

the **leader**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2001

VOLUME 32 NO.1

Amory Adventure Awards

**Hiking
Jasper
Park**



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Executive Editor
Andy McLaughlin

Editor
Allen Macartney

Art Director
Richard Petsche

Advertising/Circulation
Laureen Duquette

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1345 Baseline Road, Suite 100
Ottawa ON K2C 0A7
Phone: (613) 224-5131
Fax: (613) 224-5982
E-mail: leader@scouts.ca
Web Site: <http://www.scouts.ca/leader.htm>

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Amory Adventure Award Winners

Jasper National Park Hiking Trek

— from Matthew Schmidt —

VENTURERS FROM THE 1st Southdale Company (Winnipeg, MB) won top honours in this year's Amory Adventure Awards for their back-packing trip through Jasper National Park.

Venturers from the 1st Southdale Company had many reasons for choosing Jasper Park for their hiking adventure. Some mem-

bers wanted to prove that they could hike a long distance over many days, some wanted to test their Scouting skills, while others wanted to have a snowball fight on a mountain glacier in July. All of them wanted to see the mountains in Jasper Park.

To give you a flavour for the trip from a youth's point of view, we've reproduced parts of one Venturer's log book (Matthew Schmidt).

Bears, Alpine Meadows and Rocky Mountains

Today we started our Jasper hiking trek. What excitement! Hitting the trail early, we got off to an enthusiastic start. Our group planned to camp at Boulder Creek. I found the trail fairly easy; the ground was flat and I thought it would continue like this for the rest of the day. Bubbling with confidence, we hiked along thinking we were making excellent time. How wrong we were.

"Look at this," someone said. "We're going to actually reach our campsite in only a couple of hours. We rock!"

The hours dragged on until one of us realized someone had made a map and compass error. "Uuhhh," a collective groan escaped our lips. "Okay people. Let's break for lunch."

The stop proved helpful; it let us refocus attention on the map, and recharge depleted energy batteries with food. But then we saw our im-

pending doom... Nigil Pass. Though the Pass only rose 150 metres, it appeared almost vertical. Finishing the rest of our lunch (stuffing ourselves silly with food), we strapped on packs and started climbing.

"Ooww!" That's the only word to describe the pain and effort required to ascend the Pass. Part of the problem was our glutinous lunch. Foolishly, we had eaten so much that our bodies had strength for either digesting food or climbing – not both. We

learned a good lesson from this error: eat *after* a heavy physical challenge, not before.

At the summit, we rolled the packs off our tired backs and flung ourselves down on the ground, exhausted. Our campsite still lay several long kilometres away, but we soaked up the incredible grandeur – striking beauty – around us. By the time we finally arrived at our Boulder Creek campsite, all we could think about was supper and soaking tired feet.

Bear Rampage

Six a.m. My tent is shaking! Oh, it's just one of the guys playing a joke. Besides, it's time to get up.

A bright blue sky helped put me in an amazing mood. Life is fantastic! Then we heard the news: a bear had ripped up some tents at a nearby campsite last night. Not good. The area lay directly in our hiking path that day.

"Does everyone have bear spray?" The words hung in the air like a sentence of doom. All members nodded affirmative, not wanting to glance left or right and show anyone else their uneasiness. After packing up, we hit the trail, clutching out bear spray and whistles.

Again the scenery was breathtaking, with mountains and bright blue lakes on all sides. After several kilometres we came to a log cabin along the trail. Fresh claw marks scored the sides and bottom. This added to our daily level of adrenaline and spurred us on our way.

Just as we had the day before, we misread our map, but we soon figured



out the error and returned to the trail. This day raced by; our group soon reached a terrific campsite with a sandy beach and a great place to hang food well out of reach of bears. We all considered sleeping in the trees.

"It's My Birthday!"

Again I awoke from sleep suddenly, seeing my tent shake. Is it a bear all set to feast on me? No, just my Venturer friends wishing me a happy birthday. I'm 17!

Today my goal was firmly anchored in my mind... get a walking stick. It makes crossing swift streams much easier. Within several hours I had found a beautiful stick with just the right amount of springiness.

The day's hike went well – no bear encounters – and by late afternoon we found our planned campsite. This one had an icy cold stream running through it, perfect for soaking hot feet. My hiking buddies prepared a birthday gift that we all shared: garlic bread.

Lighter Packs and Stronger Legs

Next morning dawned bright and sunny. We started early to avoid expected afternoon heat. Hiking was now part of our routine; our packs were getting lighter by the day and our legs were getting stronger, more used to the rigours of outdoor life.

As the hours wore on, we stopped beside a stream to pump (filter) water into our canteens. Ahead lay the 300-metre high Pobaktan Pass, the loftiest ascent we had made yet. The Pass started easily, then steepened. We stopped frequently to rest and drink water. By the time the snow-clad top of the Pass came into view, everyone was exhausted. With each metre upward, the temperature seemed to climb too, until it hovered around 30°C. On the summit plateau we enjoyed lunch surrounded by an incredible alpine panorama.

"I'm on top of the world!"



Onwards and upwards to Jonas Shoulder.



Later that day, well down from the summit, we saw a bear in the distance. Collectively we brought our bear whistles to our mouths, and as one, whistled loudly. The bear looked up in our direction then started running the other way.

At our campsite that night – beside a set of raging rapids – we gathered around a fire and ate supper, enjoying the comradery of good friends, while rubbing sore muscles.

Filled with Excitement and Sadness

Over the next two days our group of Venturers climbed Jonas Shoulder (almost a 400 metre ascent), slipped on loose rock, played in glacial snow, nursed blisters, and thrilled to several more “mountain-top experiences.”

Before any of us knew it, we had returned to our original trailhead. It was both an exciting and sad time. We felt proud to have accomplished such an incredible trip on our own, but sad that the adventure was over. After being in the bush for so long and doing nothing but hiking, it seemed as if that was where we were supposed to be. For the first time in our lives entering a city would feel foreign to us. When we did arrive back in Winnipeg, it felt more like we were leaving home instead of going there.



Lessons Learned

Our company learned many lessons during this adventure. Here are just some of them.

- ☐ Make sure everyone is equipped with a compass, a map and a bear whistle.
- ☐ Before going on a trip like this, plan for every possible accident. The planning will heighten your adventure experience, and make it safer.
- ☐ Bring one more water filter pump than you think you'll need. It's surprising how easy sediment can clog up some filters.
- ☐ Have just one person in charge of the finances. We had several, and it created both confusion and more work.
- ☐ Everyone should have a walking staff. These make walking easier, and improve your footing when crossing fast-flowing streams.
- ☐ Stop when your members are tired. One of our Venturers almost fell over a cliff, and another almost slipped off a bridge just because of exhaustion.
- ☐ Don't eat a big meal immediately before tackling a difficult physical effort, like a hard climb. Get necessary energy from snacks, then eat a big meal after the herculean effort. ^

— Matthew Schmidt is a member of 1st Southdale Company (Winnipeg, Manitoba).

AMORY AWARD WINNERS

Top honours this year were awarded to youth from the 1st Southdale Venturer Company (Winnipeg, MB) for a Jasper National Park backpacking trip.

Second place went to members of the 175th Roadkill Company (Edmonton, AB) for hiking the Klondike Gold Rush Chilkoot Trail.

Two companies won the third place finish. The 1st Glenmore Venturers (Winfield, BC) planned and enjoyed a spectacular Queen Charlotte Islands kayak adventure, while youth from the 31st Hamilton Company (Hamilton, ON) hiked the Chilkoot Pass and paddled down the Yukon River to the Klondike Valley.

Read about all of these adventures in future issues of **the Leader**.

PLAN YOUR AMORY ADVENTURE NOW

Start planning your Amory Adventure challenge now. It is awarded annually to the company which displays the most initiative in conceiving, planning and executing an outdoor adventure activity.

Your adventure might include almost any challenge your Venturers want to reach for. Some past winners involved:

- ☐ Hiking the Continental Divide
- ☐ Backpacking over the Yukon's Chilkoot Pass
- ☐ Hiking along the Centennial Trail
- ☐ Biking through British Columbia

- ☐ Sea kayaking along the British Columbia coast
- ☐ Backpacking the West Coast Trail
- ☐ Traversing the Cadwalder Mountain Range

For More Information

The Venturer Handbook has all the information you need to register your Amory Adventure, including deadlines and rules. If you have additional questions, address them to your council office or to Ian Mitchell, Scouts Canada, 1345 Baseline Road, Ottawa, ON, K2C 0A7. Phone (613) 224-5131. E-mail imitchell@scouts.ca.

PHOTO CONTEST CORRECTION

The May **Leader Magazine** identified the first prize winning photographer as Pat Kirkland. This is wrong. Gordon Mann of Vernon, BC, took the photograph. He has been enjoying his new tent all summer long.



THANKSGIVING: A Time To Say "Thanks"

by Hazel Hallgren

IN PIONEER DAYS, NEIGHBOURS and friends gathered together after the fall harvest to celebrate how God had provided for them that year. As pioneers prepared for Thanksgiving, they would store their crops in cold storage sheds or dry out apples and other fruit in anticipation of the colder, harder

months ahead. Thanksgiving was a time to shift gears from the busy hustle of summer, to a slower pace – a time when you could celebrate life's bounty with friends.

Plan a Beaver-Cub linking event around a Thanksgiving theme this October. You might even be able to expand it into a day-long family event.

Corn Cob Toss

When settlers of long ago gathered with friends and neighbours after the harvest, they didn't have manufactured games. They had to make their own from objects around them. Here's a traditional pioneer game.

Get some old, dried out corn cobs, and give two to each Cub or Beaver. Place a hoop on the ground in front of your players, and get them to toss the cobs into the hoop. Make sure everyone gets a turn to throw several corn cobs. Cubs can compete against others in sixes.

Thanksgiving Mobile

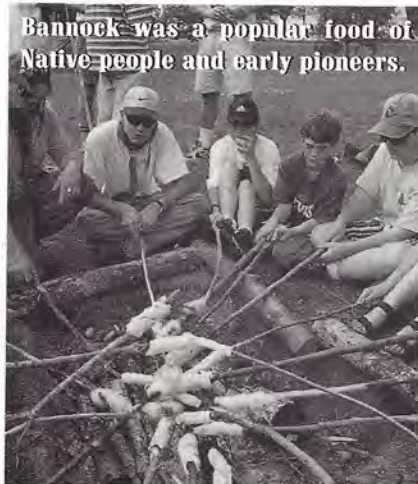
Make a mobile using some popular Thanksgiving images like turkeys, pumpkin pie, cornucopia, corn stalk, and Pilgrim hats. Cut these shapes out, and let Beavers and young Cubs colour them. Let your members squeeze sparkles onto the images to add pizzazz. Hang the

shapes with string from two, long, crossed, wooden skewers. This makes an excellent mobile to hang at Thanksgiving. (See diagram on p. 8)

Thanksgiving Game

Play this game as you would "Hit The Deck."

Bannock was a popular food of Native people and early pioneers.



Using four walls (or four outside trees), label each with a Thanksgiving word like fruit, vegetables, cereals or water. When a leader calls out one of these words, players run to the wall or tree marked with the spoken word. When the leader calls out "Turkey!" all Beavers run to the centre, squat down and yell out "Gobble, Gobble!"

Pop-Up Thanksgiving Cards

Cubs will enjoy making these pop-up turkey cards, as will older Beavers. (Younger ones may need some help.)

Make the cards using heavy card stock, markers, small feathers, googly eyes and construction paper.

Fold a piece of card stock (8 1/2" x 11") in half, so the folded edge runs along the left hand side. (See diagram) Draw a line approximately 5 cm long (2") from the folded side in the middle. Cut along this line and fold the flaps back forming two triangles. (See diagram on p. 8)

Now, open the card stock completely on a table so the flaps open up. Let your Beavers or Cubs draw the face of a turkey. Make sure everyone colours the turkey's beak yellow.

Complete the cards by covering the *outside* of the card stock with construction paper, and writing the words "Happy Thanksgiving."

Encourage everyone to give their Thanksgiving card to a new child at school who needs a friend.

Catch the Wild Turkey

Pioneers didn't just go down to the grocery store to get their Thanksgiving turkey; they had to find them first, then catch them. Turkeys lived in the fields and forests. Usually, pioneers would try to get as many turkeys as possible, and preserve them in their ice house.

Blow up a bunch of balloons and tape several feathers on the back of each so they look like turkeys. Tie a turkey balloon to each child's foot with a long string, allowing the turkeys to trail about a metre behind the kids.

Start your free-for-all turkey hunt by calling out, "It's Thanksgiving!" Your Beavers and young Cubs must try to burst as many turkey balloons of their neighbours as possible.



Photo: Scouts Canada archives

"Thanksgiving. It's all about FOOD!"

