

Some of this you will know, some of this you may not. This presentation is hoping to cover all bases.

Terrain isn't covered in this preso but there are some resources on the website:

<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/activities-events/special-interest-areas/special-interest-areas-resources/>

Acknowledgement of country



As Scouts of Australia, we acknowledge Australia's First Nations Peoples, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

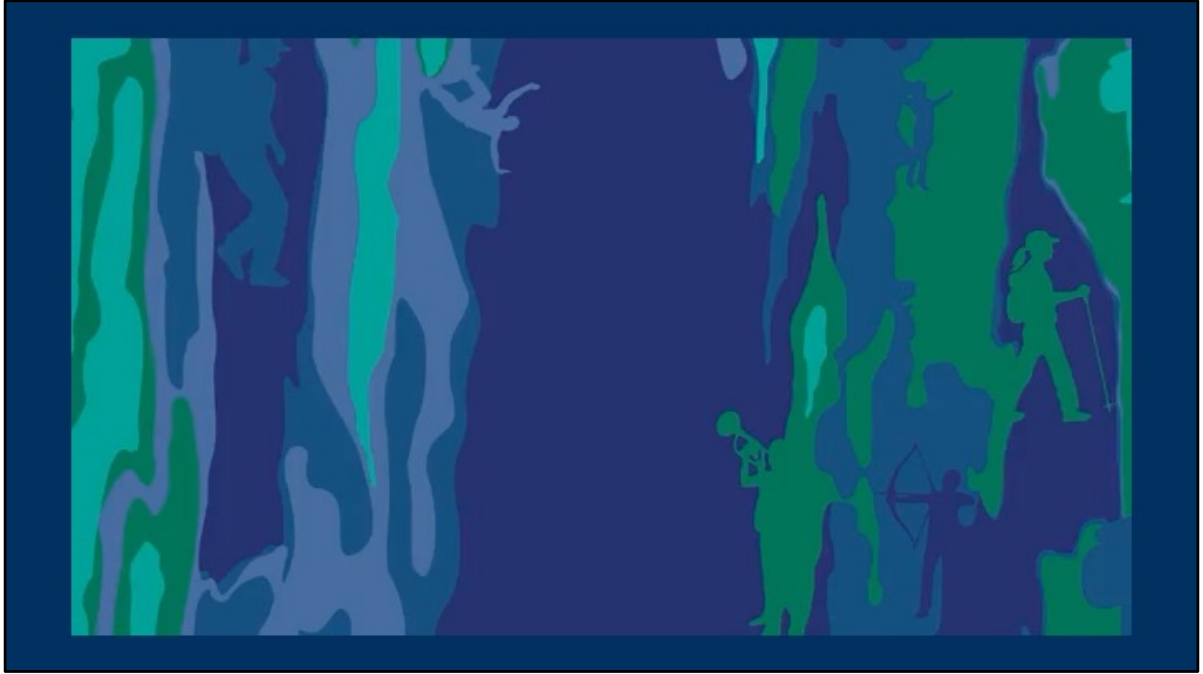
We are grateful to do our Scouting in this country; we commit to use its resources wisely, and develop our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

We also acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scouts who are part of our movement today.

Special Interest Areas

An element of the
Achievement Pathways





Before we go too far lets hear about Special Interest Areas from some Scouts! This is a great little summary video – link: <https://youtu.be/1jrs-7xISBc>

Achievement Pathways



This should be familiar to people, shouldn't be too scary. This is where the SIAs sit in the pathway to the peak awards.



Again, we're familiar with this. Plan>Do>Review> continues through the SIAs.

Why SIAs?

- Program flexibility
 - For today and the into the future
- Give young people ownership of their:
 - Development
 - Program
- Build critical skills
 - Goal setting
 - Planning and management of projects/tasks
 - Self driven personal development



Program Flexibility – this allows for learning about the things that were covered in the yellow/green/maroon/red books already but also the things that haven't been invented or thought of yet!

CD Roms and lantern mantles can be covered but so can apps, podcasts and sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Youth Ownership – allowing our youth to pursue things they like in the program and to give them ultimate control over their development in Scouts.

