

# FUN ADVENTURES. Outdoor Experience. FRIENDSHIP. GROWTH.

There are many ways for parents to participate in the Scouting experience!

## Welcome and Orientation Evening for Scouting Parents

### GOAL OF THE EVENING:

Share some of the best practices for parents to help their kids get the most of their Scouting experience.

Welcome everyone, have them gather or take a seat depending what kind of space you are using for your presentation.

The importance of this document is to share with parents many of the opportunities their youth will have by participating in Scouting and understand what role they can play to support their youth and yourself as a Scouter. More importantly, this document will help parents understand our Scouting culture.

Do not be shy to share who is part of the Group Committee and who the Section Scouters are. Speak of Scouting as an organization and direct the parents to where / who they talk to find help.

Your presentation should not go more than 30mins, and do give time for questions.

- Welcome / Introduction (1mins)
- What is Scouting and Scouts Canada (2mins)
- Scouting Lingo and Roles (10mins)
- What to Expect from the team (5mins)
- How you (Parents) can help (10mins)

- Useful links (2mins)
- Questions

Using different presenters for each subject is actually a good idea. Using Youth to present is even better.

Do not be humble, be proud to share all the work and effort that will be given to support some great Scouting Adventures this Scouting year.



## ABOUT SCOUTS CANADA

Scouts Canada is the country's leading youth organization offering exciting programs for boys, girls and young adults aged 5 to 26. The mission of Scouts Canada is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to build a better world where people are self-fulfilled and play a constructive, meaningful role in society.

Scouting is based on three broad principles that reflect its fundamental beliefs: Duty to God.), Duty to Others, and Duty to Self. These core values are reflected in programs that are built on healthy and active living, environmental stewardship, leadership development, and community service.

Scouts Canada welcomes into membership all those whose faith traditions, spiritual expressions and/or personal value systems align with the Scout Law and who are committed to respecting the spiritual choices of others.

Duty to God is a commitment to living the spirit of the Scout Law in recognition that we are part of a reality beyond self and beyond the present moment.

You might be surprised to know that there are over 74,000 youth in Scouting across Canada, as well as over 25,000 Volunteers – many of whom are parents of Scouting youth themselves. With every new member, with every camp and every community service project, Scouts Canada works hard to make one simple promise to Canadian youth and their parents:

For over 105 years, kids in Scouting have been having fun Adventures they wouldn't discover elsewhere.

Along the way, kids develop into capable, confident, and well-rounded individuals. Scouting is the start of something great.

**It starts with Scouting.**



## SCOUTING LINGO

**Briefly describe some of the terminology that parents may hear throughout the evening, have youth help you:**

- Sections, Groups, Areas, Council;
- Section Scouters, Support Scouters;
- Scouts Canada's organizational structure;
- Scouts Canada Volunteers - who are organized and trained to deliver great, safe Scouting Adventures;
- The Canadian Path program.

### About Our Group (Talk about your Group, Area and Council)

- Quick history, fun facts, your necker colours, Group crest;
- Talk about your Area and its team and purpose;
- Talk about the Council office and team, and their supportive purpose;
- Talk about some of the exciting things that the Group did last year.

### About Our Group Commissioner (Role & Expectations)

- Provide an essential link between Sections, Groups and Areas;
- Be the conduit for rapid communication and response; is a direct avenue for servicing and the passage of information in both directions.



- Ensure the delivery of Scouts Canada's programs in accordance with its Mission and Principles, which meet Scouts Canada's Program Standards and are in keeping with the goals and ideals of the Partner/Sponsor.
- Ensure compliance with all Policies and Procedures of Scouts Canada – focus on safety of youth, risk management, leader training and program quality.
- Establish and maintain positive relationships with parents, Scouters, Partner/Sponsor, other Commissioners and the community at large.
- If there are questions or concerns you may have, your main contact is the Section Scouter. If you have any concerns and you are not comfortable talking to a Section Scouter, please speak to the Group Commissioner or Area Commissioner.
- All of Scouts Canada's Volunteers are screened, have a Police Record Check (PRC) with Vulnerable Sector Search (VSS), and have taken specific training to work with your child. This includes: Child & Youth Safety training; accessibility awareness training for people with disabilities, specific Scouting training for the Section of their designation. Volunteers have committed to a Code of Conduct, ensuring we deliver consistent, high quality, repeatable, safe and fun programs.

