



St John

KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORDER

Course guide



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www.stjohn.org.au

Youth and Junior Member Course guides and
Assessment sheets © St John Ambulance Australia Ltd 2023



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KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORDER

Commissioner’s Badge & Grand Prior’s Award Schemes

The Knowledge of the Order Course is compulsory to be eligible for the Commissioner’s Badge for Juniors (8-11 years) and the Grand Prior’s Award for Youth (11-21 years).

This Course explores the past, present and future of St John, beginning with its origins over more than 900 years ago. Participants will develop an understanding, through engaging in various activities, of the history of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem and our rich heritage (the past), the current work of St John (the present) and where it is heading (the future). The skills of researching, presenting and creativity are the main components of this Course.

The suggested program delivery is eight-weeks duration (as shown overleaf). The minimum requirement for Juniors is 8 hours (6 hours at division, workshop or camp and 1 hour independent). For Youth, the minimum requirement is 10 hours (8 hours at division, workshop or camp and 2 hours independent). As an example, the Course could be completed over one full weekend, with a sleepover/camp to provide two full days to cover the material and complete activities, ending with a huge feast attended by family and friends with presentations on what has been achieved.

The section Suggested Delivery contains ideas for the Trainer to use. The Trainer may have other ideas to share in relation to delivering this Course, which may be added to this course material. If you have a fresh idea, please let us know by emailing youth@stjohn.org.au

| | |
|---|---|
| Skills & Attributes | |
| Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting, analysing and organising information. • Communicating ideas and information. • Planning and organising activities. • Working with others in teams. • Artistic expression. • Using technology. | Attributes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of service • Cultural awareness and understanding. |
| Cross-curricular links | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Eye Health • Public Relations | |
| First Aid integration | |
| <p>Although this Course does not contain first aid integration, the concepts of how first aid treatment started and has changed over time will prove an interesting subject for discussion.</p> | |
| Safety considerations | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All St John Youth Child Safeguarding policies and procedures must be followed at all times, especially regarding camps or activities outside of usual divisional meetings. • Leaders should be mindful of the diversity of Juniors and Youth Members. It is important that Leaders ensure that the material is delivered impartially, particularly with respect to the origins and history of the Order (i.e. Leaders should refer to various groups with the proper names such as ‘The Knights Hospitaller’ or ‘Saracens’ instead of religious groupings or ‘us’ or ‘them’. | |
| Assessors | |
| <p>Members with a sound understanding of the history and structure of St John.</p> | |

Objectives

| Juniors | Juniors will be able to ... |
|--|---|
| <p>The Medieval Lifestyle Experiencing what life was like during the Middle Ages and the relevance of this to the origins of St John.</p> | <p>1.0 Discuss various aspects of how people lived in the Middle Ages (roles, entertainment, housing, tools, dress, transportation).</p> <p>1.1 Take part in a medieval experience that reinforces concepts of a medieval lifestyle through role play (feast, mock joust and/or court).</p> |
| <p>Changing times and the Commissioner's Award Tracking the progress of St John from Colonial Australia to the present day and looking at the Commissioner's Award.</p> | <p>2.0 Discuss how things have changed over time in Australia (first aid treatment, uniform, ambulance, equipment).</p> <p>2.1 Discuss how the Commissioner's Award is structured (what you need to achieve, the Award's significance, the Award itself, and presentation ceremonies in your state/territory).</p> |
| <p>Promoting St John Learning about the diverse roles in the organisation and promoting this to others in the community.</p> | <p>3.0 Interview two people from within St John with different roles (clinical, Ambulance, community programmes, area committees, Chapter or paid staff) and discuss their time in St John.</p> <p>3.1 Promote St John to your local community (e.g. mufti day at school, help with a fundraising activity, write an article for your school newsletter, first aid display at your local shopping centre, or article in your state/territory news).</p> |