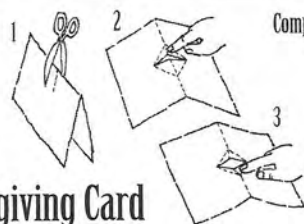
Gobbler Napkin Rings

Let each child make four of these gobbler napkin rings. For each gobbler napkin ring, cut the following from construction paper:

- ☐ Four feathers
- ☐ Feet
- ☐ Head
- ☐ Beak
- ☐ Wattle (skin under a turkey's chin)

Diagrams

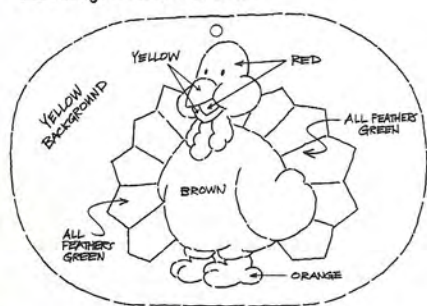
Pop-Up Thanksgiving Card



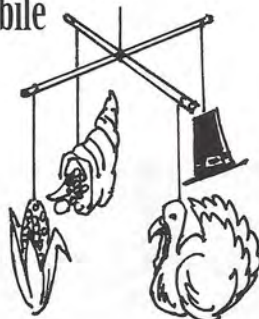
Completed Card



Turkey Suncatcher



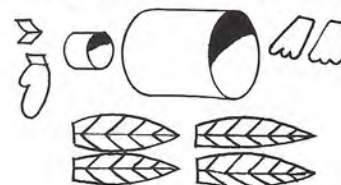
Thanksgiving Mobile



Gobbler Napkin Ring



Materials for Construction of Napkin Ring



THANKSGIVING JOKE

Older Cubs and Scouts will enjoy this joke.

Q: Why do a pilgrim's pants always fall down?

A: Because they wear their belt buckle on their hat or on their shoes.



Form rings using the construction paper to make the body (large ring) and head (small head). You might want to use toilet paper rolls instead of making the large ring. (See diagram opposite page) After colouring, glue the head to the body.

Glue the beak and the wattle on the head, and colour in the eyes on the face with a felt-tip pen. Finish the napkin rings by gluing feet on the bottom of the body, and feathers on the back. (See diagram)

Show your Cubs and Beavers how to insert a napkin inside the largest ring. These napkin rings make excellent gifts for Mom or Grandma.

Thanksgiving

Participation Prayer

Have you ever noticed how some youth members stop paying attention when you pray? Here's a prayer of thanks to God for providing so well for us. It's a participation prayer that requires everyone to listen closely.

Prepare for this prayer by talking about some of the things for which your members are thankful. Make a list; it might include friends, pets, Dad, Mom, brothers or sisters, warm homes and nice teachers.

Now break up into three groups – one called "food," another "water," and another "friends." When members of their group hear their name mentioned they must jump to their feet and yell out "Thanks!" When members hear the word "thanks" or "thankful" in the poem, everyone jumps to their feet and yells "Thanks!"

Read the poems through one time before starting so everyone hears the prayer clearly, then read it through again and have everyone participate in the thanksgiving.

We have a lot of things to be

THANKFUL for
FOOD and WATER,
and much much more.
We're THANKFUL, Lord,
for things you send.
THANK you God for
all of our FRIENDS.

THANK you for each happy day,
For fun and FRIENDS,
for work and play.
THANK you for Your loving care
Here at Beavers and everywhere.

THANK you for the beasts so tall,
THANK you for the creatures small
THANK you for all things that live
THANK you, God, for all You give.

Turkey Suncatchers

One reason why Beavers and Cubs love suncatchers so much is because they look bright and happy when the sun shines through them. These turkey suncatchers are particularly comical looking, and are sure to delight your members.

To make them you'll need:

- ☐ Shrink art plastic (available at craft stores)
- ☐ Permanent markers or pencil crayons (red, yellow, green, brown, orange)
- ☐ Fine sandpaper
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Teflon cookie sheets

Choose clear sheets of shrink art plastic for the best results with these suncatchers. Punch a hole in the plastic at the top where you plan to hang it, then lightly rough up the side your Cubs and Beavers will colour. (Roughing up the plastic will help the colours to set and not run.)

Use either markers or crayons when colouring the turkey; both are nice, but markers work best. They give more of a clear, see-through effect to the suncatcher. (See diagram)

For younger Beavers, make a pattern of a turkey that children can copy. Of course, Cubs will want to design their own turkeys. (Some may end up looking godzilla-like, but that adds to the creativity.)

After colouring the artwork, place the sheets in the oven with the colour side facing up on cookie sheets. Following the oven instructions found on the shrink art package, bake the suncatchers. Let them cool on the cookie sheets.

Expect the suncatchers to shrink to about half their original size.

CUB SIX CHALLENGE

Most Cub-aged youth are able to read and enjoy the challenge of finding hidden words.

Organize this competition. Break into sixes and see how many words your Cubs can make using the letters found in the word "Thanksgiving." To start them off, give them this free word: thanks.

Give the winning six a tasty snack.

Thanksgiving Pumpkins

Cut pumpkins from orange construction paper, and place these around your room or field forming a pumpkin patch.

With Beavers, organize this game as you would "Musical Chairs," playing music and having Beavers race around and around to find a pumpkin on which to stand. Remove a pumpkin after each game.

With Cubs, have sixes work together so when the number of pumpkins slowly disappears, Cubs can work together to stand on a remaining pumpkin as a team stacked up vertically (e.g. on back, shoulders, etc.).

Celebrate Life's Bounty!

Thanksgiving really is a great time to celebrate life and the many things we have. These "things" don't just include individual luxury items like Game Boys, but especially friendships and health and warm relationships.

Celebrate Thanksgiving this year in your Scouting group. \

— Hazel Hallgren is a grateful Scouter living in Red Deer, AB.



Photo: Maria Guest

Insurance Issue

by Rita Moore

Insurance coverage is very important, especially in an outdoor-oriented organization like Scouting. Let's look at two vital insurance issues.

- ❑ The process Scouters should take when reporting incidents, which might lead to insurance claims against Scouts Canada.
- ❑ How to file a claim with our indemnity insurers.

Report Incidents that May Lead to a Claim

An Incident Report is not an insurance claim.

All incidents that occur during Scouting activities that might or could lead to a claim against our insurance, or possibly lead to a civil action against Scouts Canada or one or more of its members, must be reported to Scouts Canada *immediately*. Do this by completing the Scouts Canada Incident Report (Form 91-112). Submit it by following the instructions at the top of the form.

If you fail to report an incident in a timely fashion, it could result in our insurer denying us coverage. Of course that would place Scouts Canada and potentially its members in an uninsured risk situation.

Reporting Incidents

"What incidents should I report?"

This is a question many adult members ask. Here's the answer: *Report any incident that results in bodily injury (no matter how slight), or property damage.* It only takes a few minutes to complete and submit the Incident Report. If you don't do it in a timely manner, Scouts Canada could suffer needless financial loss.

Don't judge the seriousness of any incident; simply report it and let Scouts Canada's risk management people decide how to proceed. As well, don't hold up your initial report while awaiting further documentation, receipts or other material. Send Scouts Canada the Incident Report immediately, then follow up later with further materials and/or receipts.

Problem Cases: Some Examples

Over the past few months, Scouts Canada has dealt with a number of cases in which members have requested our insurers pay claims for injuries that were not reported for

various reasons. Following are some true examples where, if an initial Incident Report had been filed, some coverage would have been available. But because the incidents were not reported in a timely fashion, the claims were denied.

"I intended to put the claim through my personal/work insurer (and/or Workman's Compensation) to save Scouts some money; however, my insurer has rejected the claim and I need to recover my expenses."

"It just seemed to be a simple sprain and I told the group a report was not



When doing risky, adventurous activities, make sure all members wear the right safety equipment.

Photo: Dennis Power

s Really Matter

necessary; however, after a month had gone by I consulted with my doctor who discovered I had suffered major ligament damage and I now require time off work and/or surgery. I have no other wage replacement coverage, and now need to make a claim through the Scouts' policy."

"When my child's tooth was broken I decided not to bother reporting it, as my personal insurance would cover the treatment; however, the cost of treatment will exceed the limits of my insurance and I must now make a claim through the Scouts' policy to make up the difference."

"The parents assured me that their personal insurance would cover their child's broken tooth, so I decided not to submit the report at the time of the incident. More than a year has gone by, and the parents now tell me the child needs further treatment due to the accident, which their insurance will not fully cover. They need to make a claim through the Scouts' policy."

Common Misconceptions

Some Scouters have misconceptions of Scouts Canada's insurance coverage. Two common statements people make that need correcting are:

1. "You must be in uniform to be covered under the insurance policies."

This statement is incorrect. You *don't* have to be in uniform to be covered by Scouting's insurance policies. Your attire does not matter. *But you must be participating in (or on your way to or from) an approved Scouting activity. You must also be a currently registered member or an invited guest.*

2. "I sent in the Incident Report, but did not receive any money from the insurer."

The Incident Report is just that, a report of a possible claim. To make a claim, receipts and/or special claim forms must be submitted as described below.

How to Make a Claim

Mail the *official, original receipts* for items such as ambulance bills, prescription drugs, physiotherapy charges, or any of the other items covered under our policies to the *Administration Manager at the National Office*. In the case of dental accidents, you must submit an original Standard Dental Claim Form, which your dentist will complete.

Some claims, such as the weekly indemnity (wage replacement), and Accidental Death or Dismemberment claims, require a special claim form. Get these from the National Office.

Want More Information?

Scouts Canada's insurance covers some out-of-pocket expenses. For example, if you are required to travel to a nearby city for treatment, keep and submit your original receipts for food, gas and lodgings. Our insurance will reimburse a certain proportion of these expenses.

Please note: Only original receipts are acceptable to our insurers.

The National Indemnity Insurance and National Liability Insurance pamphlets (available from all council offices), outline the coverage provided to all Scouting members. If you have general questions relating to coverage, direct them to your regional office. For *specific* enquiries, contact the National Office.

Key Scouting leaders should distribute the insurance pamphlets at registration to all members. This will acquaint them with the insurance coverages provided by Scouts Canada, as part of their registration fee. X



Everyone in a boat must wear a properly-fitting PFD – no exceptions!

Photo: Scouts Canada archives

RETAINING MEMBERS

Is Easier Than Recruiting

by Douglas Moore

AUGUST AND EARLY September are when many people start planning for membership recruitment. In many cases, the best opportunities have already past.

Inevitably three questions come up during fall recruitment brainstorming sessions: How many new members can we expect? How many people have dropped out? What's the solution to improving our membership?

Here's one of the best solutions: encourage friendships in your section and group.

Relationship Builders

All healthy, growing organizations are based on friendly, caring relationships. No matter what Scouting offers, or gimmicks we provide, the best solution to building membership is to establish friendly rapport with others.

Call people by their first names. Smile. Be thoughtful of others. Connect with parents by mailing newsletters or renewal forms, and really follow up with people who offer to volunteer for activities. Stay in touch with your members all summer long, and run several special events to keep your group knit together.

Listening is the first key to building relationships. No one listens in today's busy world, yet everyone wants to be heard. Everyone has something important to say. If we listen to our members – both youth and adults – we'll not only build important self-esteem in people, but we'll gain real insights on how to improve our programs.

The second key to building relationships involves showing people that we've heard what they've said by putting some of their suggestions and ideas into practice. This builds trust and commitment.

Yet another way to build relationships is by showing others that Scouting offers them many personal and immediate benefits. Volunteers can learn leadership skills, experience outdoor adventure, and help youth members grow into healthy adults. These are powerful stimuli encouraging others to get, and stay, involved.

Adopt a Long-term Strategy

When people are excited about what they're receiving from a program, it makes recruitment and retention easier.

Recruiting efforts sometimes reap short-term rewards, while retention is a long-term strategy. Both require considerable attention. In the long run, if you emphasize retaining the members you have and giving them exactly what they want in an adventure program, your membership is going to not only remain stable, but actually increase.

Why? Because if your members are happy and well served by the program you give them, they're going to tell their friends who'll want to get in

on the excitement. Making a real effort to retain members is a very wise investment.

Look for opportunities to build friendship into your entire program. Buddy youth members up with different people so they can expand their relationships. Schedule several family nights every year, and at least one family barbecue during the summer. Encourage family camps, too.

Identify Problem Areas

Whatever you do, some members may decide not to continue coming out to your Scouting program. People do this for a variety of reasons. Take a very direct, but friendly, approach when identifying reasons why they're not coming back. Simply call them up and ask. Don't be evasive. For example, you might call someone up and say: "Hi, it's Scouter Doug. I just heard that you might not be coming back this fall. I always enjoyed your participation, as do many others. Would you be willing to tell me why you're thinking about not returning?"



When you encourage friendships, you help build membership.

Photo: Scouts Canada archives

Then, give the person time to explain without interruption. Perhaps the person has school pressures, or other interests. These are all valid.

After listening closely, ask: "Is there anything I can do to change your mind?" It's crucial to encourage the member to talk freely. Find out if the person has any concerns, or unaddressed questions. When you know exactly what the person is thinking, you'll be in a position to determine what action you can take to convince the member of the value of staying involved.

In some cases, members just need a little extra push to come back, but unless you act you'll never know.

Keep an Open, Friendly Door

If a member does decide not to return, you might want to get more information from them in the form of a questionnaire. Use this to gain an even deeper understanding of potential problems in your group that might affect future membership. A questionnaire helps identify areas needing attention, and is a useful tool for planning future activities and programs.

If someone decides not to return, tell the member that they're welcome

at any time to return, or to come out on a hike. If a Cub or Scout accepts your offer in a month or two, it might provide the impetus for the person to return for good.

Retain Your Members

When you treat each member as a

friend and as a valuable individual, you'll maximize your retention rate. When you retain members, growth will occur naturally.

— Douglas Moore is APC (Membership Development) in Nova Scotia Council.

