

SWC Meeting Q&A – January 16, 2021

The following questions were addressed directly during the meeting – please refer to the Minutes for the recap. Please feel free to reach out to your Relationship Manager if you need clarifications:

Registration Related

- Can you please explain the rationale behind the change in registration year?
- Will there be prorated fees offered throughout the year as the province / country opens up?
- How do we justify the full membership fee, when we can currently only offer virtual scouting (which students are also getting in school right now)?
- How do we explain to the parents about the full membership fee, with only virtual meetings which is practically free? Parents concerns too much screen time.
- Will there be an option for September registration, for groups that are not active during winter due to the pandemic?
- With the projection we will be virtual for probably the next 6 months with no outdoor activities. Is Scout Canada considering a discount for the membership fee?
- how many years will it take to decide if Jan-Jan reg is a good thing or not?

Minutes/Slides

- Can we have the minutes emailed to the GCs?
- Can we get a copy of the slides, especially the program slides?
- Nikki, please email the retention materials out to all of us.

The following questions were submitted on Slido, but we did not have a chance to address them due to time limitations. Please see below for our written response. Please feel free to reach out to your Relationship Manager if you need clarifications:

Membership starting in Jan is bad for a new member who must pay a full year's fee for Sep-Dec. I want a partial-year fee for that.

Thank you for the great point – this is something we shared with our National Team on Thursday, January 14, 2021. We recognize that while the January-December model is great for retention, we should also consider what works best for New Members. National committed to looking into various options to optimize member's experience.

re: reg -- Youth are January to January... Leaders are Sept to Sept... how will this issue be resolved?

Thank you for raising this issue – we appreciate the importance of aligning resources and Scouters availability. We will share your point with our National counterpart.

The topic that went unsaid in my room - families and Scouters who aren't coming back, due to costs, timing of January, virtual fatigue, perceived quality.

We recognize Scouters, families, and kids are people too. As Kyle from 3rd Aurora said, don't take it personally – as long as your existing youth members are having fun, then you've done a great job (Side note: his Group is in a growth position already, even though we are in a COVID situation). Key points:

- Look Forward
- Think Positive
- Try our best (Please see our [Ice-Breaker Result Slides](#))

During Virtual meetings, can previous year youth who have not paid for registration be included (with modification to their my scouts profile from SC). Part 1

Those that have paid could receive a discount the following year based on the number of months virtual. Part 2

My feeling is that by excluding the non paid youth that we are adding to the division in social status (financial, race, etc). Part 3

Unfortunately, our program is only for registered members. Having said that, we want Scouting to be available to **all** Canadian youth across our country, regardless of circumstance. Cost should not be a barrier to registration. Please encourage the use of the **No One Left Behind fund** (<https://help.scouts.ca/hc/en-ca/articles/360025335571-No-One-Left-Behind-Subsidy-FAQ->).

We are also committed to being inclusive – Scouts Canada recently recruited a Director for Diversity & Inclusion, who will ensure we break down all systematic barriers (intentional or not).

You can also reach out to your Relationship Manager if the circumstance is unique.

Can we see registration numbers

We know in the past, our Council post registration numbers for all GCs to see and compare. At the moment, our focus is on supporting our groups as we journey through the 2nd wave of COVID. We will resume our regular Performance Management Dashboard (like in the past) at the appropriate time. In the meanwhile, we can comment Registration within Shining Waters Council is satisfactory given the current COVID situation – full credit goes to all the great Scouters within Shining Waters Council

If you wish to understand how your Group compares to other local groups (and see if you're on the right track), you can reach out to your Relationship Manager, who can provide you with specific data and statistics.

Is SC planning to have all members to have the vaccine as a part of its membership?

There is currently no plan to ask for proof of immunization in order to be an active member of Scouts Canada. We caution Groups in making a unilateral ruling on this item without prior consultation with parents and members – because most provinces, including Ontario, have stated that vaccination will continue to be a voluntary procedure. For sure, we will always follow the direction by the provincial medical officer of health or all local public health authorities

SC should have an app for youth, include activity finder, badges, etc. Remain youth led. Youth do well without adult input when in a safe environment.

Yes, an App will be great – however, it will come with development cost. In the meanwhile, youth can use the following sites for Activity Finder and Badges:

- <https://www.scouts.ca/resources/activity-finder.html>
- <https://www.scouts.ca/programs/canadian-path/personal-achievement-badges/overview.html>

are scout properties going to be used for homeless again this winter, during the lockdown?

At the moment, we are not aware of any Scout Properties within SWC that will be used as homeless shelters. Scouts Canada is always willing to work with community partners to support our communities.

Why is there constant problems with MyScouts? I have lost all of my Rovers

Rover Scouts will need to renew their registration – similar to any other youth, except (1) they can self-register if over 18 and (2) no fees will be involved

For more info: <https://help.scouts.ca/hc/en-ca/articles/204266204-How-to-Register-as-a-Rover-Scout>

You can also reach out to Scouts Canada Help Centre directly to deal with any technical difficulties (<https://help.scouts.ca/hc/en-ca/requests/new>)