Building skills – These “soft” skills of goal setting, planning and project management, self driven personal development and getting comfortable with continual learning.

The Special Interest Areas



ADVENTURE AND SPORT



ARTS AND LITERATURE



CREATING A BETTER WORLD



ENVIRONMENT



GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT



STEM AND INNOVATION



SIAs are these 6 broad categories. Deliberately broad to accommodate as many weird and wonderful ideas our Scouts come up with. Some so overlap so it comes down to the intent of the individual Scout's project as to where the project best fits.

Eg. Citizen Science projects might fit across Environment, Creating a Better World and STEM and Innovation.

Also remember, we are going from what can be quite a prescribed program to something where our youth members are writing their own rules. This is exciting but will take time to get our minds around.

Peak Award requirements

<u>Section</u>	<u>Number of Special Interest Area projects</u>	<u>How many areas</u>	<u>Hours duration for each project</u>
Joey Scouts	6	2	At least 2 hours
Cub Scouts	6	2	At least 4 hours
Scouts	6	3	At least 8 hours each
Venturer Scouts	6	3	At least 12 hours each
Rover Scouts	6	4	At least 18 hours each



The steps

1. Come up with a goal that will make up your project
2. Plan> your project
3. Do> your project
4. Review> your project



This is a SIA project in it's most basic form.

Appreciate there will be lots of work at all these stages but this is SIA in its simplest form.

Plan>

- Creative thinking
- Pick your Special Interest Area
- Outline your project
- Present to your Unit Council
- Unit Council approves plan before you start your project



Unit Councils (or Unit Leadership Teams) review and approve at the commencement and conclusion of all SIA project – for our Junior Sections, this may mean a conversation with an Adult Leader to determine some clear goals.



Review>

- Provide a record of your project
- Reflect on how you have grown through your project with your Unit Council
- You should also consider how the project has helped you develop in each of the SPICES.
 - Social
 - Physical
 - Intellectual
 - Character
 - Emotional
 - Spiritual
- It's about the journey, not the destination
 - Project goal not achieved? Doesn't mean achievements can't be recognised
 - Review process is key here

Review process is key in SIAs.

Record of the project doesn't have to be war and peace. It can be photos, presentations, video recordings, the product of the project – anything that showcases your efforts.

Encourage older Scouts to use the SPICES to review their development in completing their project.

Remember: a 'failed' project isn't necessarily failure of the SIA project. It depends on the effort exerted and the learnings taken out of the experience.

Example: Tomatoes

A Rover wanted to grow her own tomatoes then harvest them to make a pasta sauce. Long story short, the tomatoes failed in the end but she learnt a lot about how to look after tomatoes better throughout the process. The effort was met, the learnings were significant and the project was approved.

The biggest achievement isn't the badge itself, but the personal progression that's occurred!

Remember

- Can be done individually, or as a Patrol initially
 - Each Scout still needs to list their goals and action plan,
 - even if the action plans are nearly identical
 - Once Scouts are more experienced, they might be ready to try out individual projects.
- The standard sought is the individual's best
- Other Scouts/Leaders can help design goals
- Can seek support/advice from people with greater knowledge
 - Other Scouts/Leaders/subject matter experts etc.



SIA projects are meant to be completed by individuals but as we start thinking in this space, projects may be completed in patrols (or unit for Joey Scouts).

Example of a patrol doing a shared SIA activity:

A patrol of Scouts might be building a billy kart.

The Patrol leader may have built 10 karts before so their challenges and goals may look at the aerodynamics of the kart or how the size of the wheel effects it?

Whereas someone new to Scouting or who has never built one, might have the simple task of building the kart and making sure it is stable enough to travel 100m.

Each person in the patrol may have a similar actions but their learnings will be different.

Leaders and other Scouts – please help develop goals. You know the Scouts in your unit best so make sure they are challenging themselves appropriately.

Leaders! This is an opportunity to completely remove yourself. Support and guidance is needed all the way.

Roles

Individual Scouts need to...