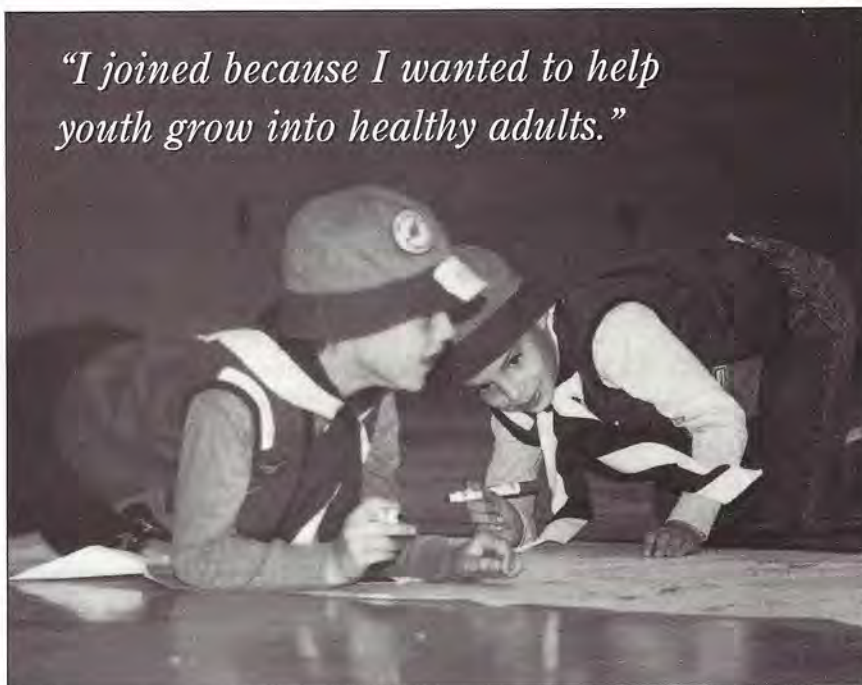


Photo: Allen Macartney

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR WOULD-BE SCOUTERS

by Colin Wallace

In an essay entitled, "Vocational Guidance for the Truly Ambitious," Fran Lebowitz offers a series of tests one can use to ensure that you are really suited to a line of work, such as an Absolute Political Dictator, an Heiress, a Pope, a Social Climber, or an Empress.

In her tests for would-be Absolute Political Dictators, Lebowitz mentions Scouting as having character-building potential. This prompted me to think that her tests could also prove helpful to those volunteers who are considering a Scouting career, but who need some assurance that they are indeed suited for the roles to which they aspire.

So, for those of you who want to make sure you're making the right career choices, here are some self-administered tests. Take all the time you need. No rush. Scouting wants the right person in the right job. Ask yourself this question: is that person me?

These tests will determine if you're the right person for two specific roles:

Troop Scouter
Service Scouter

So You Want to Be a Troop Scouter?

This job requires manual dexterity with cords and ropes; proficiency with axes, knives, and assorted sharp instruments; and a healthy respect for the inflammability of gasoline, propane, kerosene and commissioners. It is *not* recommended for the indoorsy type.

1. If I were stranded on a desert island and could have only one book, that book would be...

- a) Poems and songs of Robert Burns
- b) Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*
- c) *Winnie the Pooh*, by A.A. Milne
- d) *Fieldbook of Canadian Scouting*, by Scouts Canada.

2. Of the following, my favourite nickname is...

- a) Your Majesty
- b) Boss
- c) Maharajah
- d) Skip.

3. For dress-up occasions, I prefer...

- a) Anything by Calvin Klein
- b) Anything by Alfred Sung

- c) Anything by Bill Blatt
- d) Anything in khaki.

4. When annoyed at myself for taking it too easy, I...

- a) Eat gallons of ice cream
- b) Wait until the feeling goes away
- c) Switch off the television and listen to the radio
- d) Do a good deed.

5. On weekends, I like to...

- a) Host intimate dinner parties
- b) Work overtime
- c) Fly to Las Vegas
- d) Go camping.

6. I always carry...

- a) A spare bus ticket
- b) My lunch pail
- c) My lucky rabbit's foot
- d) A Swiss Army knife

7. I believe that nothing builds character like...

- a) Knitting
- b) Attending the municipal council's weekly meetings
- c) Contemplating my navel
- d) Rugged outdoor activities.

8. When I'm alone, I most often...

- a) Press flowers in my scrapbook
- b) Try to find flaws in Einstein's Theory of Relativity
- c) Watch re-runs of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire"
- d) Practise knot-tying

9. If I could afford an addition to my house, I'd build...

- a) A formal dining room
- b) A nursery
- c) A library
- d) A warehouse for my camping equipment.

10. If my home were on fire, the first thing I would save is...

- a) My goldfish
- b) My "Ice-T" CDs
- c) My spouse
- d) My woggle collection.

So You Want to Be a Service Scouter?

This job requires unbridled enthusiasm, evangelistic fervour, a calendar unencumbered by any other social engagements, and a LOUD!! voice.

1. If I had to describe myself in only one or two words, it would be...

- a) Numerologist
- b) Stockbroker
- c) Dishwasher
- d) Selfless leader

2. When confronted by a large crowd of strangers all looking at me, my first reaction is to...

- a) Faint from fear
- b) Hug each one of them
- c) Leave by the same door I entered by, whether it's open or not
- d) Launch into a speech about the benefits of Scouting, while handing out registration forms.

3. The proper manner in which to respond to a chance meeting with me is by...

- a) "Greetings, Generalissimo."
- b) "How do you do, sir?"
- c) "What's happenin' dude?"
- d) "Check it out Scout-meister!"

4. When someone disagrees with me, my first instinct is to...

- a) Reconsider my opinion
- b) Check out the facts of the case
- c) Ask them to explain more about their ideas
- d) Increase the volume of my voice.

5. I most enjoy speaking...

- a) On the telephone
- b) After I inhale helium so that I sound like a chipmunk
- c) To myself in a dark closet
- d) At parent/child banquets.

6. My biggest pet peeve is...

- a) Drivers who don't signal
- b) Lime green, one piece polyester leisure suits
- c) Finding the toilet seat up/down
- d) Section Scouters who think for themselves.

7. My greatest fear is...

- a) Creepy crawly things around campfires
- b) Yelling kids
- c) Dust balls in my tent
- d) Getting a phone call from a Section Scouter. X

THREE STEPS FOR BUILDING YOUR VOLUNTEER BASE

- ✓ Show your appreciation to volunteers.
- ✓ Thank generously.
- ✓ Write "thank you" notes signed by the kids.



Give youth some outstanding outdoor experiences. They'll tell their friends, and soon you'll be swamped with members.

Photo: Dennis Power

Program Builder CD-ROM



An Outstanding New Resource for Leaders



by Bryon Milliere

EVERY BEAVER, CUB OR SCOUT SECTION will receive a free copy of Scouts Canada's Program Builder CD-ROM from the local council office this fall. If your section doesn't receive its copy, pick one up from either your council office or your local Scouts Shop. (Scout Shops will sell it for the nominal fee of \$3.)

What is the Program Builder CD-ROM?

It's a new, easy-to-use resource that will make planning an outstanding meeting easy. Containing a database of over 1,700 Beaver, Cub and Scout activities, use it like an electronic JUMPSTART to build program plans. It even allows you to add your own field-tested activities.

The Main Menu provides three choices for enhancing your program planning:

- ☐ Build a program
- ☐ Create great programs
- ☐ Resource centre

Build a Program

The user-friendly search engine and workshop make it easy to locate and assemble suitable activities into a meeting plan. New leaders will appreciate the ability to include directions to the Opening and Closing ceremonies. Your computer's "Alt" and "Tab" keys allow you to toggle between the CD-ROM and other programs.



Choose to build a program for Beavers, Cubs or Scouts.

Creating Great Programs

Click on any of these titles to view a brief video segment with program planning tips you can apply immediately. (Technical note: The program will offer to install QuickTime to run the video segments if it isn't already installed on your computer.)



Review program planning tips on different topics.

Resource Centre

View and print the details of ceremonies, plus over 100 weeks of ready-to-use, theme based programming. (Technical note: The program will offer to install Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 if it isn't already installed on your computer. As a bonus, you can choose the colourful splash screen as wallpaper for your desktop.) Save the folder tree to your hard drive to organize your saved activities.



View separate Resource Centres for all of the sections.

How to Use the Program Builder

Once you choose to build a meeting for Beavers, Cubs or Scouts, you'll be presented with a Meeting Plan resembling those found in the popular JUMPSTART packages. Enter the name of the group, location of the meeting, and date of the meeting. Clicking on the Month, Day or Year fields will display a pull-down list.

The default meeting plan starts with the framework of a typical meeting, including:

- ☐ Gathering activity
- ☐ Opening
- ☐ Game
- ☐ Lodge, six or patrol meeting
- ☐ Spiritual fellowship (Beaver and Cubs)
- ☐ Closing
- ☐ Leader discussion

As you add activities to your meeting plan, the activity details append to the file. Add, remove and move lines of the default template as required. Double click on a default activity, or choose "Edit" to view the details for ceremonies and brief descriptions of the purpose behind each default activity in the Activity Workshop. Choose "Add" to insert a new activity above a highlighted line. The arrow buttons move the highlighted activity up and down in the list.

The total duration of the meeting in minutes will automatically update as you add activities. Choose "Notes" to enter text in the smaller box directly on the screen. If you choose "Themes," it will display a helpful list of themes to jumpstart your thinking. Click on a theme to insert it into your meeting plan. Choose "Special Days" to view a list of religious events, nationally and internationally declared

special days, and other special events which occur near the date of the current meeting.

Other options include:

- ☐ Launch the Scouts Canada web site
- ☐ Open previously saved programs
- ☐ Save the current program
- ☐ Print various options.

You can choose to print the "Meeting Plan," the "Notes," and details of any attached activities. Print only what you need, or save the selected items to a text file. You can also print a list of key words used by the database. Saved meeting plans can be e-mailed to other members and opened using the CD-ROM.

The Workshop

In the "Activity Workshop" you may clear all of the fields, edit any of the fields, search for activities from the database, edit activities from the database, view graphics (if applicable), link saved images, open personal files, go to the Web, paste text from your clipboard, save the contents to a file, print the contents, view help notes, add the activity to the meeting plan, or cancel and return to the Meeting Plan. Choose "Accept" to update your meeting plan and attach the revised activity description before returning to the Meeting Plan. In the Resource section you may choose to install a tree of file folders on your hard drive to provide a means of saving activities in a way that matches the categories of the main database. (Technical note: If you press the "Alt" and "Tab" keys at the same time, you'll toggle out of the CD-ROM program, allowing you to work in other programs, such as a word processor.)

The default meeting plan starts with the framework of a typical meeting, including:

- Gathering activity
- Opening
- Game
- Lodge, six or patrol meeting
- Spiritual fellowship (Beaver and Cubs)
- Closing
- Leader discussion

Other options include:



- Launch the Scouts Canada web site
- Open previously saved programs
- Save the current program
- Print various options.

Search Tool

Search the database for age-appropriate activities using three different methods:

- ☐ By Activity Areas, Type and Sub-type of activities, and Indoor/Outdoor
- ☐ Title
- ☐ Keyword

The program will display the results of matching activities in the Search Results screen.



Use one of three methods to find the right activity.

The description and program fulfilment for the first activity matching your search criteria will also be displayed. Click on any title in the list to view the details for that activity. To move a highlighted activity into the workshop for editing, either double click on the title or choose Select. Choose Search Activities to return to the Search Tool. "Cancel" returns you to the Meeting Plan.

Editing a Selected Activity

After selecting an activity from the database, you may edit the activity to meet the needs of the group in the Activity Workshop. Some activities also have viewable graphics. Identify the leader or youth responsible for the activity and the anticipated duration. When you add the activity

to your meeting plan, the duration, activity type, title, and leader responsible appear on the overall meeting plan. The program assembles the details of the activity with details of the other activities.

Help

The Program Builder CD-ROM has an excellent Help feature. Just look for a character resembling a Scouter-in-Training on the screen. Double click on the Scouter-in-Training to access guidance and tips on how to use the CD-ROM.

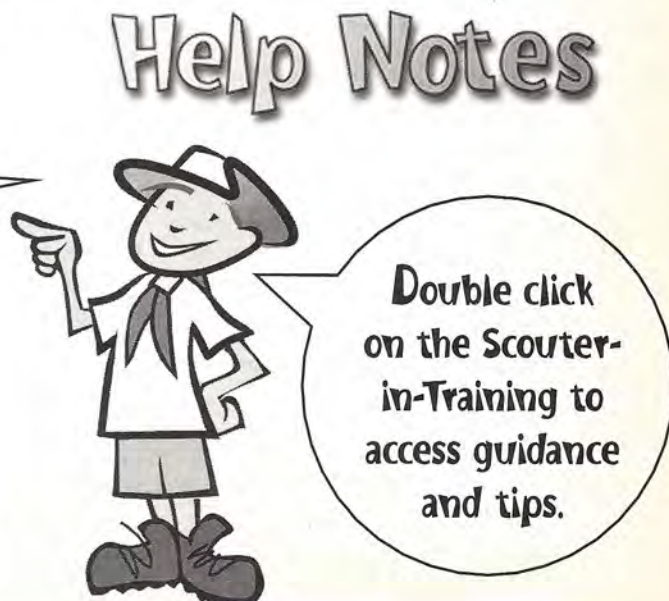
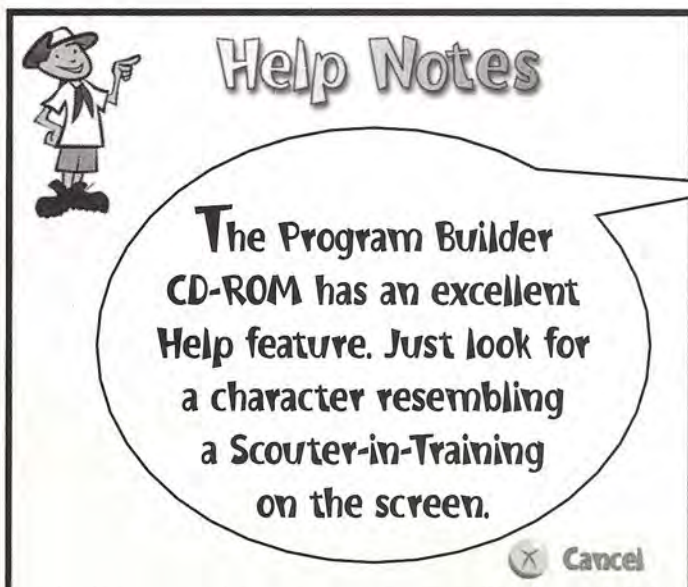
This CD allows you to launch the Scouts Canada web site (www.scouts.ca) from many of the screens. All you have to do is click on the web address, then look for program resources and useful links to other sites. Activity descriptions from many sources can be copied to your clipboard and pasted (CTRL-V) into the Activity Workshop.

