Tips to take your School Sleepout virtual

VINNIES SCHOOL SLEEPOUT™

Thank you for hosting a Vinnies School Sleepout. These tips will help you to host your own virtual Sleepout. Sleeping out can change lives, but in our rapidly changing world it is not always feasible to hold face to face events. Luckily it is pretty simple to take your sleepout virtual!

If you haven't already, read our School Sleepout host guide here

Register your event online

Go to:
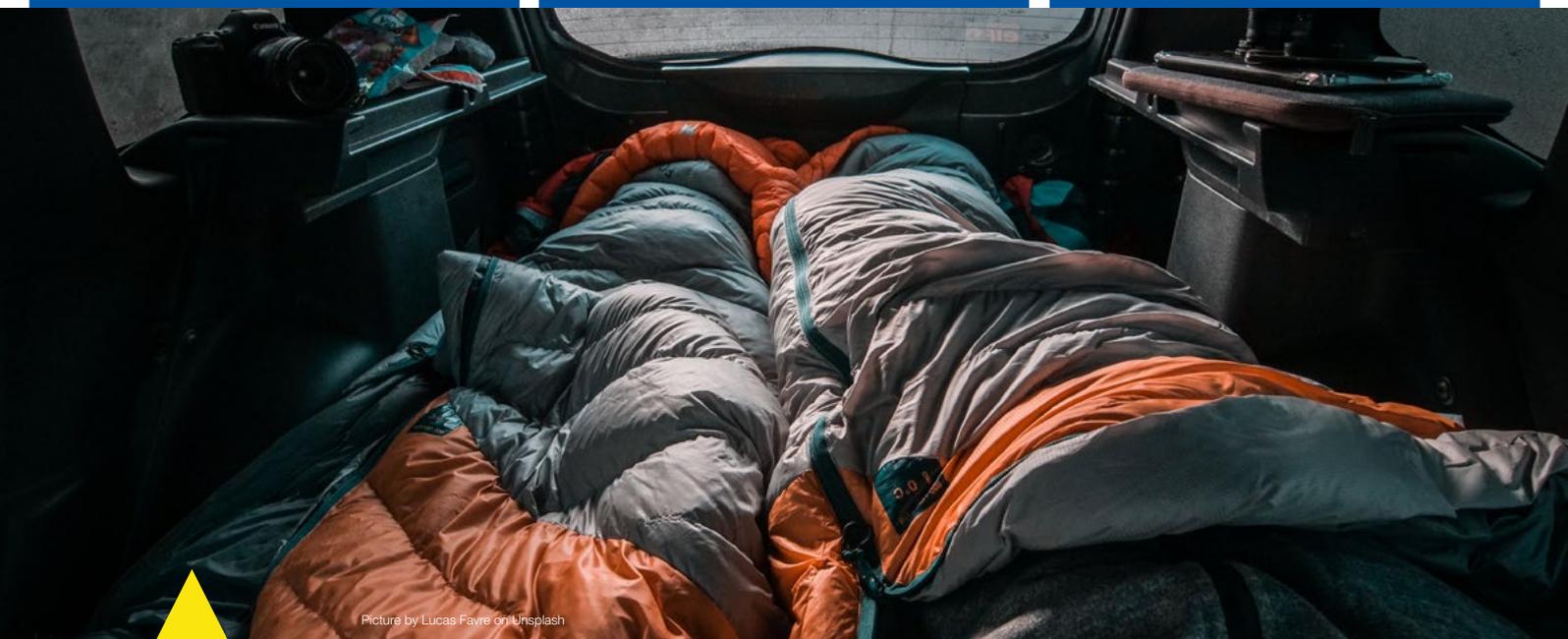https://fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/host/

Take your presentation online

Swap out your physical presentation for a webinar that students log in to and stream on the night.

Sleepout together from afar (home)

Encourage students to sleepout on their couch, backyard or garage and include family members too.

Picture by Lucas Favre on Unsplash

Did you know: only 7% of people experiencing homelessness are rough sleepers?*
Sleeping out in the car, couch or in the backyard can be a great conversation starter about the 'hidden homeless' of Victoria.

*ABS Census, 2016

Vinnies good works

Need more information? Let's break it down:

VINNIES SCHOOL SLEEPOUT™

1. Create a game plan

Before hosting a virtual sleepout, make sure you answer the following questions:

- Will the event be live, on-demand, or both?
- Where do I want the content to be seen?
- When is the best time for the event?
- Will you require event registration?
- How will you promote the event?
- Have you tested all your technology pre-event?

2. Getting the timing right

This is a sample live virtual event plan. If you are not doing a live event, then all you need to concentrate on is the presentation and activity which can be pre-recorded.

6:30pm	Presentation (via webinar)
7:15pm	Students eat their dinner (homemade soup and a piece of bread)
7:45pm	Activity (via webinar)
8:45pm	Lights out preparation
9pm	Lights out, sleep
Post Event	Thank you email and personalised participation certificate sent to students

Did you know that Vinnies soup vans provide more than 200,000 meals each year to people who are experiencing homelessness.

3. Promote the event

There are some great promotional resources on our website available for download. https://fundraiseforvinniesvic.org.au/school-resources/

Since you have already set up your sleepout page, include the URL in all your promotions including social media posts, emails, school newsletters, website and email signatures.

Note: Make sure students are aware of all the items they need for the Sleepout like a sleeping bag, beanie, and homemade soup of course!

4. Encourage Engagement

Creating more engagement opportunities on the night of the event can help students connect with the purpose of the Sleepout and lead to a more successful event.

Here are some suggestions about how to get the most out of your virtual event:

- Ask students to write a personal reflection of the night.
- Create activities such as trivia or this homelessness quiz on Kahoot.com
- Social media challenges.
- Ask a student leader to present about a topic on homelessness on the night.
- Create a video from the event from videos and photos sent in by students and their parents of their personal sleepout.
- Ask students to view some informative digital resources on the night:
  Youth Sleepout: https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/youth-sleep-out/10533828
  Youth homelessness: https://www.sbs.com.au/learn/resources/facilitate-classroom-discussions-about-homelessness/teacher-resource
  Filthy, rich and homeless: www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/1743444547880/filthy-rich-and-homeless

5. Make it inclusive

The great thing about a virtual event is that it can become much more inclusive, with younger students and their families able to take part.

Here are some suggestions to make your event more inclusive:

- Make sure you record the presentation so it can be watched at another time for those who are unable to participate on that date.
- Create options for older and younger students to participant overnight or just up to bedtime.
- Invite parents to also take part

Didn't find what you were looking for?

Have you read our School sleepout host guide or the downloadable resources on our website? If you still haven't found the answer to your questions, please feel free to get in touch with our fundraising team.

Vinniessleepout@svdp-vic.org.au
Or call us on (03) 9895 5959