### **Present any special guests**

- AC, Sponsors, Council.

### **Introduce The Scouters (By Section)**

Our Primary responsibility as Scouters is to facilitate and support the program that our youth have challenged themselves with, while guided by our outlined Program Standards and the Section-specific Scouters' Handbook.

- Scouters work with both the other Scouters in the Sections and the youth to plan programs and share leadership within the program meetings, ensuring the youth are engaged, safe, and most importantly, having FUN!

Our Scouters work very hard in making sure that your child has the best Scouting experience possible; we need your help so that we can achieve this.

## **IMPORTANT FACTS TO REMEMBER:**

We have straightforward guidelines and a Code of Conduct that is respected at all times:

- Our Scouters always work in pairs, however, back up is sometimes needed to help our Volunteers. If Scouters are short in support, they may ask parents to help out. It is important to remember that we always have a minimum of two Scouters working with our youth.
- Scouters will email parents only, and if they do email youth a parent will be copied.
- Our Scouters will never turn down your help – in fact, they will encourage it. We have found that many hands make for a more fulfilling experience for both youth and parents. You may be required to complete some safety training depending on your level of involvement, but it's free, online, and would not take more than a few hours to complete.



## OUR GROUP (ROLES & EXPECTATIONS)

- **Sponsor**
- **Sections:** (Have the Section Scouters introduce their sections: first meeting, meeting times, uniform, high level schedule. Explain what makes them different from the other sections (explain the logical incremental learning experience for the youth).
- **Group Committee:** (Who is who)
- **Administrator:** Upcoming meetings, talk about group events.
- **Registrar:** Myscouts support, help with registrations, help Scouters with potential new recruits.
- **Treasurer:** Donations, making cheques or payments for events, NOLB
- **Fundraiser:** Popcorn, Scouttrees, Bottle drives
- **A quick word on fundraising:** With some great Adventures, come great costs. This is an important reality that creates great learning opportunities for our youth. As the fall begins and our Scouting Year starts winding up, we will need our youth to help find financial support for camps, events and even some of the theme nights we organize. Throughout the Scouting Year, we will be actively doing some fundraising to help make their Adventures reality. For example:
- **Popcorn:** For the whole month of October, Groups from across Canada will be going door-to-door selling delicious Scout Popcorn to help fund Scouting Adventures for the 2015-2016 Scouting Year.
- Remember, we're not just selling popcorn, we're helping fund more quality programming, more first time Adventures and more memories to last a lifetime.
- **Quartermaster:** Gear

## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US

- Our Group website (if you have one). [www.GROUPNAME.ca](http://www.GROUPNAME.ca)
- Tons of info, up-to-date calendars, contact details, event pictures.

- Talk about your social media links also (Twitter handle or FB page)
- Regular emails (Quick poll; is this the best way to reach everyone): do not be too shy to share with us.

Emails are often sent to share about upcoming events and will ask if your child would like to attend. Please let us know if your child can or cannot attend. It is challenging to plan an event if we don't hear back from parents, so please reply yes or no.

We will try to give you as much support and details as possible: Camp details (location, itinerary), things to bring, etc. If you feel like we missed something, please ask.

## HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD HAVE AN INCREDIBLE SCOUTING YEAR (SOME TRICKS)

**PARTICIPATE:** As noted earlier – if you want to participate and/or help out, then we'd be delighted to have you. As we do with youth, we treat all parents equally regardless of their ability. We firmly believe that Scouting has much to offer young people as they develop and that taking part is more important than being good something. The same holds true for parents.

**BE PREPARED:** Make sure your child gets the most out of this experience. It's okay to help as a parent, but your child must also learn from these experiences, and in true Scouting fashion, they will learn best by doing.