The Program Builder CD-ROM is an outstanding new resource that will make program planning much easier, especially for brand new leaders. Ask for it this fall. Someone in your section will receive a copy free of charge. For extra copies, contact your local Scout Shop. X

Program Builder CD-ROM Recommended Operating Requirements

Almost all computers will be able to use the Program Builder CD. The recommended operating requirements are:

- ☐ IBM 100% compatible PC
- ☐ 166 MHz processor
- ☐ 4X CD-ROM Drive
- ☐ 16 MB of RAM (32 MB or greater recommended)
- ☐ Windows 95 operating system
(Windows 98/Me recommended)
- ☐ QuickTime 4.0 (included on the CD) or newer
- ☐ Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 (included on the CD)
- ☐ 640 x 480, thousands of colours display (16 bit)
800 x 600 display recommended
- ☐ Microsoft compatible mouse
- ☐ Sound Blaster compatible sound card
(16 bit/11 KHz sampling)



Volunteer Recruitment and Development (VRAD) STRATEGY UPDATE

by Bryon Milliere

Where are you in the volunteer life cycle?

The National Volunteer Recruitment and Development Strategy describes the typical life cycle of a volunteer from recruitment through to retirement. (See table on opposite page.) Scouts Canada supports each stage with policies, procedures and resources to help groups and councils as they recruit, select, develop, support and recognize volunteers.

Volunteer Screening

In 1997, Scouting implemented a comprehensive volunteer screening program to better support our selective recruitment process. Other aspects of this program affected how Scouting develops and supports volunteers throughout their involvement, since screening is an ongoing process.

All group committees should have the following resources related to volunteer screening:

- ☐ The Scouts Canada *Volunteer Screening Handbook*
- ☐ The video, *It's Our Duty: Interviews and Reference Checks*
- ☐ The *Duty of Care* document
- ☐ The parent's guide, *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse*.

Since publishing the Handbook in May 1999, Scouts Canada has revised the procedure relating to investiture. It presently reads:

"The group neckerchief may now be presented once a new volunteer has agreed to serve, and the group has done the following:

- a. Completed the reference checks
- b. Interviewed the new volunteer
- c. Submitted the Application for Membership and Appointment of Adults, and
- d. Submitted authorization for a PRC (Police Records Check)."

Withhold only the epaulettes until

the entire process is complete, including a satisfactory Police Record Check.

Casual Helpers

Scouts Canada has adopted three categories for volunteer positions based on the level of involvement and supervision for the role. As the level of involvement with youth and resources increases, and similarly as the level of supervision for the role decreases, the appropriate screening process includes more steps.

In Category 1 of the table (across from the "Process for Screening and Youth Protection" heading) "Youth Education" refers to our efforts to educate youth on how to protect themselves from child abuse.

Scouts Canada's *Duty of Care* document is now an important tool for orienting all new volunteers. Get your copies from your council office or off our web site: www.scouts.ca.

Volunteer Development

The principles of Scouting's VRAD strategy advocate recognizing the attitudes, skills and abilities individuals bring to their role. Development opportunities should then build on these abilities to help people become fully capable. Many councils have experimented with more flexible approaches to training, such as modular training and even correspondence courses. The National Volunteer Services Committee has introduced a new set of learning objectives for leader development programs, which better support an apprenticeship approach.

Volunteers have always learned a great deal from others on the leadership team; they've also learned plenty through self-development, such as reading handbooks, watching videos, trying new things and visiting other sections. Scout councils will continue to offer structured learning activities such as courses, but the content and format will be more responsive to the needs of the participants. Councils and leaders may need time to fully adapt to the flexibility encouraged by our new objectives.

Scouting offers two developmental Woodbadge courses. When Scouters

complete their basic leader development, they receive Woodbadge 1 recognition, and get a special woggle and training card. When they complete their advanced training, leaders receive their Woodbadge 2 recognition, and get a Gilwell neckerchief, parchment and beads. The course objectives resemble the badge requirements for youth because they challenge the leader to verify understanding, and demonstrate key skills.

The National Volunteer Services Committee has formally named these development programs with more descriptive names.

Basic Program Planning and Delivery

Formerly called Woodbadge 1, the objectives of this course focus on the steps of planning and delivering weekly programs. Also, it addresses weekend outings as a member of a leadership team. Every leader commits to completing these basic objectives within the first year of their involvement.

These objectives build on information received during the Selection Interview and the Orientation. Once completed, participants receive their Woodbadge 1 recognition. The new objectives include outdoor skills similar to the Voyageur Level of the Scout program.

Advanced Outdoor Skills, and Program Planning and Delivery

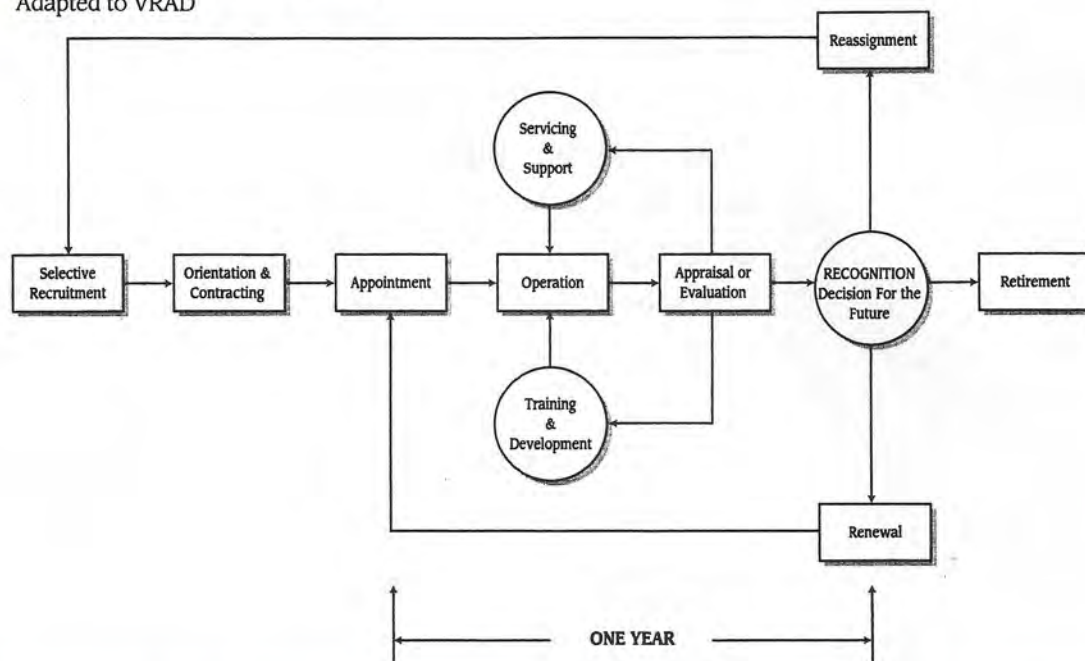
Formerly Woodbadge 2, the objectives of this course help section leaders to take the program outdoors, to excel in their role as section managers, and to be role models for other leaders. In this course, leaders focus on tasks as a member of the team. Because the section leadership team plays a greater role in developing leaders, section leaders can work with servicing and training members of the Commissioner's Team.

We're Here to Help You

Wherever you are in the volunteer life cycle, Scouts Canada provides you with excellent resources, policies and support to make you an outstanding leader. ^

World Adults in Scouting

Adapted to VRAD



Guidelines to the Screening of Adult Volunteers Involved in Scouting Activities

	Category I	Category II	Category III
Role with Scouting	Parents or other adults designated to care for specific children (including overnight activities, such as Beaverees) Occasional volunteer helpers in a section meeting, daytime event, or fund-raising Professionals or vendors offering programs (e.g. firefighters, skills instructors, wardens) Non-registered partners	Volunteer helpers at an overnight activity Council organized volunteers for special events, camps or jamborees at organizing council's discretion	Registered adults and Rovers acting in leadership roles Council organized volunteers for special events, camps or jamborees at organizing council's discretion
Level of Supervision	High supervision	Moderate supervision	Low supervision
Process for Screening and Youth Protection	Discussion of expectations Feedback as required Youth education	Camping and Outdoor Activities Appl. – Approved by group committee/council Orientation to the role and expectations Feedback as required Youth education	– Application for membership and appointment of adults interview – Personal reference checks (3) – Police record check – Orientation and probation – Further development as required – Evaluation of performance – Youth education – Confidential list check
Orientation Materials	Duty of Care Parent's Guide to Preventing Child Abuse	Job Description Duty of Care Parent's Guide to Preventing Child Abuse	Job Description Duty of Care Parent's Guide to Preventing Child Abuse

Parent's Responsibility for Transportation

Parent's are responsible for transporting or arranging for transport of their children to Scouting activities.

Drivers Recruited for Scouting Activities by a Group or Council

See *Outdoor/Camping and Activity Guide* for: *Camping and Outdoor Activity Application*. A registered adult is responsible for monitoring the transportation.

Driver Orientation

Ensure driver is properly insured and licensed. Provide drivers with the *Duty of Care* document, and appropriate orientation. Driver orientation may include: arrival and

departure times, passenger check off, review of the route and emergency plan, commitment to follow the route, commitment to minimize contact with children other than their own children, sharing of cellular telephone numbers, emergency contact number.

Supervision High Two or more registered adults are present for the duration of the activity. Youth ratios are maintained.*

Moderate One or more registered adults are present or directly overseeing the activity. Youth ratios are maintained.*

Low Adult: Youth ratios are maintained.*

* See B.P.&P. (By-Law, Policies & Procedures) for more details.

Fun at the Pond

by Ruth Dubeau

"Let's Become Friends!"



EARLY FALL. It's when most Beaver programs begin. Because a few of your young members may be quite shy, this program focuses on introducing them to the Scout program, teaching them about wild beavers, and helping them make new friends.

Beaver Name Tags

Leaders should come to the meeting with several beaver patterns cut out of stiff cardboard for their members to trace onto construction paper. (See diagram) Also have safety pins, scissors, glue, sparkles, googly eyes and markers.

As a gathering activity, let your Beavers trace the beaver pattern onto construction paper using the same colour of paper as their tail colour. Cut out the beavers, colour them with markers, and stick on googly eyes, leaving room for a leader to print the Beaver's name in large block letters. Allow the children to add sparkles.

Put a safety pin through the name tag and place it on the Beaver. Now it's time for a game.

Rolling Ball Game

Break into lodges, and sit in a circle on the floor. Ask everyone to introduce themselves, and describe (briefly) one favourite toy (e.g. "My favourite toy is a stuffed polar bear, which I sleep with every night").

A leader starts the game by saying, "My name is Scouter Wendy, and I'm rolling this ball to my new friend Simon." When Simon gets the ball, he chooses someone in the circle and says, "My name is Simon and I'm rolling this ball to my new friend Cathy." The game continues until everyone has said their name several times.

Now, let's learn something about wild beavers.

Beavers Love the Outdoors

Beavers are very interesting mammals. Like all mammals (including humans), the beaver is warm blooded and has a backbone. Its body has hair, and the female produces milk to feed its babies. Beavers are rodents and have two pairs of sharp, chisel-like incisor teeth which grow constantly. A typical colony of wild beavers consists of a pair of adult beavers, perhaps three or four young beavers born in May, and a smaller number of yearling beavers which were born the year before.

Baby beavers are called kits. They weigh half a kilo when born, are covered with fur and have their eyes open. They can swim within 24 hours, and feed on their mother's milk for about one month. All capable members of the group cooperate in build-

Beaver Name Tag Patterns



Put a safety pin through the name tag and place it on the Beaver.



ing the lodge, dam repair, and other important aspects of colony life.

Scouting Beavers are called "Kits" until they are invested; then they're called "Eager Beavers." Do you see any other similarities between a wild beaver colony and our Scouting Beaver colony?

New Friend Craft

For this craft you'll need different colours of construction paper, scissors, markers, and glue (or staplers or scotch tape).

Cut the construction paper into several long strips. Give ten strips to each child and ask your Beavers to write their names on their strips. Some may also want to draw a self-portrait on some of their strips.

Now, ask your Beavers to trade their name strips with other children in the colony – at least some of whom they don't know well. Help the Beavers to assemble a multi-coloured paper chain with all the names they have collected from others in the colony; let them wear this chain around their neck.