| Youth | Youth Members will be able to ... |
|--|---|
| <p>The Medieval Lifestyle Experiencing what life was like during the Middle Ages and the relevance of this to the origins of St John.</p> | <p>1.0 Discuss various aspects of how people lived in the Middle Ages (roles, entertainment, housing, tools, dress, transportation).</p> <p>1.1 Take part in a medieval experience that reinforces concepts of a medieval lifestyle through role play (feast, mock joust and/or court).</p> |
| <p>Significant Events in Australia Exploring the origins, history and significant events of St John in Australia.</p> | <p>2.0 Discuss how St John originated in Australia and how it has changed over time (e.g. regions, nursing divisions, statistics).</p> <p>2.1 Interview two people from within St John with different roles (e.g. clinical, ambulance, community programmes, area committees, Chapter or paid staff) and discuss their time in St John).</p> |
| <p>St John Today The ways in which St John meets various community needs, the Australian structure, and St John in other countries.</p> | <p>3.0 Research and present on the different functions (departments) of St John in your state/territory and how they support your local community.</p> <p>3.1 Explain the structure of St John in Australia (roles, state/territory St John organisations, the Australian Office, functions) and our presence worldwide.</p> <p>3.2 Discuss opportunities that are available in the Youth program (e.g. youth at events, first aid competitions, Divisional/Regional/National Cadet of the Year, Regional Colour Party, the Sovereign's Award or Southern Cross Award).</p> |

Objectives

| Youth | Youth Members will be able to ... |
|---|--|
| <p>Order Matters St John has a long and treasured history that needs to be recognised and celebrated.</p> | <p>4.0 Inform a small group on an aspect of the Order (e.g. Honours and Awards System, medals, Investiture) and the origins of titles and parts of uniform (e.g. Knight of Grace, georgette patches, mantles).</p> <p>4.1 Discuss the symbolism of the St John (or Maltese) cross and describe what it represents (beatitudes, colour, beasts).</p> <p>4.2 Present a timeline of events from 1080–today.</p> <p>4.3 Explain how St John is governed (e.g. the role of Chapter, governance in your State/Territory, national governance).</p> |
| <p>Youth Program Investigate the finer details of the Youth program, including divisional history and opportunities available.</p> | <p>5.0 Discuss how the Grand Prior's Award is structured (its significance, what you need to achieve, the Award itself, award criteria, presentation ceremonies).</p> <p>5.1 Discuss and present the current structure of the Youth program in Australia—from Junior to National Management.</p> |
| <p>Mission and Strategies Looking at how core concepts influence the work of St John today and the prospects for St John in Australia.</p> | <p>6.0 Discuss the work of St John in Australia and how this relates to our organisation's core Values.</p> <p>6.1 Discuss either St John's Mission in Australia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make first aid a part of everybody's life with at least one person educated, equipped, and prepared to provide first aid in every home and workplace, and at every public gathering. <p>or the Humanitarian Mission of the Order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St John is an international family of charities whose mission is to lead globally in First Aid and medical responses to community healthcare needs. <p>Participants should be able to articulate a view about whether the selected mission statement is reflective of the work that the organisation does today, or whether it is outdated.</p> |

Delivery

The suggested delivery plan below is intended to provide guidance on activities and tasks members can complete or participate in over 10 weeks to meet the objectives of the course. It is flexible and can be modified to suit the jurisdictions or divisions particular circumstances.

Juniors

| | WEEK 1 | WEEK 2 | WEEK 3 | WEEK 4 | WEEK 5 |
|--------------------|--|---|--------|--|--|
| AT DIVISION | Introduction | Life in the Middle Ages | | Australian News Archives | Changes in Australia |
| | The Commissioner's Award, Mission Statement. | Discuss various aspects of how people lived in the Middle Ages and the basic origin of St John (roles, hazards, tools, chivalry). | | Exploring articles that show origins and changes over time. | How technology and various needs have shaped St John. |
| SET TASKS | Activity: Setting Goals— 'What I hope to learn and discover.' | Activity: How Life Has Changed Present a summary that compares the lifestyle in the Middle Ages with lifestyle of today (transport, food, housing, leisure). | | Activity: Document review— Old newsletters, history books, historical society publications. | Activity: Promotional Campaign Task— Promote the organisation and how St John helps people in Australian communities (e.g. develop a poster, brochure, video advertisement). |

