

Factsheet

Venturer Scout Unit Council



For a Venturer Scout program to be relevant to the young people participating in it, they must always be involved in the planning and reviewing phases. The program must reflect the interests, goals and aspirations of the Venturer Scouts participating in it and is fundamental to the success or failure of a Venturer Scout Unit.

Unit Councils in each Venturer Scout Unit are an essential way for Venturer Scouts to perform checks and balances on what level of engagement, control and direction they have over the Unit program as well as the management of the Venturer Scout Unit.

Who runs the Unit Council?

In a nutshell, the Venturer Scout Unit should be running the Unit Council with minimal support from adult leaders. They should be leading the way, setting the agenda and running the meeting. Adult leaders are there to support and provide guidance only when necessary.

How often should the Unit Council occur?

A Unit Council should occur regularly – every four to six weeks but sometimes it can occur once a program cycle. By having regular Unit Councils, all members of the Unit maintain a feeling of engagement and direction with the creation of their program and its implementation.

Remember – these don't have to be boring, formal meetings inside the Scout hall! There are benefits to having Unit Councils in an outdoor, unfamiliar or creative location.

How do we know if we are on the right track?

Take the time to go through the following statements with your Unit, Unit Council and adult leaders.

- We set the direction for the Unit.
- We design and implement our program through the Plan>Do>Review> cycle, including full plan and delivery of activities and events.
- We do the planning and reviewing on activities, programs and events. Adults supports us only if necessary.
- We ensure that the whole Unit is following the concept of **youth leading, adults supporting**.
- We discuss and put into place, checks and balances of our Units' application of the Scout Method.
- We solve problems and issues if or when they arise.
- We are engaging collaboratively with inter-Unit and inter-Group events.
- We have active Project Patrols which also include members of other sections or Groups.
- We support all of our Unit members in both their Scouting journey and personal life.
- We autonomously discuss and approve achievements, challenges and endorse peak awards.
- We actively review our activities individually, as well as part of a program cycle.
- We set a clear standard of behaviour through a Unit Code and support all Unit members in maintaining it.
- We undertake a constant review of our performance as members of the Venturer Scout Unit.

How to make your Unit Council as successful as possible!

- The Unit Leader needs to provide clear guidance to the Unit Council and Unit.
- Adult leaders need to provide an appropriate level of support to the Unit and Unit Council.
- Ensure that when support is given that it doesn't undermine or take over the leadership of the youth members in the Unit.
- Have a meeting agenda to follow and a clear plan for execution of the meeting.
- Ensure that all members present are engaging and participating in the meeting.
- Record all the creativity, decisions, discussions and reviewing that occurs during the meeting.
- Celebrate important achievements!

For more information about Unit Councils and programming for the Venturer Scout section, please refer to Scouts | Terrain, the Program Handbook, **youth leading, adults supporting** documentation and Scouts Australia program support documentation.