Shoe Relay Steam-off Game

Put all shoes in a pile at one end of a room, then divide the group into relay teams.

On a signal, the first child in each line runs down the hall, finds one of his or her own shoes, puts it on and returns to tag the next Beaver. As members tag the next person, they call out that person's name. If a Beaver either doesn't know the child's name or gets it wrong, he or she must run back to the pile of shoes, touch it and race back to the team before saying the person's right name.

Run through the relay twice so players fetch both of their shoes. The first team to finish sits down.

Straddle Ball.

Group members form a large circle, standing with feet far apart and touching the feet of the person next to them. IT stands in the middle of the circle with a large beach ball.

The object of the game is to keep IT from rolling the ball through your legs. IT must stand no closer than

one metre from anyone else. Stop the ball with your hands, but do *not* move your feet.

If IT rolls the ball through your legs, you get to trade places.

Shoe Animal Banner

For this craft you'll need your

Shoe Animal Banner



shoes, markers and a large sheet of newsprint. (Newspapers are often willing to donate several metres of newsprint to Scouting groups if you ask.)

Give each Beaver some markers, and lay the newsprint down on the floor. Make sure everyone's shoes are clean (no mud or dirt), then ask your Beavers to place one foot on the newsprint, and trace around it. Make sure everyone has about 30 cm of free space around their footprint to colour. Then let them use their footprint as the basis for a favourite animal. Choices might include giraffes, polar bears, zebras or elephants. (See diagram) Make sure all members write their name on their shoe animal.

Your Beavers might even want to create a colony portrait. Here's how. Get everyone to trace around their shoe, but make sure all shoes are ver-

tical and close to other members. (See diagram) Then, members draw a cartoon portrait of themselves and sign their name beneath it. Hang up your colony portrait and shoe animal banner so Beavers can get to know each other.

Burst the Balloon Buddies

Pair up your members; make sure the Beavers don't know each other very well. Also, make sure girls are paired with other girls. Ask the pairs to introduce themselves, then give one balloon to each pair. Your Beavers must put the balloon between them, and break it using only hugs to wrought the destruction. Expect lots of giggles.

Beaver's In the Pond Song

Sing this action song to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell." Have Third-Year Beavers lead the singing. After singing this song, ask your Third-Year Beavers if they can think up any other verses.

The Beaver's in the pond (2X)
(Action: one youth stands inside the circle)

Hi, Ho, the merry O,
The Beaver's in the pond.

... The Beaver picks a lodge
(A Beaver picks a few friends)

...The lodge gathers sticks
(Pick the remaining children)

... The sticks fall down.
(Collapse in a pile.).

Make a "Me" Book

To make a "Me" book cut out pictures that your Beavers like from old magazines. After they've cut them out, they can glue them into chapters. Some Beavers might want to add to the images with markers.

Cut out pictures to fit under each of the following chapter headings: "Places I'd like to go," "People I'd like to meet," "The car I'd like to drive," and "Things I like to do."

Fall is a great time to help new friendships flourish. Find games and crafts that give your Beavers many opportunities to meet new people, and grow more confident. ^

— Ruth Dubeau is a very friendly Beaver leader from North Bay, ON.

Frog Watching Basics for Beavers and Cubs

by Ross Francis



Frogs need help. That's what scientists say.

The number of frogs has been declining since the 1980's. Scientists have noticed this alarming fact, and believe that there's a message to be learned by watching, listening and observing frog behaviour and habits.

Frogs have been chosen as "indicator" species because they spend part of their life on land and part in the water. This makes them particularly sensitive to changes in natural eco-systems. That's how the Frogwatch Program started. It's a joint program involving Environment Canada's Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) and the Canadian Nature Federation.

Register your Beaver colony or Cub pack as "frog watchers" in your area, and help scientists gather information they need to identify threats and changes to our environment.

Help Is On the Way

How can you help?

Watch and listen for frogs. Listen for frogs at your local wetland on a number of evenings over the calling season, then report your findings to EMAN. The type of information they're looking for includes:

- ☞ What frogs are calling at a particular site?
- ☞ When (time of day) are they calling?
- ☞ Under what conditions are they calling? (For example, is it raining? Is it hot and humid?)

Your Beavers or Cubs can become nature detectives and help scientists learn what's happening in our environment at the same time.

Wetlands Symphony

Frogs begin calling when daytime temperatures are consistently higher than 10°C. In Canada, the first call you're likely to hear is the duck-like quack of the wood frog – the only member of its species found in every province and territory. From Ontario to Newfoundland, the wood frog will be joined by the chorus frog. Its "song" sounds like fingers running

down the teeth of a comb. The spring peeper, sounding out peeping trills, will join in the wetlands symphony.

In western provinces, the start of the calling period depends greatly on where you live. For example, the faint guttural "uh" of the red-legged frog, and the twice-repeated, high-pitched notes of the Pacific treefrog may be heard in British Columbia's temperate areas as early as February.

If you want pictures and descriptions of Canada's frogs and toads, get a copy of the Frogwatch ID poster – available in English or French from the Canadian Nature Federation (see address below). An electronic version of the poster and survey form is posted on the Canadian Nature Federation's web site (www.cnf.ca). (Note: Frogwatch participants are encouraged to submit their observations electronically; this will save both paper and data processing time.)

Get An Ear Full of Croaking Sounds

If you want to listen to the calls of frogs and toads (so you'll recognize which ones you have in your region), visit the National Frogwatch web site (<http://eqb-dqe.cciw.ca/emanops/intro.html>), or call 1-888-31frogs.



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Once you can recognize each of the different species found in your region, select a nearby frog-friendly location as your observation station. Remember that consistent data from one spot over an extended period of time is the information that scientists find most valuable.

Frog-Watching Tips

The best frog-watching weather is warm, wet and little or no wind.

Temperature

Frogs and toads like to sing or call in warm weather, but the appropriate temperature will vary depending on species. Generally, frog listening opportunities increase when the temperature rises above at least 10°C.

Weather and Precipitation

Damp nights: that's the best time to listen for frogs. Tune them in when light rain is falling or when fog blankets your area. If rain is too heavy, the sound may interfere with your ability to hear the calls.

During the day, frogs may sound off after a good rain storm. It's almost as if they're celebrating the wetness.

If there's been a pattern of warm, wet weather, your chances of hearing frogs will increase greatly. Calling may be reduced if the weather has been very dry or excessively cold.

Wind

As a general guideline, if it's windy enough to raise dust or blow around loose paper, it's too windy for frog watching.

Time

Dusk is the best time of day to listen for frog calls. Listen for at least three minutes. Don't be discouraged if you don't hear anything at first; frogs may fall silent as a result of being disturbed by your approach. Patience usually wins out in the end because the longer you listen, the more likely you are to hear a full frog chorus.

Handling

Avoid handling frogs; they have very sensitive skin. Insect repellents, hand lotions and perfumes are all toxic to amphibians. If you must pick a frog up, make sure your hands are clean and wet. Don't keep the frog from its home for too long – a maximum of several minutes. And always return the creature to where you found it.

Safety Tips For Frog Watchers

Safety should always be a prime interest when you're outside with your Beavers or Cubs. Follow these tips:

- ☞ If monitoring at night, always carry a flashlight, and wear visible clothing.
- ☞ Always tell someone where you're going, and when you will be back. Why not tie this activity into an ecology or night theme?
- ☞ Monitor frogs in areas in which you are familiar. Don't explore new areas at night.
- ☞ Work in pairs or small groups, rather than go out on your own.
- ☞ Stay away from the water's edge when you're monitoring a pond or wetland.
- ☞ Get permission from landowners before entering private property.

Frog Facts and Folklore

- 🐸 Frogs have been around for over 150 million years. They were the first land animal with vocal chords.
- 🐸 Frogs and toads can pull their eyes down into their heads while eating. It helps them swallow.
- 🐸 Like other amphibians, frogs and toads shed their skin. Since it's so important to them for water uptake and oxygen exchange, they shed it frequently to keep it in excellent condition. But, you won't find their skin lying on the ground or floating in the water – they eat it!
- 🐸 Toads have often been associated with witchcraft. Perhaps it's because most people consider them ugly.
- 🐸 In ancient Egypt, frogs were associated with resurrection and creation. They were mummified with the dead, and honoured with sculptures in temples. In Burmese and Indo-Chinese legends, frogs cause eclipses by swallowing the moon.
- 🐸 "It's raining cats and dogs." That expression is popular in Canada, but in many other cultures frogs are associated with the rain. Usually, myths imply that if you hurt or kill a frog, heavy rain will follow. Other legends tell about frogs falling from the sky with the rain, since they were observed in such abundance after storms.
- 🐸 Frogs keep from dehydrating by absorbing water through their skin. This makes them prone to absorbing toxic chemicals and deadly micro-organisms.



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Want More Information?

To get copies of the Frogwatch poster and other materials, see the web site (above), or contact the Canadian Nature Federation at 1 Nicholas Street, Suite 606, Ottawa, ON, K1N

7B7. Phone: 613-562-3447; fax 613 562-3371; e-mail: frogwatch@cnf.ca

Program Links

Cubs: Naturalist Badge, Observer Badge, Black Star, Green Star



Basic Frog 'FAQs': Questions and Answers

- Q:** Is it true that you can get warts from handling a toad?
- A:** No. Warts are caused by a mildly contagious, common virus which anyone can contract. In the past, when people didn't know the cause of such things, they tended to look to nature and animals for answers. Since toads have a "warty" appearance, many believed that warts must be caused from contact with them.
- Q:** Why does Frogwatch focus on frog calls rather than frog sightings?
- A:** There are many reasons. For starters, Frogwatch is concerned about the safety of the public. If people (including children) are watching for frogs, they could fall into deep water. As well, people searching for frogs might enter a breeding area, and disturb frog and other animal habitat. If you blunder into a frog area, chances are all the inhabitants will keep quiet, defeating your experiment.
- Surprisingly, it's much easier to identify frogs by their calls, than by their appearance because many frog species look alike. For example, you would have to look very closely to see three warts per dark spot on a Fowler's toad, as compared to only one on the American toad.
- Q:** Why are frogs important?
- A:** As amphibious creatures, frogs are important because they act as powerful "conveyor belts," moving nutrients from ponds and lakes onto the land. Although small and often unseen, frogs are numerous. A single frog can lay thousands of eggs; if they hatch, most will end up as prey for other species of birds, mammals and reptiles. In turn, frogs are major predators of invertebrates, including many insects considered pests by farmers and gardeners.
- Q:** What's the difference between a frog and a toad?
- A:** Toads are just one of the five families of frogs found in Canada. They have warty skin, large poison glands behind the eyes, and no ridges along either side of the back.
- "True" frogs tend to have ridges along either side of the back. Tree frogs are usually smaller than frogs that live in the water, and have special toe pads for climbing.



Nothing But Our Footsteps

Learn How to Leave No Trace: Part 2

This month we conclude our series on leave no trace camping. Last month we dealt with three topics:

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Camp and travel on durable surfaces
3. Pack it in, pack it out

Build this series into your program so leaders and youth become more responsible in the outdoors.

4. PROPERLY DISPOSE OF WHAT YOU CAN'T PACK OUT

As visitors to the backcountry, we create certain types of waste which usually cannot be packed out. These include human waste, and waste water from cooking and washing.

Dispose of Human Waste Responsibly

Proper disposal of human waste is important. This practice will avoid pollution of water sources, and the spread of harmful bacteria such as Giardia, while ensuring the beauty of the surroundings and aesthetic values. Burying human faeces in an appropriate manner provides an effective solution to these problems.

If an established campsite has an outhouse or pit toilet, take time to find and use the facility. Where one doesn't exist, a bit of knowledge is required for minimum impact disposal.

Four principles guide Leave Not Trace Inc. sanitation practices:

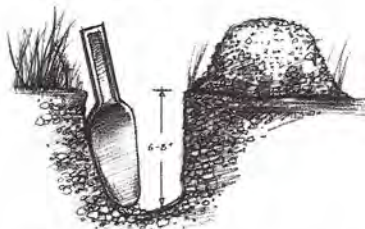
- ☐ Avoid polluting water sources
- ☐ Eliminate contact with insects and animals
- ☐ Maximize decomposition
- ☐ Minimize the chances of social impacts

Recent research indicates that buried faeces decompose more slowly than previously thought. At one mountain site pathogens were discovered that survived for a year or more in buried waste. Faeces left exposed to sunlight, air and warmth decom-

pose more quickly. However, due to obvious visual and aesthetic problems, possible contamination of water sources or transmission of pathogens by insects and animals, burial is still the preferred practice. The slow decomposition rate emphasizes the need to choose correct locations for depositing waste.

Cat holes

Cat holes (holes dug into soil where you deposit human waste) are the most widely accepted means of waste disposal. Locate a cathole well away from water, trails and campsites, and any areas that might flow with water during heavy rain or snow melt. As a general guideline, dig cat holes 70 metres from these areas.



Cat holes should be widely dispersed. Consider going for a short walk to find an appropriate site, or using a remote location during the day's hike. Always locate a cathole in a site that will minimize impact to water quality, and reduce the chances of other visitors accidentally discovering it.

To promote decomposition, choose a site in organic soil, rather than sandy mineral soil. With a small garden trowel, dig a hole 10 cm to 20 cm deep, and 10 cm to 15 cm in diameter, cutting out the grassy soil "plug" and putting it aside. After use, mix organic soil and organic debris found on the surface into the cathole with a stick; this will further promote decomposition.