### Example:

For a weekend overnight or camping trip, have youths pack their gear. Younger sections may need a hand, but they should be able to prepare the beginning of a packing list, and they are the ones who should pack their bag. This helps them find their toothbrush at camp a bit easier, and it helps them know how to re-pack it at the end of camp. The same mindset can be applied to working on badge requirements and building Kub Kars.





## THE CANADIAN PATH

Scouts Canada's revitalized program, The Canadian Path, enhances our approach to Scouting, giving it the edge that makes it more relevant for today's youth. The Canadian Path is defined by its Four Elements: Youth-led, Plan-Do-Review, Adventure and SPICES. These Four Elements provide youth with the opportunity to play an active role in facilitating and creating their own Youth-Led path and program. The Plan-Do-Review element creates a more engaged and reflective process for our members, which they can apply to all their Adventures –and there will be many Adventures! SPICES, which stands for: Social, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional and Spiritual, will provide youth with a program that fosters well-rounded individuals, better prepared for success in the world.

New Canadian Path resources will be introduced to your youth this year; offering some great changes to their Scouting program. Take a look at some of the resources and videos on [Canadianpath.ca](http://Canadianpath.ca)

## PARENTS

Be supportive; offer to help when you can. Offer to help if one of our Activities seems to interest you. Help with badge work and other projects that kids are working on at home.

Don't let the kids have all the fun! There are some great opportunities to help at camps, events, with Group Committee, or as a Scouter.

All of our Volunteers are trained in our program sections, child and youth safety and with courses to perfect their skills. If you are interested in joining the team, let me know this evening. I can give you more information.

**Transportation:** Unless organized transportation (like a bus or train) is being planned for the outing or camp, parents are responsible for transporting their youth to and from the event. It's against Scouts Canada policies for a Volunteer (including a Scouter) to drive your kids to camp; we have to respect the Two Scouter Rule. To be honest, it's an added burden on the Scouter, who is already volunteering his/her time, so it's easier to have you drive your child. It also makes it easier for you to participate!

**Children with special needs:** Let us know about any special needs that your child may have: dietary, medical, or learning.

Sign in and out system for meetings, events and camps (If your group has a system in place, good time to share it).

**Making Scouting even better:** We do try to do our best in creating the greatest possible program. If we have overlooked something, we want you to let us know. Ask questions. If you have concerns, do not hesitate to speak to us about it.

## GREAT, SAFE SCOUTING ADVENTURES:

- We talked a lot about the extensive training that our Volunteers go through, our safety policies and procedures for Scouting activities, and our Two Scouter Rule. We place great expectations on our Volunteers.
- If you have any questions about the way things are being done, or thoughts on how they can be improved, please speak with your Section Scouters.

If you prefer, you can also contact myself, our Area Commissioner, the Council office, or our National Help Centre: (Scouts Canada) 1-888-855-3336 or [helpcentre@scouts.ca](mailto:helpcentre@scouts.ca).

## Questions?



You may wish to hand out important notes for the parents to remember. Here is a list of some of those items that you should include in the hand out.

## USEFUL LINKS

**Group Site:**

**Council Website:**

**Area Commissioner email:**

**Key contact details (Group Commissioner, Scouters)**

**Meeting location & information**

**External contacts (Help Centre, other links section)**

**Key program dates (e.g. fundraisers, camps, jamboree) that are already scheduled**

**National Site:**

[Scouts.ca](https://scouts.ca)

[myscouts.ca](https://myscouts.ca)

**Child and Youth Safety:**

[Scouts.ca/ca/scouting-safety](https://scouts.ca/ca/scouting-safety)

**Volunteering at Scouts Canada:**

[Scouts.ca/ca/volunteer](https://scouts.ca/ca/volunteer)

**Our Help Center:**

<https://help.scouts.ca>

**Event pages:**

[Popcorn \(Scoutpopcorn.ca\)](https://scoutpopcorn.ca)

