

FACT SHEET - TOP TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL UNIT

Your Group has an established Joey Unit? Great!

You know then that Joeys are enthusiastic, curious, and lively. They are discovering the world around them, developing friendships, experiencing greater interactive experiences, are physically active and using broad imagination and play.

As Leaders you have a wonderful opportunity to guide Joeys as they learn outside their normal environments of school and home.

But maintaining a successful and vibrant Unit can be challenging, so Scouts Victoria has asked experienced Joey Leaders for their top tips for a successful Unit.

1. You will need to repeat yourself – a lot!

Joeys are so excited about life, and you may need to repeat instructions, many times, three times. Sometimes they might not be listening but often they will just need to hear things a few times to know what they are meant to do. It may also help to give instructions a couple of diverse ways like verbally giving instructions while performing an example (visually) of what you want them to do.

2. It will take time.

Establishing and maintaining a successful Unit will take time and that can be frustrating. Do not be afraid of starting small and building slowly. Soon your Joeys enthusiasm for the program will have them bringing friends to join in the fun. A Bring a Friend night sure does help!

3. Always start with an active game.

Starting the program with an active game is a great idea. Not only does it burn off some of that pent up energy but can help with concentration and socialisation.

Active games may play a large part in the program of the Unit as you rebuild. That is okay! Once the Joeys get familiar with you and each other, you will start to introduce additional Scout Method and program content. Talk to your Joey Scout Council team if you are looking for tips on how to turn the Joey's own activity ideas into an engaging Joey program.

4. Make sure you change activities regularly and have back up activities.

Sometimes, no matter how good an activity it is, it just doesn't land. Change it up. Have back up activities. That way, when something doesn't work, or when attention spans aren't cooperating, you have a few tricks up your sleeve!

5. Try not to have too much craft for craft's sake.

Opportunities to be creative are wonderful and important for Joeys but craft isn't for everyone. If the program lends itself particularly well to it – go for it! But don't be including craft just to fill the time. There are so many other things that contribute to a great Joey program like, games, stories, skill building, songs, exploring and more!

6. Activities may take longer than you anticipate.

So, you've got your program set, lots of activities to keep the Joeys engaged and having fun. Great! But Joey Leaders can occasionally find themselves dropping activities from the program because an activity is either going well or is taking longer than expected. That's okay. As long as the activity is holding the interest of the Joeys and it is still useful to the program.

The number one tip ...

Be Flexible but be prepared!

The best thing to help you and your Joey Unit is to be flexible and be prepared. Go with the flow but also be ready to stop an activity.

Relax, enjoy and have fun!