Cover the cathole with the soil plug, and disguise it with natural materials. It's inappropriate to deposit human waste under rocks, because the rock inhibits moisture and heat that speed decomposition.

Early in the season when the terrain is snow covered, seek dry ground near trees for your cat holes.

Human waste buried in snow does not decompose; when the snow melts, it becomes visible – a terrible eye sore.

If members of your group aren't able to deal effectively with the cat hole method for whatever reason, choose a campsite with an outhouse or pit toilet.

Urination

Urination doesn't affect vegetation or soil significantly. As well, it poses little threat to human health.

In some instances urine salts may draw deer or other wild animals; they may defoliate plants and dig up the soil in search of the salt. Even if you don't see animals in the area, they may visit the place you urinate after you leave. For this reason, avoid urinating on green plants. Instead urinate on rock, sandy areas, or pine

Notice of Annual Meeting Boy Scouts of Canada

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4:30 p.m.

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Purpose:

- (1) Receipt and consideration of reports including the Corporation's annual report
- (2) Receipt and consideration of the financial statement and auditor's report for the preceding year
- (3) Election of Honorary Officers and Honorary Members
- (4) Recommendation to the Chief Scout of an individual to fill the position of National Commissioner
- (5) Appointment of Officers and election of members of the Board of Governors
- (6) Appointment of an auditor or auditors and,
- (7) Consideration and, if deemed appropriate, approval of any matter placed before it by the Board of Governors

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trace is the
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to go!"**

duff (rotting forest material) away from water sources. Get in the habit of urinating away from camp, and diluting urine with water carried to the site to avoid concentrating urine odours. (You don't want animals to depend on human urine salts.)

Toilet Paper And Feminine Hygiene Products

Use toilet paper sparingly; non-dyed, non perfumed brands are best. Dispose of toilet paper properly. It is litter, and should be packed out in a plastic bag, which confines odours effectively.

Toilet paper should not be burned. Some organizations used to advocate burning, but it resulted in several forest fires. While it's better to bury toilet paper than leave it on the surface, toilet paper decomposes slowly and animals often dig it up and scatter it around the woods. If you don't want to pack out toilet paper, don't use it at all but try "natural" alternatives. Popular forms of toilet paper include clean stones, smooth sticks and snow. Obviously you'll need to experiment to make this practice work for you.

Always pack out used feminine hygiene products. It's especially important not to bury these since they decompose very slowly, and are often dug up by animals. Pack them out in doubled plastic bags.

Minimize Soap Use And Food Scraps In Waste Water

Hot water and a little elbow grease can tackle most back-country cleaning chores. Soap is unnecessary for most dishwashing jobs and can be difficult to rinse thoroughly. Scatter waste water over a wide area away from camps and water sources. Remove all food particles from the water before disposing of it (a small strainer is good for this), and pack them out with excess food and other litter.

For your safety while in bear country, bury strained waste water in a small cat hole, or deposit it into fast-moving, high-volume rivers (but never small, clear rivers or creeks). Although these practices minimize food odours that attract animals, they may cause some environmental damage, so we don't recommend them if you're not in bear country.

Avoid Contaminating Water Sources When Washing

When washing yourself or your clothes, avoid contaminating water sources. Soap, even if it is biodegradable, must not enter lakes or streams; it's best to minimize its use. If you must bathe with a soap, get wet, lather up on a porous durable surface well away from water (70 metres), and rinse off with water carried in a collapsible water con-

Photo: Barrett and Mackay

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tainer. This procedure allows the soap to filter through the soil and break down before reaching any water body.

Clean clothes by thoroughly rinsing them away from water sources. You don't need soap to clean your clothing adequately; besides, residual soap can cause skin irritation.

5. LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

People come to wild lands to enjoy them in their natural state, and to experience an environment that produces surprises and challenges.

Allow others a sense of solitude and discovery by leaving wildlife, plants, rocks, archaeological artifacts and other objects of interest undisturbed. We all share the responsibility to preserve these resources for future generations, so we must anticipate and reduce our impact upon others and the natural environment.

Minimize Site Alterations

Digging trenches for tents or constructing lean-tos, tables, chairs or other rudimentary comforts change the natural surroundings. If you move surface rocks, twigs or pine cones, replace them before leaving. On high-use sites, consider cleaning up the site and dismantling excessive user-built facilities, such as multiple fire rings and constructed seats or tables. Consider this idea: good campsites are found not made.

Single, properly-located fire rings should be left intact. Dismantling them will cause additional environmental damage because in all probability they will be rebuilt with new rocks that will soon be blackened by fire as well.

Avoid Damaging Live Trees And Plants

With greater knowledge and new types of equipment, some camping practices once favoured and suitable are no longer necessary. For example, inexpensive sleeping pads are more comfortable and cause less harm to trees than boughs cut for this purpose. Hang gear from branches, or stretch a rope around trees making a clothesline, instead of hammering nails into them. There's no need to disfigure trees and their trunks with hatchets, axes, saws or wire. This only harms the tree, and creates ugly scars.

Picking flowers, leaves or edible plants may seem a harmless, individual act, but if many people did this the cumulative effect might cause substantial damage. In high-use or easily accessed wild lands, simply admire flowers and plants, or take them home in photographs, drawings and memories. In remote areas, enjoy an occasional edible plant, but be careful not to trample fragile vegetation. Here's a good rule of thumb: pick only abundant plants, and take only 10 percent of a species from any spot.

Leave Natural Objects and Cultural Artifacts

Natural objects of beauty or interest, such as antlers, flowers or fossils, should be left for others to discover and enjoy. In provincial and national parks, and some other areas, it is illegal to remove these treasures, which include plants and flowers.

Follow this same ethic with cultural artifacts, which include seemingly insignificant objects like potshards and arrowheads, as well as ornate pots, woven items or structural remnants. Some of these sites or artifacts are sacred to Native Canadians. All of them help us understand human and natural history, including the effects of disease, climate change or seasonal changes to past populations.

Avoid Disturbing Wildlife

Travel quietly, and give animals the buffer space they need to feel secure. Forcing animals to flee, or pursuing, feeding and attracting them changes their normal life patterns. In times of environmental stress, such as a hard winter or food shortage, disturbance may harm them. Remember that bear, moose, and other animals can become aggressive and dangerous if provoked or threatened by your actions. Touching or picking up any wild animal constitutes a double threat. It is stressful to the animal. Also, it's possible that an animal that allows itself to be approached by humans is rabid or carries other diseases. Binoculars and a telephoto lens allow you to photograph and enjoy wildlife from a distance; these help keep animals wild.

Reduce Your Impact On Other Visitors

Portable radios, tape players and cellular phones bring immediate contact from the outside world to remote wild lands. Many visitors are disturbed by this "intrusion" and by the noise that these items create. If you choose to use such items, do it unobtrusively. Consider their utility and whether they contribute to your experience or perhaps cause you to miss something you're seeking.

If considering bringing a pet, check local regulations and then accept the responsibility to keep the animal under control at all times. A well-behaved dog can be an excellent companion on the trail, but a rambunctious one can create undue impacts by digging, barking, leaving waste on the trail or frightening wildlife and other visitors.

6. USE FIRE RESPONSIBLY

Building campfires in the backcountry was once a ne-


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cessity; their use is steeped in history and tradition.

Some people consider going on a backcountry camping trip, but not having a campfire, unthinkable. Yet, careless use of fires and the ever-increasing demand for firewood has compromised the natural appearance of wild areas. Because of excessive damage, depletion of firewood, and the subsequent management burden, some backcountry areas now prohibit campfires or allow them only in designated sites.

Built properly, campfires can still be an enjoyable part of backcountry camping. However, the development of efficient camp stoves has encouraged a shift away from the traditional campfire.

Stoves are an almost essential equipment for minimum-impact camping. Why? Because they are portable, and don't require campers to find a site with available firewood. Backcountry visitors should carry stoves and sufficient fuel to cook all of their meals. If you typically depend on fires as a light source, consider using a lightweight candle lantern as an alternative.

Never make the decision to build a fire arbitrarily. Before you decide

whether or not to build a fire, consider the following:

- Regulations
- Ecological conditions
- Weather
- Skill
- Use levels
- Firewood availability.

In many areas fire permits are required from the Department of Natural Resources before you build a campfire on public lands. During dry spells, the government may ban all fires to decrease forest fire danger. Hot, dry weather and wind are elements that may make having a fire in any environment inappropriate.

Use Dead Wood And Burn It Completely

Only build campfires where firewood is abundant. Use only dead and downed wood. Never break branches off any trees, living or dead. Broken branches leave scars that create a negative visual impact on the area.

Collect loose sticks and branches from the ground. Take time to walk a few minutes from camp, before gathering wood. This will keep the immediate vicinity of your campsite from becoming unnaturally barren.

The size of firewood pieces can also help you in efforts to leave no trace. Don't choose pieces larger than the diameter of an adult's wrist. Break individual pieces into appropriate lengths by hand as needed; usually, these will burn easily and completely to ash. This method eliminates the need to carry saws and axes, which are heavy and, used carelessly, leave unnatural scars. Scatter any wood that you don't use in the forest in random locations so it doesn't create unnatural visual impact.

Burn all fires down to ash or very small coals. Doing this requires extra effort, but it's a significant step toward minimizing impact. Once your fire has burned completely out, remove any remaining food, foil or plastic. Scatter the ashes widely over vegetated ground.

In High-Use Areas, Use Existing Fire Rings

In established campsites, build fires in existing fire rings. When you leave, clean it; this will encourage others to use the same fire ring.

Remove any residual trash, and burn all wood completely to ashes. If the fire ring is filling up, scoop up ashes and scatter it over a large area away from camp. Consider carrying out a



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bag of charcoal with your trash if the area is well-used. These practices help to prevent others from making their own fire rings.

In Remote Areas, Use Appropriate Fire Techniques

In some remote or pristine areas, it's possible to enjoy a campfire and leave no trace behind. Techniques have evolved; practical minimum-impact alternatives to fire rings exist. Take care to select a durable fire site. The heat from a fire can harm the environment, but so too can the concentrated trampling of people cooking or socializing around a fire. Remember that in some backcountry areas, including most provincial and national parks, fires are permitted only in designated fire sites.

Portable Fire Pans

Fire pans are metal trays with sides high enough to contain wood and ashes. Metal oil drain pans and backyard barbecue grills make effective and inexpensive fire pans. A few outdoor companies are beginning to sell lightweight versions.

A fire pan should be lined with several inches of mineral soil, or propped up on small rocks to protect the surface underneath from the heat.

Mound Fires

Campers can build up a platform or mound of mineral soil to act as a fire pad. This is easily disguised. Here's how to do it. First locate a naturally occurring source of mineral soil, sand or gravel such as the hole left by a tree's roots when it blows over, or large stream courses where sand or fine gravel have been deposited in non-vegetated areas along the banks. Carry the dirt back to the fire site with pots or a stuff sack. Using the mineral soil, build a circular, flat topped fire platform, 15 cm to 20 cm thick, and

about 60 cm across. A tarp or ground cloth laid down beneath the soil will aid clean-up.

The thickness of a fire mound is critical for insulating the tarp and ground underneath from the heat. Once your fire is extinguished and cold, scatter leftover ashes and return the mineral soil to its source. Then, brush the fire area so the area ground appears undisturbed.

A mound fire has many advantages. For starters, you can build it on pine needles or even short grass without damaging the surface or soil. However, it is less desirable than a fire pan, because you must still find mineral soil on which to build your fire, and sometimes this soil is difficult to locate.

Pit Fires

In the past, authorities recommended fire pits dug out of sod as a low-impact fire building method. However, even after carefully watering and replacing the sod, these sites settle over time, leaving a noticeable scar. Instead of using this method, use fire pans or mound techniques. If done properly, these have less affect on the environment.

Concluding Thoughts

Most campers have seen severely damaged or dirty campsites, encountered large unruly groups and had some less-than-desirable camping experiences. Often, this is due to a lack of consideration or awareness of others. These experiences tend to take away from the enjoyment; often, campers remember a particular trip because of these unfortunate encounters. Leave No Trace Inc. has established these outdoor ethics, which promote and encourage people to be respectful and responsible users of the outdoors.

Let's all adopt and practise Leave No Trace outdoor ethics. X

GET READY TO TUNE IN JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (JOTA)

by Lena Wong

Are you ready for our 44th JOTA? It takes place October 20-21, 2001.

The 43rd JOTA was a successful event for those Canadians who participated.

Start preparing your youth members now by talking about JOTA, contacting a radio amateur to run a radio station for you, and playing some games to familiarise your youth members with the event. The April Leader Magazine has details about last year's event; share the infor-

mation with your members.

For more information, contact me at the National Office, 1345 Baseline Road, Ottawa, ON, K2C 0A7; phone (613) 224-5131; e-mail at lwong@scouts.ca. If you want to be added to the mailing list of those who are interested in participating in this event, just ask.

If you'd like to look up JOTA on the World Scout Bureau's web page, surf to: www.scout.org.

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What's in the Leader's Pack?

Be ready for ALL emergencies

by Karne Kozolanko

Your Venturers have planned a weekend camp in the back country without you. It's their first camp alone – being a relatively young company – and so you're a bit nervous about the event. What can, and should, you do to help?

If you read and discuss this article (in detail) with the Venturer who will lead the trip, you'll sleep much better at night while they're away.

Most outdoor leaders have a pack that they take with them on the trail. The contents of the pack depends on who they're travelling with, for how long and where they're going. But how much emergency gear do leaders need?