| | WEEK 6 | WEEK 7 | WEEK 8 | WEEK 9 | WEEK 10 |
|-------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| AT DIVISION | <p>Interviews</p> <p>2 people from various roles in St John (guest speakers)</p> | <p>Presentations</p> <p>Share the promotional task with a small audience (e.g. divisional visitors).</p> | <p>History of State/ Territory/ Division</p> <p>Discover when, where and how your State/ Territory and your division started.</p> | <p>Medieval Feast</p> <p>Plan the Feast and decide who is doing what. History of State/ Territory/ Division Discover how your division started.</p> | <p>Medieval Feast</p> <p>Themed dinner with families to role play and share portfolios.</p> |
| SET TASKS | <p>Activity (continued from week 5): Promotional Campaign Task— Promote the organisation and how St John helps people in Australian communities (e.g. develop a poster, brochure, video advertisement).</p> | <p>Activity: Preparation— Setting up for next week (decorations, tables, costumes).</p> | <p>Activity: History Project— Ask an older member of the division to be interviewed. Look on your website. Create a plan or timeline to share.</p> | <p>Medieval Feast Plan a menu; create decorations. History project: Complete timeline/role play.</p> | <p>Self-evaluation: 'What I have learnt and where to next?'</p> |

Delivery

Youth

| | WEEK 1 | WEEK 2 | WEEK 3 | WEEK 4 | WEEK 5 |
|--------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| AT DIVISION | Introduction | The Crusades | The Order in England | Honours/ Uniform | The Work of St John today |
| | Meanings of the Grand Prior's Award, Mottoes of the Order, Mission Statement in Australia (and the Order), Code of Chivalry. Start to discuss the Crusades—define crusade. | The various reasons and events which lead to the first Crusade, the origins of the Order of St John. | Significant events in England and the first Royal Charter's impact. | Honours, medals, origins of titles and uniform components. | Discuss the services provided by St John in Australia, including the Youth program and changes over time (information found via, e.g., guest speakers, research). |
| SET TASKS | Activity: Setting Goals 'What I hope to learn and discover.' | Activity Illustrating Core Concepts Visually explain 4 core concepts from, for example, the Mottos, Grand Prior Award and the significance of these to our organisation. | | Activity: History Presentation Task Presenting an accurate and detailed history of the Order from the first Crusades to today in Australia. How did your division form? (This could be achieved by, for example, a written project, re-enactment, informative movie/documentary, detailed picture book). Share the following video with Youth Members as inspiration https://youtu.be/Lfr5ZFxsEno Note: can be completed independently or collaboratively. | |

| | WEEK 6 | WEEK 7 | WEEK 8 | WEEK 9 | WEEK 10 |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| AT DIVISION | How St John is run The structure of St John and how it is governed (e.g. Chapter, at a state/territory and national level). | St John Strategy Examining the St John Mission in Australia and/ or the Australian Goals. | KOTO Prize What is the KOTO Prize? State/Territory/ Divisional History Those who don't want to participate in the KOTO Prize are able to look at the history of their State/Territory to which they belong. | Medieval Feast Medieval Feast Plan the Feast and who is doing what. KOTO Prize Work on their project. State/Territory/ Divisional History Look at how their Division started and any key milestones. | Medieval Feast Medieval Feast Themed dinner with families with presentations (re-enactments, movies). |
| SET TASKS | Activity: History Presentation Task Presenting an accurate and detailed history of the Order from the first Crusades to today in Australia. How did your division form? (This could be achieved by, for example, a written project, re-enactment, informative movie/documentary, detailed picture book). Share the following video with Youth Members as inspiration https://youtu.be/Lfr5ZFxsEno Note: This task can be completed independently or collaboratively. | | Activity: KOTO Prize Create (for example): a model castle, hand-written piece, play, photographic display, video, poster, brochure or flyer. State/Territory/ Divisional History Create a timeline; Interview a Member of the Order; explore the St John website. | KOTO Prize Creativity in making their project. Medieval Feast Plan and menu; who is doing what; create props. State/Territory/ Divisional History Create a timeline of their division and key milestones. | Self-evaluation: 'What I have learnt and where to next?' |

Ideas for delivery

These activities can be used for any level so long as difficulty is modified to ensure it is both achievable and challenging.