- be on the look-out for project ideas
- have a desire for personal progression
- be open to suggestions from others
- be prepared to set goals that push them a bit beyond their comfort zone
- take into account their existing level of knowledge
- understand what they are interested in pursuing or learning about
- understand what skills they will need to develop to achieve their goals
- identify if they may need a Subject Matter Expert to assist them - if they do, who it might be?

Patrols and Patrol Leaders need to...

- be proactive to support their members
- help their members with ideas, and finding subject matter experts
- be encouraging and positive
- ask good questions that help their Scout to set goals and review their project

Units need to...

- be a support network for their members
- be prompt at recognising SIA achievements



Just a guide but everyone has an important role

Roles

Unit Councils need to...

- meet often enough to ensure that they are able to review SIA projects
- review and approve at commencement and conclusion of projects
- ensure appropriate challenge level for individuals
- build a database of project ideas and supporters that can be called upon
- be encouraging and supportive to all members

Unit Leaders need to...

- ensure that the Unit Council meets often enough
- ask good questions that help their Scout to set goals and review their project
- be proactive to support their members
- help their members with ideas, and finding subject matter experts
- be encouraging and positive
- help ensure goals are specific, achievable, and measurable

Adult Leaders need to...

- be approachable
- consider the different needs of different Scouts, and act accordingly
- ask good questions that help their Scout to set goals and review their project
- help ensure goals are specific, achievable, and measurable
- Be there every step of the way to support, coach and encourage rather than direct and prescribe



Just a guide but everyone has an important role

Adventure and Sport



ADVENTURE AND SPORT

- Expanding the areas of physical development in ways not covered by the Outdoor Adventure Skills
- Single journeys or build up time over weeks or months
- Opportunity for learning new skills in sports or to try out totally new activities



Remember: OAS is the technical skill. “I can apply first aid, I can...”

You might complete an OAS stage as part of a boarder SIA expedition but your Adventure and Sport SIA project can't be “to obtain my Stage 5 Alpine”

An example that might help is: a Scout wants to play soccer for a season but to challenge themselves, they also learn to safely 'head' the ball; safely and accurately. So not only are they committing to a period of time but to developing a skill.



ADVENTURE AND SPORT

Projects might be about

- Exploring
- Moving
- Challenging
- Growing
- Physical
- Developing skills
- Emotional
- Spiritual
- Exciting
- Taking risks (responsibly)

Some ideas are

- Expeditions
- Individual sports
- Team sports
- Journeys
- Walking
- Cycling
- Paddling
- Flying
- Swimming
- Skiing
- Climbing
- Training
- Ballooning
- Sailing
- Riding
- Skating



All taken from the Guide to SIAs

<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/media/5695/the-guide-to-special-interest-areas.pdf>

Arts and Literature

- Expressing oneself
- Being imaginative
- Pushing creative boundaries
- A wide range of areas can be explored



ARTS AND LITERATURE





Projects might be about

- Creating
- Investigating
- Appreciating
- Crafting
- Designing
- Creativity
- Performing
- Producing
- Directing
- Expressing

Some ideas are

- Gangshow /Showtime
- Instruments and voice
- Art works
- Creative
- writing
- Photography
- Performing Arts
- Short films
- Fashion
- Artistic mediums
- Poetry
- Techniques
- Creative roles



ARTS AND LITERATURE



Scouts
VICTORIA

All taken from the Guide to SIAs

<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/media/5695/the-guide-to-special-interest-areas.pdf>

Creating A Better World



CREATING A BETTER WORLD

- Contribute to the world in a positive way
- Could be local through to global
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Better World Framework



Remember there may be overlap between some of the SIA categories. It comes back to the project as to where it best sits.




CREATING A BETTER WORLD

Projects might be about

- Changing
- Impacting
- Collaboration
- Making a difference
- Community
- Network
- Global
- Social Justice

Some ideas are

- Volunteering and charity
- Learn about experiences of refugees
- Festivals/fetes/carnivals/markets
- Local/National/Global
- Citizen Science
- Better World Framework
- Humanitarian issues
- United Nations
- Cultural/religious holidays

All taken from the Guide to SIAs

<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/media/5695/the-guide-to-special-interest-areas.pdf>

Environment

- Focus on the natural environment
- Actions to protect, enhance or learn more about it
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Earth Tribe – Better World Framework



ENVIRONMENT



Remember there may be overlap between some of the SIA categories. It comes back to the project as to where it best sits.