Over the years my emergency gear has grown considerably. Years ago I started out with a few items tucked into a small Tupperware™ container that I chose to help me



Photo: 85th Old Mill Venturers

A leader's pack must have more than bare essentials.

deal with trouble. Although the items inside the kit made sense, it didn't take long for me to realize that a leader's pack containing just a first aid kit was completely inadequate.

Avoidable Backpack Woes

On one weekend trip, a student was using a cheap backpack that kept breaking; first the straps then the pins broke. The student struggled to

keep up with the group because he had to stop frequently to make repairs and adjustments to his gear. What started out as a simple repair task escalated into a major problem over the rest of the weekend. If I had been carrying some simple repair items and parts, I could have taken care of the problem quickly.

Although there's a limit to what can be taken on a trip, my leader pack

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has swollen to include a number of items that have made life much easier on the trail. It contains a first aid kit, as well as survival and emergency gear. The first aid kit fits in a fanny pack that either attaches to, or fits inside, the larger leader pack. This is important as the first aid gear sometimes needs to be separate from the leader. For example, when canoe tripping, you should have one kit at each end of the portage. Other items in the pack depend on where you're going and with whom you're doing it.

Weighing the Risks

A day trip or an over-nighter: which is potentially more dangerous? During which trip are you more likely to encounter problems?

After years of experience, the answer for me is easy; the day trip will probably cause more problems because of its short length. Less experienced leaders are more likely to rationalize not bringing along extra gear when going out for a day. Experienced leaders, on the other hand, may suffer from an attitude of false security – not having had an accident on a day trip.

Usually, I carry a full pack on day trips. This includes a sleeping bag and pad, even in the summer. A leader's pack should have the materials needed to deal with shock and hypothermia all year round.

Shelter and Food: Basic Needs

The leader's pack needs to contain enough gear to set up a shelter quickly. In past years I used a tent fly, but now I find a plastic sheet is more efficient. Four millimetre clear plastic is strong and light enough to be used as both a shelter and as a wrap-around for a casualty. It's excellent in situations where an injured person needs shelter from wind and rain quickly.

Clear plastic sheeting is good for another reason. The first aider can get under the plastic and work using the light that readily filters through. A piece of plastic sheeting three metres by three metres does nicely. Mark this item high on your "must have" list.

Include extra provisions in your pack for the entire group, too. On day and weekend trips, you need at least one extra meal per person. Longer trips require food for a day for your entire group.

Other Essentials

In an emergency you may need to be able to heat water and keep it hot, so a stove, pot, fuel and/or a thermos are important. In the summer I just bring along a full thermos on day trips.

You may have to light a fire, so don't forget enough weather-proofed matches. It is also important to remember that the extra bits of equipment you carry in your pockets should be considered separate from the leader's pack.

Even though you may carry matches, compass, maps and a jack-knife with you in a pocket, at some point during the trip someone else may become the leader and, therefore, start carrying the pack. If an emergency occurs, that person will not find these essentials in the pack. That's why you should include them in the pack, so anywhere the pack goes, these items will go, too.

The leader's pack also needs a small repair kit. It should include light wire, waxed thread and a handy stitcher. Duct tape is invaluable.

Consider taking extra clothing, especially if travelling with a younger group. Prepare by packing socks, underwear and overclothes.

LEADER PACK EQUIPMENT LIST

Here's a check-off list of minimum equipment a leader needs to include in a pack.

- ☐ Pack
- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Pad
- ☐ Clear plastic sheeting (3 m x 3 m)
- ☐ Stove (fully fuelled)
- ☐ Thermos and small pot
- ☐ Mug and spoon
- ☐ Water bottle (full)
- ☐ Extra meal(s)
- ☐ Hot drink fixings
- ☐ Map of area
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ First aid kit
- ☐ Small repair kit
- ☐ Matches
- ☐ Extra clothing
- ☐ Note pad and pencil
- ☐ Pocketknife
- ☐ Duct tape
- ☐ List of participants, medical information and contact people (including the leader's name)
- ☐ Emergency phone numbers
- ☐ Leader's log of the event
- ☐ Leader's sketch of program activities.

Reptilia - Discover the World of Reptiles!



Reptilia's shows are an excellent programming tool that you can use to enrich your group's experience. All presentations feature encounters with live reptiles and amphibians! Our programs cover a variety of badge related topics including: habitat, conservation, ecology, and pet care. Groups can visit Reptilia at 91 Fernstaff Ct., Unit 8, Vaughan ON L4K 3L9 or we can bring the animals to you.

Visit our website: www.reptilia.org or call toll free: 1-888-REPTILIA

Sharing the Load

The leader's pack will reflect the needs of your group, and the trips you lead. Sharing the burden of carrying it among participants is a good way to get others to think and talk about accident prevention. If everyone in the group shares the load it may also lead to some innovative additions to the pack.

On a recent course a colleague showed me a bow tie and hacky sack he carries in his leader pack. What's the bow tie for? He uses it to distract young campers when doing first aid on them. The hacky sack is for the rest of the group to use while they wait.

Pack What You Need

Leaders must develop their own pack if they're going to live up to expected standards of care in outdoor education. It's part of what one outdoor expert calls "an attitude of prevention awareness." Include the items that might help in the circumstances you consider possible. Responsible leaders practise this awareness when they travel with preventative, as well as remedial, equipment.

An adequate pack also gives your entire group a sense of security; they

know they're prepared and ready to cope. My preparedness is an insurance policy, ready to support me when things go wrong. ^

— Karne Kozolanko is a member of the National Program Committee and renowned outdoor educator.

TIPS FOR YOUNG LEADERS

by Susan Muehlherr

Before leaving for your camp, consider these questions: who, where, when, what, how and why.

- ☐ Who will be your first aider? Who will approve the camp?
- ☐ Where will you go? Where can you get the equipment you need?
- ☐ What month will you go? When is everyone available?
- ☐ What knowledge and skills does everyone need to participate fully? What is your emergency plan?
- ☐ How will you get there? How much will it cost?
- ☐ Why are you doing this?

By sitting down with your participants, and brainstorming all questions and answers you'll be better

prepared for your trip. Ask your advisor to review your camping plans before going, especially if this is your first trip. The advisor has to sign the Camping and Outdoor Activity Application Form anyway. Physical Fitness Certificates and Parent Permission Forms have to be collected, too.

Here's a fun way to build cooperation and develop clear communication skills.

Blind Tent Set-Up

Blindfold all members of the team, except for one youth. This youth must give clear directions to other members to enable them to set up a tent. Allow lots of time for this exercise. Switch leaders occasionally to give more members an opportunity to experience giving directions.

the **leader**



BACK ISSUES

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**ACT TODAY!
THEY GO FAST!**

(Some issues may not be available.)

Inviting All Venturers and Rovers to BC Trek

**BC TREK 2002
Excursions**



AUGUST 17-25, 2002. Mark this important BC Trek date on your calendar.

All Venturers and Rovers are invited to an exciting, challenging and fun-filled nationally endorsed event for all 14 to 26 year-old registered Scouts. Expect to see Scouts from around the world at our event, as well as females from the Guide Movement.

What is BC Trek? It involves eight days of exploring British Columbia. Activities will range from touring through the sunny Okanagan, Canada's only desert and Whistler, to mountain biking, out-back camping and river rafting. Other activities abound. We're designing separate Venturer and Rover excursions to challenge

both groups of youth to some "extreme" fun-in-the-sun activities.

You can even influence what activities are offered by choosing the excursions you want. Just go to our web site (www.bctreck.com) and give us your input. If you want more information, join our "I wanna be a Trekky" club. If you don't have Internet access and want more information call Scouter Art at 1-800-788-7948.

And, just in case you're wondering... advisors and staff will supervise underage participants, not the older participants.

Come join us at BC Trek August 17-25, 2002 for our first national Venturer/Rover event. In terms of fun, the sky's the limit!

Planning your holiday in London?

Look no further!

Two great places to stay

Baden-Powell House

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It would be hard to pick a better spot from which to discover London. Ideally situated in the heart of London's "museum land", The Natural History Museum, Science, Geological and Victoria & Albert Museums are just a few minutes walk away. Also within easy reach are the Royal Albert Hall, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey, to name just a few.

First Class Accommodation

We can offer a variety of rooms to cater for the single traveller, family groups, large parties. Our rates are very competitive and include a full English breakfast. The rooms are all en-suite. Most have televisions and tea and coffee making facilities

Excellent Catering

Our self-service restaurant is open to non-residents and house-guests alike. We are also happy to cater for parties of any size by prior arrangement. Packed meals, can be supplied for parties of any size.

Connections

Nearby underground stations connect with all the major main-line rail stations and Heathrow airport.

How to Book

For further information and bookings please contact reservations on **Tel:** 00 44 207 590 6900 **Fax:** 00 44 207 590 6902



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Accommodation consists of 41 bedrooms to an excellent standard.

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Gilwell Park is the home of Scouting, and has been used by Scouts since 1919. We offer a variety of camping areas for groups from 10 to 1000, with a comprehensive selection of camping gear for hire. There is fun support from our friendly team of international staff.

How to Book

For more information please contact reception on **Tel:** 0044208 498 5300 **Fax:** 0044208 498 5303



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IN THE MARKET

Check out our on-line catalogue at:

Scoutscustomfactory.ca: Custom Ordering for You

by Ben Kruser

"We want more casual wear that looks cool and contemporary, but still identifies us with Scouting."

That's what youth and leaders are demanding across the country. And Scouting is listening. Our first step towards satisfying this need involved creating the new *Bring on the Adventure* clothing line. This exciting range of apparel carries the *Bring on the Adventure* brand, along with Scouts Canada's national logo. The National Youth Committee has given it two thumbs up.

As well, key members reported that something unusual happened while field testing the golf shirt during mall displays; people actually approached these members to talk about Scouting. Public comments led both staff and volunteers to believe that the contemporary styling was more friendly looking, and invited people to learn more about Scouting.

Scouting's *Bring on the Adventure* clothing was so well received in field tests that many testers asked if they could get the clothing embroidered with their group or council name. This idea led us to create an entire collection of council logos under one roof. Once graphics are collected, there's no end to the clothing or support products to which they can be applied. If everyone used the same service, Scouting would benefit further from volume discounts.

Our On-Line Catalogue

Scouts Canada has joined with Affinity Express to create "www.scoutscustomfactory.ca" – an on-line catalogue of customizable Scouting products. Members will be able to browse the file of Scouting logos, select what products they want the logo to appear on, choose a quantity and order direct from the manufacturer. Customers can order:

- On-line
- By fax
- Using a toll free number to speak directly with a customer service representative.

The *Bring on the Adventure* clothing line will be available, so members can try on various sizes in their nearest major Scout Shop before ordering.

Time is valuable to volunteers and staff, so everyone will appreciate this one-stop shopping ease. As our site expands, we will be adding exciting graphics and artwork to make your group's clothing cool and modern looking.

Check out our new www.scoutscustomfactory.ca web site. It'll be up and running by September 1, 2001. X

SCOUTER'S 5

Giving Thanks for Campfires and More

by John Lockie

Use this as a brief introduction to a campfire.

We're gathered around a campfire, and for us it's very special.

Why is it special? Partly because we don't do it very often. It's unusual.

In Canada, most homes have had electric lights for 100 years, but before that people lit their homes with candles or primitive lanterns that burned oil or fat.

Before that, people gathered around campfires at the foot of their tents or near stone or sod buildings. They gathered in clans or tribes at the end of the day to talk, sing and scare off wild animals. The campfire provided warmth and light. The heat let people roast meat and other foods. The campfire kept the creeping, damp chill of a cold night at bay. Campfires provided an opportunity to give thanks.

So, let's give thanks for two things right now: for electric lights and central heat, so we can stay warm all night long without feeling the chill of a dying campfire, and for the joy we experience when we do meet around a campfire as we're doing tonight.

Campfires, like ours, have provided a focus for human talking, singing and planning for thousands of years at night. The flames encourage friendships. Our campfire tonight, therefore, represents one of the most recent chapters in a very long story of human life. Let's use our campfire as a time to appreciate where we've come from, and where we're going. So welcome! Let the flames warm your soul.

— John Lockie Scouts in the Odawa Region.

Scouter's Five Minutes

Aug./Sept. 2001

SONGS

Swatting Skeeters Song

Ruth Dubeau (North Bay, ON) sent this funny song. Sing it to the tune of "Blowing Bubbles." Tune up your vocal cords and sing it during a fall hike when the "skeeters" are celebrating some new-found food (you!).

I'm forever swatting skeeters
Little beasts that buzz and bite.
They're always right

In earth and sky,

And like my dreams they come at night.

They are always hiding,

They are everywhere

I'm forever swatting skeeters,

Little demons of the air.

Puzzled Mules

Scouts and Venturers will enjoy untangling this confusing song. Sing it to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne." From Linda Kish (Lethbridge, AB).

On mules we find two legs behind

And two we find before,

We stand behind before we find

What the two behind be for.

When we're behind the two behind

We find what these be for.

So stand before the two behind

And behind the two before.

Here for the Fun of It

(Also sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne.")

We're here for the fun right from the start

So drop your dignity.

Just laugh and sing with all your heart

And show your loyalty.

Songs

Aug./Sept. 2001

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the leader

May all your troubles be forgot
May this day be the best
Join in the songs we sing today
Be happy with the rest.

Opening or Closing Song

Songs make an excellent way to open or close a meeting. Heather McGrath (Whitecourt, AB) offers this song, sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." Use it in the fall when Beavers are getting their new tails.

