet, announced the most wide reaching social restrictions ever under taken in this country outside of war time in an effort to reduce the rate of transmission of coronavirus.

In order to keep our Scout Promise to contribute to our community and our world and to help other people, including those most at risk from the spread of Coronavirus, ALL Scouts WA groups and formations MUST cease all face to face meetings, gatherings or events related to Scouting with effect from 4pm Monday 23 March in line with the implementation of the restrictions announced by the Prime Minister. This means that program meetings, group meetings, section meetings either inside or outside of Scout halls can no longer occur at this time. We expect this ban to last for at least the next four weeks, though it may be longer. We will regularly review this situation and aim to get things back on track as early as is safe to do so.

This is both inconvenient and disappointing, especially for those of you who had meetings planned already. This announcement does bring forward the proposed date advised in last Friday's Scouts @ Info that meetings should cease from Wednesday, but following the Prime Minister's announcement, and in line with meeting both the expectations of and our obligations to the community, we are certain this action is both necessary and reasonable.

Scouting occurs all over the world, all the time, and even now during restrictions, Scouts all over the world are coming up with new ways to interact and keep Scouting. Our organisation has survived for 112 years and we want to see it continue to flourish beyond the coronavirus crisis.

So Scouts WA is going digital! Let's get started with some virtual scouting program ideas! Scouts WA have put together a pack of virtual scouting for groups to utilise and get you started click [here](#).

There's loads of other ideas around and we would love you to post any resources you have to one of the Facebook groups or other online communities. If you see something great - share it for all. Scouts is for anyone, anywhere at any time and maintaining connections with your patrols, Unit and Group are vital in this time of uncertainty

We strongly encourage everyone to take a close look at opportunities for virtual scouting and maintaining contact to ensure we have Scouting to continue on with when this pandemic threat has eased - necessity is the mother of invention - and anyone who has ever spent time with Scouts and Scouters knows - we are a very inventive bunch!

We will continue to keep you up to date with any resources and supports we can as they come available and keep you apprised of the changes. Stay safe, keep a healthy distance, maintain exceptional hygiene, look out for each other and do your best to keep on Scouting! Remember *Child Safe Scouting* continues to apply - ensure the 'Two Deep Policy' is executed including in emails, messages and interactions in regards to the program – the other adult could be another leader, your group leader or a parent.