

Welcome to Scouting!

Congratulations and welcome to a whole new adventure! As one of the thousands of adults across Canada who has generously offered to volunteer your time to the Scouting Movement, you are entering an extraordinary world of learning and adventure where you'll have a chance to guide and mentor a terrific group of young people.

You are joining the largest youth organization in the world, with a membership of more than 30 million in 160 countries. Scouts Canada, the country's leading youth organization, offers [five challenging regular programs](#) for girls and boys and young women and men aged 5 to 26 in thousands of individual groups in most cities and towns across Canada. Over 75,000 young people enjoy Scouts Canada's programs, which are provided by close to 25,000 caring and dedicated volunteers. We have a powerful mission, with a vision to create a better world, and we can only do this if we work together. As a new Scouter, I trust that you will be fully committed to the role, and please know that there are many Scouters here to help you in whatever way we can.

Our Mission:

To contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

We want to thank you for your commitment, your time, and your energy. Without your offer of leadership, we couldn't carry out our wonderful and dynamic programs. Taking on this role could be a bit overwhelming, so we've prepared a New Scouter Welcome Kit to help you find your way, answer your early questions, and introduce you to a wealth of resources you can draw on for inspiration and support. Let's get started.

What is Scouting?

The Scouting movement started with a camp over 100 years ago in 1907 when Baden-Powell held a first camp on Brownsea Island. He established a Promise and Law which were, and are, the fundamental basis for establishment of a value system.

If you are new to Scouting one of the key questions you may be asking is, what do we do in Scouting and is it a valuable organization today? What are our key values and how do we differentiate ourselves from other youth activities and clubs? You may also have heard about the three principles that we stand on in Scouts Canada that we believe are fundamental to our mission and vision.

Our first pillar is that of **Environmental Stewardship**. Scouting has been outdoors and teaching sound environmental practice since its beginning over one hundred years ago.

Healthy Active Living skills are continuously being developed – through new skills youth develop self confidence which leads to their growing self esteem. Combine that with a value system and we get youth who are ready to stand up for and make right decisions even where those around them make different choices.

Leadership development starts in Beavers where 5-7 year olds are taught through cooperative play to get along with each other – the beginning of "Team Work". Cubs work in Sixes, Scouts in patrols and Venturers and Rovers in a group with elected peer leaders. Youth work in small groups which means there is a natural transfer of skills learned to family, school group and to business work teams. Unlike other youth organizations leadership is not based on a hierarchy or command structure, it is leadership developed from within the individual.

Whatever the age of the youth, our program endeavours to provide progressive challenges to the individual so that learning never stops. In this way youth grow fundamental skills required to succeed in life, to give back to society, friends and family, to incorporate the outdoors, and environment, and to demonstrate a healthy lifestyle.

New Scouter Welcome Kit

The New Scouter Welcome Kit is designed as the key supporting documentation for your entry into the world of Scouting and a welcome to our greater family. It will likely be the first documentation you have received as a new leader and as such is designed to also provide you with sufficient information to get you started in the first few weeks.

In the package you'll find the following information:

- An orientation checklist of the key activities;
- The 20 top things you need to know for the first 6 weeks – ‘a survival guide,’
- Helpful information on what support you should expect and will receive – who is your mentor and how will they support you through the early stages;
- A copy of the relevant handbook for your section - your essential guide to everything you need to know;
- Access to an online Resource Tool Kit to help you plan events and activities;
- A ‘program in a can’ of ready-made activities and weekly sessions known as Jumpstarts for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to help you get started;
- Information on how we protect our youth and our leaders;
- A ‘who’s who in the zoo’ with names of key contacts to go to for support; and
- A couple of inspirational video messages from the Chief Commissioner and the 100 year celebration of Scouts.
- Your first copy of *Scouting Life* Magazine; and
- Access to the Scouts Canada website for much, much more!

We hope you find this New Scouter Welcome Kit useful and inspirational, and we’d certainly welcome your feedback. Please send us a line at newleader@scouts.ca to let us know if you found this package helpful, and what if anything, we could add to make your entry into Scouting more enjoyable.

We wish you all the best in Scouting this year!

Yours in Scouting,



STEPHEN P. KENT
Chief Commissioner and
Chair of the Board of Governors