Projects might be about

- For and in the environment
- Caring
- Taking action
- Experimenting
- Monitoring
- Behaviour change
- Citizen science
- Sustainability
- Advocacy

Some ideas are

- Clean water and air
- Native habitat and species
- Pollution and litter
- Enviro friendly practices
- Enviro hazards and natural disasters
- Climate change
- Ecological resilience
- Sustainability campaigns
- Volunteer with enviro groups
- Earth Tribe
- Clean up Oz Day
- Friends of Park/reserve



ENVIRONMENT



All taken from the Guide to SIAs

<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/media/5695/the-guide-to-special-interest-areas.pdf>

Growth And Development



GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Cultivating oneself as a person
- Understanding others
- Evolving in new skill areas
- Challenge a specific area of existing skills
- No matter the challenge set for this project, the goal is to have developed and grown as a person



Remember there may be overlap between some of the SIA categories. It comes back to the project as to where it best sits.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Projects might be about

- Wellbeing
- Interests
- Caring
- Understanding
- Relationships
- Developing
- Recognising
- Ethics

Some ideas are

- Mental health and first aid
- Volunteering
- Other religions/cultures
- Careers
- Charity
- Fitness
- Debating
- Languages
- Professional skills
- Emotional intelligence
- Interpersonal skills
- Ideals
- Mindfulness and gratitude

Scouts VICTORIA

All taken from the Guide to SIAs

<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/media/5695/the-guide-to-special-interest-areas.pdf>

STEM And Innovation

- Developing powerful questioning and curious, scientific minds
- Exploring and answering questions the individual is curious about



STEM AND INNOVATION




Remember there may be overlap between some of the SIA categories. It comes back to the project as to where it best sits.

Projects might be about


- Designing
- Building
- Problem solving
- Experimenting
- Investigating
- Finding
- Innovating
- Modelling
- Inventing
- Thinking outside the box

Some ideas are

- Designing/ building gadgets and machines
- Experiments
- Tournament of minds
- IT, apps, programming
- Robotics
- Geology
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Geography
- Physics
- Ecology
- Sociology
- Engineering
- Research
- Entrepreneur
- Website design



STEM AND INNOVATION



All taken from the Guide to SIAs

<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/media/5695/the-guide-to-special-interest-areas.pdf>

FAQs

- Can you count one project towards more than one SIA challenge if you have enough hours for both?
 - Quality not quantity
 - Looking at the effort invested in the projects
 - Comes back to the goal/s of the project/s
 - About creating the experiences, rather than trying to get two projects across the one subject matter
 - Cannot be one project sharing same goals across two SIAs
 - goals and projects must be distinct from one another
- Can you change project goals part way through a project?
 - If due to change/increase in knowledge
 - Needs compelling reasons to change
 - Better to close off project and start a new one armed with new knowledge



Cannot stress enough: SIAs and the program more broadly is about creating the experiences, rather than trying to get two projects across the one subject matter.

For the second question – an example:

A Scout's original proposal was to create a series of six podcasts. Throughout the progress, they realised that a lot of the time and effort was going into making one. The project was adjusted to recognised the effort, intent and learnings of the Scout. The other five were then completed in a separate SIA project.

FAQs

- How do we know if the project is challenging enough for ourselves/someone in our unit?
 - Take into account their existing level of knowledge
 - Understand what they are interested in pursuing or learning about
 - Will they need a Subject Matter Expert to assist them?
 - What skills they will need to develop to achieve their goals?
 - Patrol leaders and peers will have a good idea of appropriate challenge level



FAQs

Where can we get help ?

Depends on the project but Subject Matter Experts may be...

- Fellow Scouts
- Scouts in section above (or below!)
- Adult Leaders with expertise in an area of interest
- A parent
- A member of the community
- Teacher or tutor
- Coaches
- And anyone else you can think of!



