

Victorian State Scout Council

Campcraft Target

Adventurer Level Journey



Policy Document

November, 2018

The requirements for the Adventurer Target test are as follows:

Plan and undertake a hike of at least 30 km with at least four other Scouts into unfamiliar terrain requiring two nights out of doors. Use lightweight equipment and foods as far as practicable. The hike must be monitored by an adult leader to ensure the safety of the Scouts. All government and Branch rules and regulations must be complied with.

Canoes or bicycles may be used but the distance covered should be increased accordingly. If canoes or bicycles are used the team should be self-sufficient, as with hikes, and carry all items required for the journey.

Report on your experience through the use of an illustrated log.

The Leaders of the Scout Troop shall ensure that these requirements are met and the following guidelines may clarify some of the issues arising from interpretations in relation to the Victorian situation.

PURPOSE OF THE JOURNEY

The Adventurer Campcraft journey is an assessment of a Scout's competencies in the planning and execution of a challenging hike. It includes pre-planning (route, menu, equipment and program), navigation, camping, physical challenge, risk management and leadership. A Scout who is unable to demonstrate a high level of proficiency in these competencies would be unable to satisfy the test requirements. The journey is not simply a test of the Scout's ability to carry a pack over the distance. Naturally, where there are special circumstances, such as disability, the spirit of the test must be retained rigorously even if the ultimate requirements are adjusted to the situation.

MANAGEMENT OF THE JOURNEY

The management and assessment of this hike is handled within the Troop through the Troop Council. The hike is not a District or Regional Test. Inexperienced Scout Leaders should draw upon support from their District Leader (Scouts) or other suitably experienced leader **to assist** them in the training and preparation of Scouts for this test.

District Leaders have an obligation to work with, and through, the Scout Leader to provide additional support, training and assistance where they believe this is necessary for a Troop to develop a suitable standard. As per the national award scheme, sign off must remain in the Troop.

In any event the Scout Leader or other 'Leader in Charge' must have completed the Scout Basic Sectional Techniques course or higher and have adequate basic personal experience in bushwalking.

The Victorian State Scout Council publication Book 10 "Hiking" in the 'Big Green Folder' is a vital resource for leaders in the training and preparation for the hike. Amongst other useful things there is a procedure for planning and preparation that Scouts should follow. The publication is also available in the Resources section of the tc6 website (<http://tc6.scoutsvictoria.com.au/>). The Victorian Branch Info Book, Scouts Victoria & TC6 websites also have information and support for leaders.

LEADERSHIP OF THE JOURNEY

The Scout Leader is responsible for the completion of a Scout Safe document, in consultation with the participant/s.

While the Scout Leader or another adult leader is the nominal 'Leader in Charge' of the journey, all other aspects of the planning and journey should rest with the Scout(s) being tested. The Scout(s) being tested should finalise all arrangements and are the ones responsible for carrying the plans through (including matters such as transport to and from the walk area).

The size of the hike party must be at least 5 for safety reasons, but no more than 7. Five is the recommended size. Large parties are impractical for a number of reasons both operational and for enjoyment of the experience. Where more than one Scout is completing the journey for the test, provision must be made for the full responsibility to be given to each for a significant time over the hike where they can demonstrate their leadership and field skills. Full preparation and reporting must be carried out by each one from when the journey commences.

Membership of the party must take into account the difficulty and physical requirements of the hike. Generally this restricts the participation to older Scouts which, in turn, has implications for number of Adventurer Scout hikes. Troops need to strike a reasonable balance between the practicality of the number of Adventurer hikes undertaken in a year and the need to ensure that every older Scout can meet their obligations for the test.

SECURITY MATTERS

It is often difficult to find locations which are suitably challenging but enable various risks to be effectively managed. Traditionally Scouts undertaking this test have undertaken the walk without the presence of adults. Where it is deemed to be safe to do so then this practice is still of considerable value. However, in order to exercise proper 'Duty of Care' the Leader in Charge must consider the degree to which the Scouts can carry out the walk with minimum supervision. Adult contact may vary from none through intermittent to full time. A conscious decision must be made to address this.

Where necessary, adult involvement must occur only on the following basis:

- The adult(s) walking with the group must take a completely 'hands-off' approach. They must be prepared to put up with navigation errors etc. without intervention except in genuine emergency situations. Adults/supervisors must be separately equipped, carry their own gear and food and, as far as practicable, camp separately.
- The need to provide adult security can often be met by flexible alternatives such as the Scouts being tested walking a separate, but parallel route to the adults or Troop walking party. Hike leaders can check in physically or by electronic devices at pre-determined times and locations, and so on.
- In every case, the planning and execution of the journey must be undertaken by the Scout(s) being tested.

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

As outlined in the purpose of the journey, each scout to be assessed needs to develop an individual hike plan for assessment. To assist in this task the State Scout Council have provided an Adventurer Hike Plan template which provides a guide to the content of the plan. Scouts may use the template as a whole or take the headings of each section to present their plan to Troop Council via a Power Point presentation or in another medium. Scouts should not be measured on their literacy or drawing abilities in preparation of their hike plan.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

An illustrated report is required. However, the spirit of the test emphasises the practical knowledge and skills, NOT the literacy or drawing abilities.

The report should include:

- Dates, location, names of hike party and a map (e.g. a photocopy with the planned and actual route marked on it).
- A food and gear list.
- A short journal outlining the progress and nature of the terrain which should be augmented with photos or other illustration.
- This report will be presented to the Troop Council for approval.

“MAJOR” BUSHWALKING EVENTS

The hike is NOT a leader or adult organised event. For this reason State, Regional or District incident hikes would not satisfy the underlying spirit of the test. Similarly District organised ‘Adventurer Hike Weekends’ would not meet the requirements.

VICTORIAN STATE SCOUT COUNCIL
November, 2018

For review in September, 2021