

Welcome!

Scout Leader Orientation

As a new Scout Leader in the troop you likely have several questions about your role and the program. The following information will give you a quick overview and provide a handy reference.

Weekly Meetings Our troop meets every _____ from _____ to _____ at _____ . Leaders normally arrive _____ minutes early to help set-up and stay _____ minutes after to review how the meeting went and put everything away.

A typical meeting looks like this:

- 15 min. Gathering Activity
- 10 min. Ceremony
- 20 min. Steam-Off Game
- 40 min. Skills
- 20 min. Game/Challenge
- 15 min. Patrol/Troop Meeting
- 5 min. Spiritual Fellowship
- 10 min. Ceremony
- 15 min. Leader Meeting

Outdoors In Scouting we make frequent use of the outdoors for both meetings and special outings. Typical outdoor activities for our troop include:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Our Group In the _____ we have _____ sections including:

Section	Age Range	Meeting Night	Section Leader	Phone #
Beavers	5 – 7	_____	_____	_____
Cubs	8 – 10	_____	_____	_____
Scouts	11 – 14	_____	_____	_____
Venturers	14 – 17	_____	_____	_____
Rovers	18 – 26	_____	_____	_____

Note: see attached for additional sections if applicable.

The Troop The Scout section uses small groups called patrols. We also divide the youth by age for some activities. Dividing the Scouts into small groups makes it easier to communicate with the youth. Individual Scouts can contribute more to discussions in small groups and it is much better for detailed instruction. We also separate the youth for such activities as badge work and skill development.

**Group
Committee
and Partner**

We have an over-all organizing committee for the group. _____, tel _____ chairs the committee. Each section sends a representative to the meetings to report on our activity plans and to discuss matters affecting all of the sections such as fundraising and budgeting. Each section is responsible to the group committee. The group committee meets _____. Our group is sponsored by _____ who provides _____.

**External
Support**

Our group falls within the _____. _____, tel _____ is an experienced leader called a _____ who provides support to the leaders of our section such as program expertise and new information.

The _____ falls within the _____ council with an office in _____, tel _____. The majority of support for leaders comes from other volunteers, however, _____ is a _____ at the _____ level. As an employee of Scouts Canada, he/she provides service to the groups.

**Leadership
Team**

Scouting leaders participate in a Shared Leadership approach. In Scouts, one leader accepts over-all responsibility for the section, but the principle of sharing the leadership opportunities still applies. In all cases, leaders:

- cooperate and support one another
- take on a share of their tasks according to their ability and availability
- respect other team members' perspective in decision making
- demonstrate behaviour consistent with the Scout Law.

Each patrol has two youth leadership roles called the patrol leader and assistant patrol leader. The patrol leaders and their assistants come together in what's called the Court of Honour. Together with the troop scouter, they participate in program planning and decision making for the group.

Scouters in Training, ages 16 and 17, may volunteer to work with the Scouts as members of the leadership team. While they are often members of a Venturer company as well, they may register solely with the troop.

Scout leaders take on a number of roles such as:

- participating in the planning process
- preparing and leading activities
- communicating with youth and parents
- maintaining troop records
- representing the section to the group and council

Leadership In all activities and situations, leaders need to be prepared to adjust their level of direction and encouragement to match the needs of the youth involved in a particular challenge. For example, where a task or challenge involves new skills or thinking, it is appropriate for the leader to provide greater direction and encouragement than a situation where the youth are more capable and confident. Providing less direction than necessary can stimulate learning provided safety issues are addressed. Scouting's mission, principles, promises, law and mottoes provide a value base to guide decisions. Be prepared to draw on these references to guide feedback on youth decisions or to influence decisions affecting youth.

Youth Involvement in Decision Making When youth participate in program planning and decision making:

- the youth have more ownership of the program
- the program better reflects the interests of the youth
- youth grow through the process.

Engage youth regularly through the youth leadership roles and structures of the section to plan, deliver and evaluate the program. Speak to youth individually and in small groups. Seek spontaneous informal feedback throughout the year. Make a personal commitment to involving youth in program planning and decision making.

Scouting challenges youth to try new things. Learning often comes from initial failure followed by eventual success or reflection on what happened. Leaders constantly assess what risks are involved in Scouting activities to provide a safe place to make mistakes, including the social risk associated with failure. Youth learn how to support each other from the leaders' examples.

Personal Development All new leaders are expected to complete the objectives for the Selection Interview, Orientation and Probation and Basic Program Planning and Delivery (Core plus Section Specific Objectives for the relevant section) within a year of joining. The contact leader is expected to complete the Basic Section Management Objective within the first three months of taking on the role. Contact your _____ for options to acquire the missing knowledge and skills you need to complete the objectives. See Scouts Canada's website, www.scouts.ca for a complete set of learning objectives and a useful progress record. Development options range from self-study, to on-the-job learning, to workshops and courses. Additional specialties, such as first aid may often be accessed through Scouting.

***Essential
Leader
Resources***

For Leaders New to a Section

Scout Leader's Handbook
Troop Annual Record Book
Scout Program Standards
Leader Magazine

ON HAND FOR REFERENCE:

By-Law, Policies and Procedures
Camping/Outdoor Activity Guide
Duty of Care
Parents' Guide for Preventing Child Abuse
Canadian Scout Handbook

***Managing
Risk***

You should have a personal copy of the Camping/Outdoor Activity Guide for your use. Typical Scouting activities are grouped into three categories based on the location and duration of the activity.

In the Scout section, Category I (Green) includes both indoor and outdoor meetings at the regular meeting place. Category II (Yellow) includes any outdoor activity away from the regular meeting facilities, or, of an extended nature, up to and including short-term camps of three nights or less. This category covers most activities away from the regular meeting facilities, such as an overnight hike. Category III (Red) includes long-term overnight camps of four nights or longer, or activities of shorter duration, but requiring advanced levels of skills and competency (example: wilderness canoe trip).

Review the contents of the Camping/Outdoor Activity Guide and work through the prescribed process for a typical activity including two examples of incorporating safety considerations into the program.