

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1 IS THERE A COST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VSM?

No. The program is free for all high school aged young people. Some initiatives may involve collecting or purchasing items, but participation should never be limited by financial circumstances. Groups or participants can contact the VSM team for flexible, low-cost options.

2 CAN PARTICIPANTS TAKE PART IN OTHER SERVICE PROGRAMS AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes. The VSM works well alongside programs such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award or other service and leadership initiatives. Participation in multiple programs is welcomed.

3 WHEN CAN A PARTICIPANT START THE VSM?

Participants can begin at anytime from Years 7–12. While many start in Year 7, flexible pathways are available for those joining later.

4 WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS?

To earn each VSM award level, participants complete the service initiatives listed in the program guidelines for that level. After finishing their initiatives, they submit a short piece of evidence, and their supervisor confirms their involvement. The award requirements stay the same for everyone, but the way groups or individuals complete their initiatives can be adapted to suit their context and capacity.

5 WHAT IF A PARTICIPANT CAN'T COMPLETE A STAGE?

Circumstances change, and that's okay. The VSM team and facilitator can adjust timelines, offer alternatives, or pause participation until the young person is ready to continue.

6 CAN YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATE INDIVIDUALLY?

Yes. Young people can join through sporting groups, parishes, community organisations, or independently, as long as they have an appropriate adult supervisor.

7 WHAT DOES A SUPERVISOR NEED TO DO?

Supervisors support participation and confirm that a young person has meaningfully engaged in their initiatives. They are not required to teach, assess, or supervise activities. The VSM team provides all necessary resources.

8 HOW ARE AWARDS DISTRIBUTED?

After a participant submits their evidence and the facilitator verifies it, the VSM team issues the relevant certificate or medallion. Recognition can occur at a group ceremony or be sent directly to the participant.



9 IS THE PROGRAM ADAPTABLE TO SUIT OUR CONTEXT?

Yes. The VSM is designed to be flexible. Groups can integrate it into existing initiatives, wellbeing programs, classes, or extracurricular activities. The VSM team can help tailor the program to ensure it aligns with the recognition framework.

10 WHAT EVIDENCE DO PARTICIPANTS NEED TO SUBMIT?

Evidence can be provided in any format, written summary, photo, video, podcast, or creative reflection. Supervisors simply confirm the evidence submitted via a link to their emails. No formal assessment is needed.

11 CAN ACTIVITIES BE COMPLETED ON WEEKENDS, SCHOOLS HOLIDAYS OR OUT OF USUAL HOURS?

Absolutely. Many initiatives take place during breaks, weekends, or holidays. Young people are encouraged to participate in ways that suit their interests and schedules.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

*Maggie Lipu
Service Medallion Coordinator
Email: vsm@vinnies.org.au*