If you have a fresh idea to add, please email it to youth@stjohn.org.au

Possible activities

1. Cartoon Capers

Leaders provide each Youth Member a period which they have to create a comic strip that illustrates the events in that period. Once finished, this can come together as a complete comic book history of the Order.

2. Roles in St John

This is a task in which Members are assigned a role in the organisation which they must research and present a report back to the division. This could include an interview with someone in the role. The report should outline their tasks function, training, or qualities required and how they contribute to the work of St John. The interview could be recorded and shown to all at the division.

3. Stained-glass windows

An activity where Members create a stained-glass window related to the Order. Leaders could assign Members a set period of history or a method in which St John cares for Australian communities to make a series of pictures that tell a story. A quiz using the pictures as cues could follow.

4. Re-enacting history

Role play a part of the history of the Order:

- medieval-themed dinner with families
- setting up a hospital similar to hospitals founded by the Order of St John.

5. Evaluating the Beatitudes

A task for Members to understand and choose one of the 8 Beatitudes and state which is no longer relevant/important to St John. Whichever they choose they must replace it with a new one and write a paragraph because they have reached that decision. This is a good tool for members to understand and evaluate the true meanings of the Beatitudes.

Alternatively create a debate about their relevance today. The arguments are to:

- keep the Beatitudes as they stand, or
- change them to be more modern/relevant.

6. Cardboard knights

Juniors or Youth Members spend time creating their own armour to reflect the armour of the Knights of St John (Knights Hospitaller). Use the internet to search for pictures of the Knights to provide inspiration to the Juniors or Youth Members. Once complete, the Juniors or Youth Members can hold a fashion parade for the entire division and/or their families.

Activity specific resources:

- Images for Knights of St John or Knights Hospitaller (web search, books, newsletters).
 - Cardboard, scissors, string, glue, paint and brushes.
 - YouTube videos on, for example, 'how to make knight armour out of cardboard' or 'cardboard knight armour'.
 - Image search of cardboard knight armour (e.g. Google, Pinterest).
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Southern Cross award/16+ idea

Challenge

Assist the older members of our Order in having a cup of tea, assisting with shopping and other tasks.

Relationship

Teach the Juniors and other (younger) Youth Members about the importance of history and the challenges faced with First Aid from 100 years ago to now.

Community

Join the local (or State/Territory) St John Historical Society to assist in maintaining St John history at a local and/or state/territory level.

Service

Organise and coordinate an exhibition regarding history of their division/State or Territory.

Websites

- www.sja.org.uk/history
- www.orderofstjohn.org
- www.stjohneyehospital.org
- www.stjohninternational.org
- www.wikipedia.org
- www.stjohn.org.au

What are some roles nationally – are there any other Youth programs/groups or other youth lead activities that your region has access to (e.g. camps, the St John Australian Youth Advisory Network, state/territory youth advisory networks or councils) – this could be a chance to promote committees or other youth programs/groups.

St John Resources

- St John Youth Website (cadets.stjohn.org.au)
 - Your State/Territory St John website
 - The National website (www.stjohn.org.au)
 - St John International (www.stjohninternational.org)
 - St John annual reports and local publications
 - Old divisional, regional, state/territory or
 - National newsletters
 - Social media sites.
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Outside Sources

- Members with substantial knowledge of the history of the Order
 - Local Historical Society and historians.
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Books

- A Brief History of The Order of St John – John P Willis
- A Century of Service to Mankind: A History of St John Ambulance – R M Cole-Mackintosh
- The Order of St John, A Short History – E D Renwick
- A Very Short History of St John: Emphasising its Australian History* – Ian-Howie Willis
- Your State or Territory Historical Society.

* Available from Member Connect: members.stjohn.org.au; username: onestjohn; password: member.

Other resources

- Handout on the Beatitudes.
 - PowerPoint presentation (available from youth@stjohn.org.au)
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