Please don't be afraid to use your networks. But always ensure appropriate child safety measures are taken.



The boxes under the red, purple, green, yellow and light blue boxes are teams in Scouts Victoria. Contact sia@scoutsvictoria.com.au if your own networks can't help you. Please exhaust them first.

FAQs

- Where can we get ideas for SIA projects?
 - Existing interests
 - School/work/other hobbies
 - Brainstorm
 - Patrol activities/Program/Camps/Events
 - Guide to SIAs
 - What is something you have always wanted to do/learn more about/work on
 - Hope to have a database or wiki soon



FAQs

- Can a SIA activity also contribute towards Milestones, Participates, Assists or Leads?
 - Nuance – is possible but not the intent of SIAs
 - SIAs are not designed to be a whole unit activity. Program is created by youth members using the Challenge Areas.
 - PALs
 - Develop leadership skills
 - Drive diverse unit program
 - SIAs
 - Personal development
 - Goal setting



Best example here:

A Venturer's Environment SIA project is to grow native trees over a period of time before planting them as part of a local tree planting day. He arranges a tree planting day for his unit to help him plant the trees. This could be considered a Lead but it is not the key intent of the project.

Handy Resources

- Scouts Victoria SIA Resources page
 - [https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/activities-events/special-interest-areas/special-interest-areas-resources/Guide to SIAs](https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/activities-events/special-interest-areas/special-interest-areas-resources/Guide%20to%20SIAs)
 - Factsheet
 - Guide to SIA
 - SIA project planning tools
 - Terrain resources
- Why SIA?
 - <https://pr.scouts.com.au/mdocs-posts/special-interest-areas-why/>



<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/activities-events/special-interest-areas/special-interest-areas-resources/>

<https://pr.scouts.com.au>

sia@scoutsvictoria.com.au




Learn more about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals from the UN and how you can take action to create a better world by ending poverty, fighting inequality and addressing climate change.

They replace the old Millennium goals, for those who remember those.

Better World Framework

- Messengers of Peace
- Earth Tribe
 - Champions for Nature Challenge
 - Plastic Tide Turners
 - Scouts Go Solar
- Scouts of the World
- Dialogue for Peace
- Patrimonto Scout badge
- He for She



The logos shown are: EarthTribes (a colorful globe icon), Dialogue for Peace (three stylized human figures in green, yellow, and blue), Messengers of Peace (a white dove with a purple Scout fleur-de-lis on its chest), Scouts of the World (a globe with social media icons and the text 'scouts of the world - du monde'), and HeForShe (a stylized cross shape in pink and black).

Better World Framework is WOSM, our World Organisation, taking the UN SDGs and Scout-ifying them. Some, like Messengers of Peace and the Scouts of the World award have been around for awhile. Others are new. Earth Tribe replaces the old World Environment Badge with three new awards which are focused on different environment issues.



These programs have been linked to the SDGs. This can be an example of how you look at your current Youth Programme and align it with the SDGs that you tackle.

LINKING THE INITIATIVES WITH THE SDGS

	1 No poverty	2 Zero hunger	3 Good health and well-being	4 Quality education	5 Gender equality	6 Clean water and sanitation	7 Affordable and clean energy	8 Decent work and economic growth	9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure	10 Reduced inequalities	11 Sustainable cities and communities	12 Responsible consumption and production	13 Climate action	14 Life below water	15 Life on land	16 Peace, justice and strong institutions	17 Partnerships for sustainable development
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
				✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
				✓												✓	
				✓	✓				✓	✓		✓			✓		
				✓			✓			✓	✓						
				✓						✓							✓

SCOUTS VICTORIA

Remember this is an older graphic but just a different way of representing BWF for you.

Handy Resources

- WOSM – UN Sustainable Development Goals
 - <https://sdgs.scout.org/>
- Guidelines and e-learning for SDGs and Better World Framework
 - <https://sdgs.scout.org/guidelines>
- WOSM – Better World Framework
 - <https://www.scout.org/better-world-framework>
- Earth Tribe
 - <https://earthtribe.scout.org/>



