



# ROLE OF THE CHAPLAIN

## MISSION

To contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities through the application of our Principles and Practices.

## PRINCIPLES

Scouting is based on three broad principles which represent its fundamental beliefs.

### Duty to God:

This is defined as: "Adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom."

### Duty to Others:

This is defined as: "Loyalty to one's country in harmony with the promotion of local, national and international peace, understanding and cooperation", and "Participation in the development of society, with recognition and respect for the dignity of one's fellow-being and for the integrity of the natural world."

### Duty to Self:

This is defined as: "Responsibility for the development of one-self." This is in harmony with the educational purpose of the Scout Movement whose aim is to assist young people in the development of their potentials.

## POLICY ON RELIGION

Some extracts:

- a) Youth shall be encouraged to participate actively in the life of a religious community... and to assume appropriate responsibilities in it.
- b) Scouters shall, in addition to accepting the principles of Scouts Canada, provide leadership by word and example in the application of (a) above.
- c) Scouts Canada prefers and strongly encourages membership and participation by all adult members in the religious programs and activities of a religious community.

## PURPOSE OF THE CHAPLAIN

As a full member of the leadership team of the group or section, working with both leaders and committee personnel:

- to assist in the provision of spiritual guidance to leaders and youths;
- to assist in the implementation of the mission and principles, and Scouting's policy on religion;

- to ensure that due emphasis is given to the religious aspects of Scouting in the conduct and life of the section.

## TASKS OF THE CHAPLAIN

- be a spiritual advisor to the leaders and youth;
- be available for individual spiritual ministration to youth and adults as the need arises;
- be a spiritual resource to the group/section;
- be familiar with and apply the principles of Scouts Canada;
- be a facilitator, especially in regard to the Religion in Life Programs;
- in religious-sponsored groups, be a link to the Religious Education Committee, or other appropriate committee;
- encourage leaders to feel free to provide leadership, by word and example, of their religious affiliation, especially in "open" groups;
- visit section meetings regularly and where possible take an active part in the activities;
- effect a contact with parents to gain their support in spiritual program emphasis;
- effect conduct of Scouts' Own service and/or church parades as need arises;
- in a religious-sponsored group, help the congregation and leaders to view Scouting as an important part of the Religious Education Program.

## APPOINTMENT OF CHAPLAIN

The Chaplain for a religious-sponsored group would normally be a member of the clergy or a qualified layperson and would be appointed by the group committee in consultation with the Scouters concerned, as a member of the leadership team.

The Chaplain for a non religious-sponsored group would normally be a member of the clergy or qualified layperson appointed in the same manner. Where several denominations are involved, this position could be held by various persons on a rotating basis for a set period of time.

Council Chaplains may be appointed by Scout councils on the same basis to carry out tasks as assigned by the council.

## INVESTITURE AND PROMISE — CHAPLAIN

All persons accepting a role in Scouts Canada (other than as youth members of a section program) must commit themselves to the active expression of the principles of Scouting, and to help achieve the Mission. Scouters do this either through written agreement or by affirmation of the Scouter promise or section promise.

As a member of the group/section leadership team, the Chaplain may make the same promise as a Scouter to be invested as a member of Scouts Canada:

*“On my honour, I promise  
that I will do my best to do  
my duty to God and the  
Queen, to help other people  
at all times and to carry out  
the spirit of the Scout Law.”*

## INVESTITURE AND PROMISE — YOUTH

The preparation of youth for investiture is primarily the responsibility of the section Scouter concerned. However, the Chaplain should ensure that all candidates realize that the promise is being made to the Scouter, in the presence of those who have already made the appropriate promise at their own investiture.

In religious-sponsored groups it is appropriate to hold investiture ceremonies in the place of worship, either at a Public Service or at a special service arranged by the Chaplain. However, many sections have a tradition of a ceremony, with a parent or guardian involved. In any case, youth should be consulted.

## UNIFORM AND INSIGNIA

Chaplains may wear the uniform as for Scouters with the Chaplain’s cloth badge (as shown on the cover) worn above the right breast pocket.

## THE RELIGION IF LIFE PROGRAM

The Religion in Life Program is designed to encourage or deepen an understanding of God and a fuller participation by members in the work of their religious community.

Through participation in the programs, the *Scout* undertakes specific challenges set by his or her religious leaders. Through study, service and a closer relationship with his spiritual advisor or Chaplain, the *Scout* will grow in his/her faith.

## SCOUTS’ OWN

A Scouts’ Own is a gathering of members held for the worship of God and to promote the fuller understanding of the promise and law. It is supplementary to, and not in substitution for, regular religious services. It is prepared and conducted by the leaders and youth in consultation with the Chaplain and should be acceptable to all the faiths represented. A Scouts’ Own may be held at any time and in settings other than a church or synagogue.

## RESOURCES

To assist the Chaplain to do his/her job, religious institutions and Scouting provide support and materials.

### Scouting provides:

- a selection of program handbooks for youth and leaders;
- *Let’s Celebrate*, a Christian ecumenical handbook of spiritual ideas for Scouting;
- denominational pamphlets on the Religion in Life Programs;
- *By-Law, Policies and Procedures* — rules on how to play the game of Scouting;
- opportunities to take training, either formal or informal;
- access to Scout training centres;

- opportunities to participate in seminars/workshops and meetings such as Scouters’ Clubs and Scouters’ conferences;
- special co-operative events such as Partners’ Conferences;
- plus a wide range of other program support materials.

### Religious Institutions provide:

- liaison personnel in many denominations working with Scouting personnel at the national and other levels;
- some Scout oriented religious publications
  - The Anglican Church and Scouting
  - The Baptist Church and Scouting
  - The Catholic Church and Scouting
  - The Church and Scouting (Saints)
  - Partnership with Boys (United)
  - Wayfinders Kit (Anglican)
  - Religion in Life — A Leader’s Guide (United)
  - Religion in Life Resource Manual (Baptist)
  - Christ and the Child in Focus — a Religion in Life resource for Salvation Army groups;
- materials related to religious education and adult education which are applicable to Scouting;
- midweek program resources;
- access to local ministerial associations and theological colleges;
- speakers, trainers, seminar and workshop leaders;
- religious training programs and access to religious training centres.

Notes: The word *Scouts* appearing in italics refers to all youth members: Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers.

Scouts Canada expresses its appreciation to the participants of the 1978 National Partners’ Conference for their contribution to the development and content of this pamphlet.

For further information or assistance call or write to:



Girl Guides  
of Canada  
Guides  
du Canada

