






VINNIES SERVICE MEDALLION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Vinnies Service Medallion (VSM) recognises the contribution of high school aged students (Years 7–12) to community service, social justice, leadership, and advocacy. The program is flexible, inclusive, values led and designed so every student can make meaningful impact in their community.

To earn an award level, participants complete:

| LEVEL | WHAT YOU NEED TO DO |
|---|--|
|  Bronze Certificate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Core Initiative |
|  Bronze Medallion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Core Initiative • 1 Ongoing Activity |
|  Silver Certificate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Core Initiative • 1 Ongoing Activity • 10–15 hours volunteering at a Vinnies Retail store (where available) OR • Host a Pop-Up Vinnies Shop (sorting, preparation, operating the stall) |
|  Silver Medallion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Core Initiative • 1 Ongoing Activity • Choose ONE pathway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Volunteering Pathway: 15–20 hours in Retail or Vans (where available) B. Project Coordination Pathway: supporting the planning or delivery of chosen Vinnies initiative (e.g. logistics, promotion, helping younger participants) C. Advocacy Pathway: communicate the purpose and impact of Vinnies initiative to encourage participation or awareness (e.g. poster, presentation, assembly announcement) |
|  Gold Medallion | <p>Participants complete one major, student led project focused on social justice, advocacy, or community impact. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying a community or school need • designing and delivering a sustained action or project • raising awareness or advocating for an issue |

All levels require participants to submit evidence through the VSM Snap Form following activity.
Supervisors simply verify participation – no grading or logging hours required.

Core Initiatives (Choose One)

| CORE INITIATIVE | BRIEF DESCRIPTION |
|-------------------------|---|
| Vinnies School Sleepout | Raise awareness and funds to address homelessness |
| Winter Appeal | Collect essential items to support people experiencing homelessness or hardship |
| Christmas Appeal | Collect essential supplies, gifts or fundraise for families supported by Vinnies during Christmas |
| Disaster Appeal | Support communities affected by natural disasters through fundraising or donation drive |

Ongoing Activities (Choose One)

| ACTIVITY | BRIEF DESCRIPTION |
|----------------------------|---|
| A-Z Fundraising | Create a fundraising activity to support Vinnies appeals and the people we assist |
| Backpack & School Supplies | Provide school supplies to support students experiencing disadvantage |
| Collection Drive | Collect preloved goods to support Vinnies Retail stores and services |
| Food Preparation | Prepare meals or snacks to support Vinnies services and Vans |
| No-Sew Fleece Blankets | Create warm blankets for people experiencing hardship |
| Return & Earn | Recycle eligible containers to raise funds for Vinnies |
| Snack Packs | Prepare food packs to support Vinnies Vans and support services |
| Starter Packs | Collect essential household items to support people moving into stable housing |
| Stock the Pantry/Van | Donate non-perishable items for Vinnies support services and Vans |
| Toiletry Packs | Assemble hygiene packs for people accessing Vinnies services and Vans |
| Welcome Packs | Create comfort packs for people entering crisis or temporary accommodation |

Initiative guides for each activity are available in the VSM Program Kit: youthnsw.vinnies.org.au/vsmprogramkit/

Before getting started, please note the following to ensure activities are safe, inclusive, and appropriate for your local context.

Safeguarding

- Activities must be supervised by school staff or supervising adult.
- Students must not attend Vinnies sites or engage directly with people we assist unless explicitly approved.

Regional Availability

- Some activities (e.g. Retail or Vans volunteering) may not be available in all regions.
- Schools and participants are encouraged to select or adapt activities that suit their local context.
- Not sure where to start or whether an activity is suitable? The VSM team is here to help just reach out.

Accessibility

- We recognise that access to funds, transport, and materials can vary between students and school communities. To support accessibility, fixed quantities are not required.
- Students are encouraged to fundraise or donate only within their means. Every contribution, big or small is extremely valued.
- Activities may be adapted, or alternative initiatives proposed, where they align with VSM values and goals (e.g. curriculum-linked activities such as Food Tech meal preparation).
- If cost, access, or suitability is a concern, schools or participants are encouraged to contact the VSM team for support.

Change Starts Here!

For further information or support, contact the VSM team at vsm@vinnies.org.au