

SUMMARY

Rover Crews may continue to use the Knighthood theme if that's how they want to organise their Crew but it is no longer the default theme. Crews can develop their own symbolic framework. Crews should not have a two-tiered membership; investiture into a Crew should mean full membership. The New Program Award Scheme will not have a 'Squire Training' badge.

INTRODUCTION

The rollout of the New Program in Australia has begun. Victoria has taken a multi-stage approach to the rollout, concluding in 2023. Though there are still some decisions to be made as to how Scouts Victoria conforms to the New Program, the Victorian Rover Council has decided to engage with the more contentious issues that have arisen so as to ensure proper communication of changes and that the positives of the New Program are not overwhelmed by a small number of contentious changes.

BACKGROUND

A symbolic framework gives context to what we do. It provides a stronger connection to the program and the association at large. There are three levels to our framework;

1. Scouting as a whole: concept of Scouting, the fleur-de-lys, Scout Scarf, Scout Sign;
2. Each Section: shaping of the Scout's understanding of the program per the age section, supporting a logical progression (Knighting theme, Jungle Book theme);
3. Activity program or focus: helps drive interest and a sense of adventure (Mission to Mars theme at Hoadley, Indiana Jones Surfmoat).

The Knighthood theme has provided a framework for the way we conduct Roving. It promotes mentorship, service and a code of honour. It has embedded links to the way we run Rovers in Victoria. That being said, Victoria has had the ability to have non-traditional Rover Crews. That is, a Crew that does not utilise the Knighthood Theme, but rather uses another theme to bind the Crew.

CHANGES

Rover Crews may continue to use the Knighthood theme if that's the way they want to organise their Crew. But Rover Crews have the capacity to no longer use the Knighthood theme if they so wish. Remember, non-traditional Crews have been in operation for a long time.

The difference here is that whereas the default position was previously that a Crew used the Knighthood theme, **now there will be no default and a new Crew will be able to adopt whatever theme they think works for their Crew.** Beyond the Crew level, we will not be referencing Knights and Squires in Rover Scout governance, training or policy. There will be resources coming out to help Crews develop a new symbolic framework where they so wish.

It is expected **that there is not a two-tiered membership within Crews.** When the Crew accepts a person and invests them, they become a full member of the Rover Crew. This may require Crews to amend their constitution to reflect this change.

The New Program's implementation will include a change to the Award Scheme and a focus on a continuous 'one program'. This will allow for a greater engagement in outdoor adventurous activities. **The new Award Scheme will not have a Squire Training badge to use for Squire Training.**

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

You may not attach additional requirements onto the award scheme. Progression through the section and the award scheme is not to be limited by additional requirements a Crew attaches beyond what is the nationally adopted standard. Though there may still be ceremonies and procedures for awarding the award (e.g. A vigil) as long as they do not hinder an individual being granted the award.

Hazing or any form of bullying as a part of an initiation into a Crew that makes the individual feel uncomfortable, unwelcome or reluctant to join the section is not tolerated and is fatal to a Crew. That is not to say your Crew may not have rituals or ceremonies –these give an identity to your Crew – but they should not amount to hazing or bullying. The Crew should be welcoming new members, ensuring the future of your Crew and continuing an individual’s progression through the movement.

GOING FORWARD

There will be resources coming out to help Crews develop a new framework if they want to change. The potential for new themes are endless; there are already Crews that use Vikings and The Lion King as their theme. When developing a new framework, start with the new Motto for Rovers ‘Beyond the Horizon’ – it’s all about taking everything that we’ve developed over a journey in Scouting and pushing our boundaries. You could have your theme be as simple as starting your Rovering at dawn with your investiture and being booted at dusk.

Your Crew just needs to get the following out of a theme:

1. A connection to the program;
2. Help to communicate a concept;
3. A structure that suits your Crew; and
4. Fostering adventure, is challenging and inclusive.

We understand that these changes may take a little while to implement. Crews may have to change constitutions and policy; this can be done at a Crew’s leisure, but should be well underway by the end of 2019.

This is just one smaller part of a large change for Scouts Australia that is full of potential. The rest of the rollout in Victoria will be delivered in the coming years, make sure to engage with your Region Rover Community to discover what the New Program offers.

Have questions?

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