If you're a Cub leader, give each six the task of making up its own words for a verse.

We are Beavers, brown and blue.
God gave us a job to do.
Serve him well and this world too.
That's the job that I must do.

Chorus

Yes, we are Beavers.
Yes, we are Beavers.
Yes, we are Beavers.
We have a job to do.

We are Beavers, White Tails too.
God gave us a job to do.
Serve Him well and this world too.
That's the job that I must do.

To emphasize different tail groups, sing three verses – each one emphasizing one tail colour. For example, the first verse might start, "We are Beavers blue, blue, blue..." (for Blue Tail Beavers). When Blue Tail Beavers hear the word "blue," they step forward. The next verse highlights Brown Tail Beavers and the third emphasizes White Tail Beavers.

Can your colony think up a verse that describes Keo's work and play?

Songs

I've Learned These Great Thanksgiving Thoughts

from Lauri Cunningham

Living well and thankfully isn't all that difficult. A poor person can make this world much better, just as easy as a rich person. All we need to do is learn some wisdom, then – the hard part – put it into daily practice. Think about the wisdom presented below, then discuss how your youth members can put it into practice.

- ☐ I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.
- ☐ I've learned that, regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.
- ☐ I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, your friends, the needs of others, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you.
- ☐ I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.
- ☐ People will forget what you said, but people will not forget what you did. Especially, people will never forget how you made them feel. So make the world feel better. It's as easy as giving someone a Thanksgiving smile each day.

Scouter's Five Minutes

Pen Pals from Around the World

Britain

Scouters Roy and Joan Walker will find British pen pals for all individuals or groups seeking an overseas friend. Contact them at "Waybrook", Ewing Close, Reepham, Norfolk, NR10 4JQ, phone: 011-44-603-870352

Netherlands

Would you like a Dutch pen pal? Contact the Dutch pen pal secretary. Her address: E. Dekkers-van Houten, Post Box Secretaresse, Scouting Nederland, P.C. Hooftlaan 4-14, 7552 HG Hengelo, The Netherlands.

Australia

Australian Scouting youth are looking for pen pals in Canada. If you would like one, please contact Barbara Riley, the pen pal co-ordinator for the international team in Queensland, Australia, at e-mail address: penpals@qldhq.scouts.com

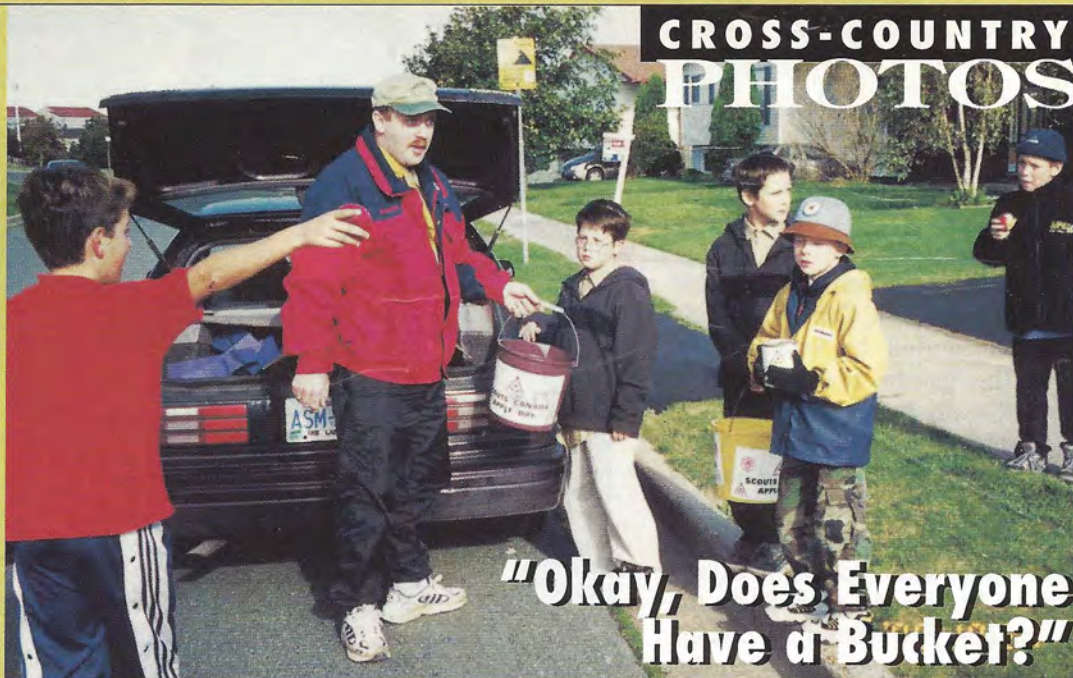
Please Note

The Leader does not provide a regular Pen Pal column. Scouting members who want a pen pal may contact the three Scouting organizations above that will help them connect with a youth or leader. Leaders should screen all letters or e-mail messages coming from pen pals to ensure that people do not misrepresent themselves or make inappropriate statements. Scouts Canada's web site (www.scouts.ca) has many links with Scouting groups around the world.

CROSS-COUNTRY PHOTOS

Apple Day is a regular event for Beavers and Cubs from the 1st Newtown Group in Mount Pearl, NF. Not only do the kids offer apples to neighbours, but they also consume huge quantities of the nutritious fruit.

Photo: Diane Roberts



"Okay, Does Everyone Have a Bucket?"

REGINA VENTURERS MEET PRINCE CHARLES

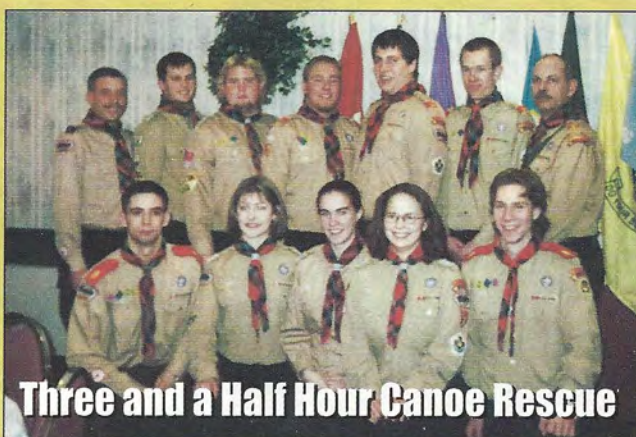


Venturers from Regina, Saskatchewan's 86th Company met with Prince Charles when he visited Canada last spring. Stopping to speak to them, he asked if any of them had earned their Chief Scout Award (all had achieved this goal). Before leaving, with a twinkle in his eye, he asked, "And why aren't you Venturers in school right now?"

Campfires Are Bliss!



"Scouting is... sitting around a campfire enjoying songs and stories with our friends." That's what Cubs and Scouts from the 1st Drayton Valley Group (Alberta) think. "With a campfire blanket wrapped around our shoulders, we know life is good." Photo: Kalyn Nobert



Three and a Half Hour Canoe Rescue

Rovers and Venturers from the Saskatchewan Service Corps were paddling the Churchill River when they encountered four Edmonton canoeists in deep trouble. They had just tried to shoot a very difficult set of rapids, dumped, lost all their gear and had one of their canoes wrapped around a huge rock in mid-stream. These Service Corps members rescued them, their gear and their canoe from the frigid waters. All members received the Certificate for Meritorious Conduct for their efforts. Thanks to Lew Harrison \



BOY SCOUTS OF CANADA

Notice is hereby given that Boy Scouts of Canada, a body incorporated by chapter 130 of the Statutes of Canada, 1914, will apply to the Parliament of Canada, at the present session or at either of the two sessions immediately following the present session, for a private Act to amend its Act of incorporation in order to consolidate the statutes governing it, to change its name to "Scouts Canada" and to make such other technical and incidental changes to the Act as may be appropriate.

Ottawa, 2001

Robert J. Laughton, Q.C.
Solicitor for the Petitioner
Gowling Lafleur & Henderson
160 Elgin Street, Suite 2600
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C3

Bring on the Adventure

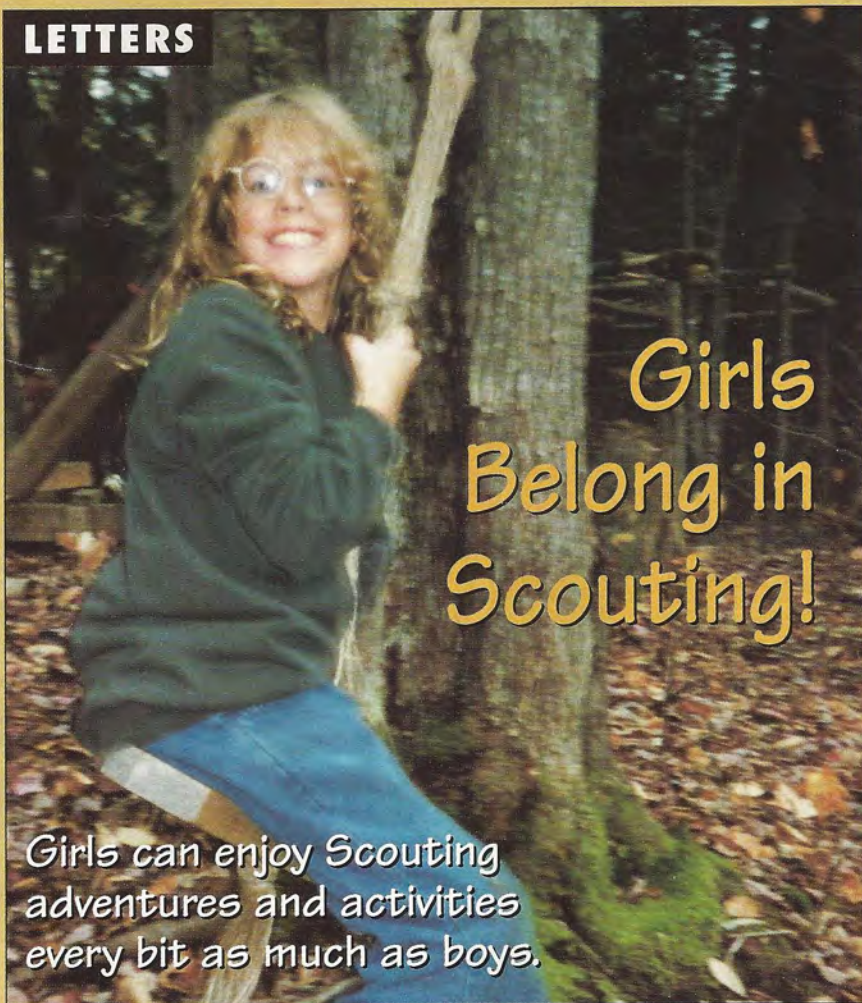


The 2002 Scouts Canada Catalogue

Have You Got Yours Yet?

www.scouts.ca

LETTERS



Girls Belong in Scouting!

Girls can enjoy Scouting adventures and activities every bit as much as boys.

Photo: Gary Parker

AS A FEMALE MEMBER of Scouts Canada I cannot let Peter Harris' comment in the April, 2000 issue (page 39) go unchallenged.

That Mr. Harris would publicly state that Scouting has dropped our standards by letting girls join is bad enough, but for the **Leader Magazine** to publish such a comment is insulting.

Baden-Powell can be forgiven for not allowing girls to join. He did the best he could in the times in which he lived.

I enjoyed the 25 years I was involved in Guiding, but now I'm married to a Scouter, and the mother of a son as well as a daughter. I chose to become involved in Scouting because it is a family activity. My daughter and her dad joined Beavers this year; it's wonderful that they can do this together.

Whether we were invited to join or "allowed" to join, we're here now. Scouting belongs as much to me and my daughter as it does to Peter Harris. ^

— Alexis Templeton, St. John's, NF

Editor's Comment

We made the decision to publish Peter Harris' entire letter and his full range of opinions of Scouting after much internal debate and discussion. In the end, we felt that we needed to publish his opinions in their full context so readers could judge them accordingly.

We want our *Letters* column to be a reasonably open forum for

readers; that means occasionally publishing letters with which we vehemently disagree.

Scouts Canada is a fully co-ed organization. Our programs benefit and are equally valid for males and females. There is simply no justifiable reason to turn someone away from Scouting because of gender.

CALENDRIERS **SCOUT** CALENDARS!

The 2002 Scouts Canada Calendar: Fund-raising for your Scouting start-up just got a whole lot easier.

The challenge: to raise enough funds for equipment and adventurous outings for your group at the start of the Scouting year.

The solution: the 2002 Scouts Canada calendar.

This attractive calendar will help your group raise funds, and promote Scouting year-round in your community.

It's easy to sell!

- dynamic colour photos of Scouting youth in action.
- large write-in squares for every day of the year to help people keep track of their busy lives.
- suggested retail price of \$5 means an affordable and successful fundraiser.
- *New for 2001-2002: valuable coupons in the calendar, making it an even easier sell.*

This fall, every group will receive two calendars per member to help you raise those much-needed start-up funds in September. To order more calendars for your group, just contact your council office.

Get your Scouting year off to a flying start with Scouts Canada calendars.

Le calendrier Scouts Canada 2002 : Il est soudain devenu beaucoup plus facile de recueillir des fonds pour faire démarrer un mouvement scout.

Le défi : Recueillir suffisamment d'argent pour le matériel et les aventures de votre groupe au début de l'année de scoutisme.

La solution : Le calendrier Scout Canada 2002.

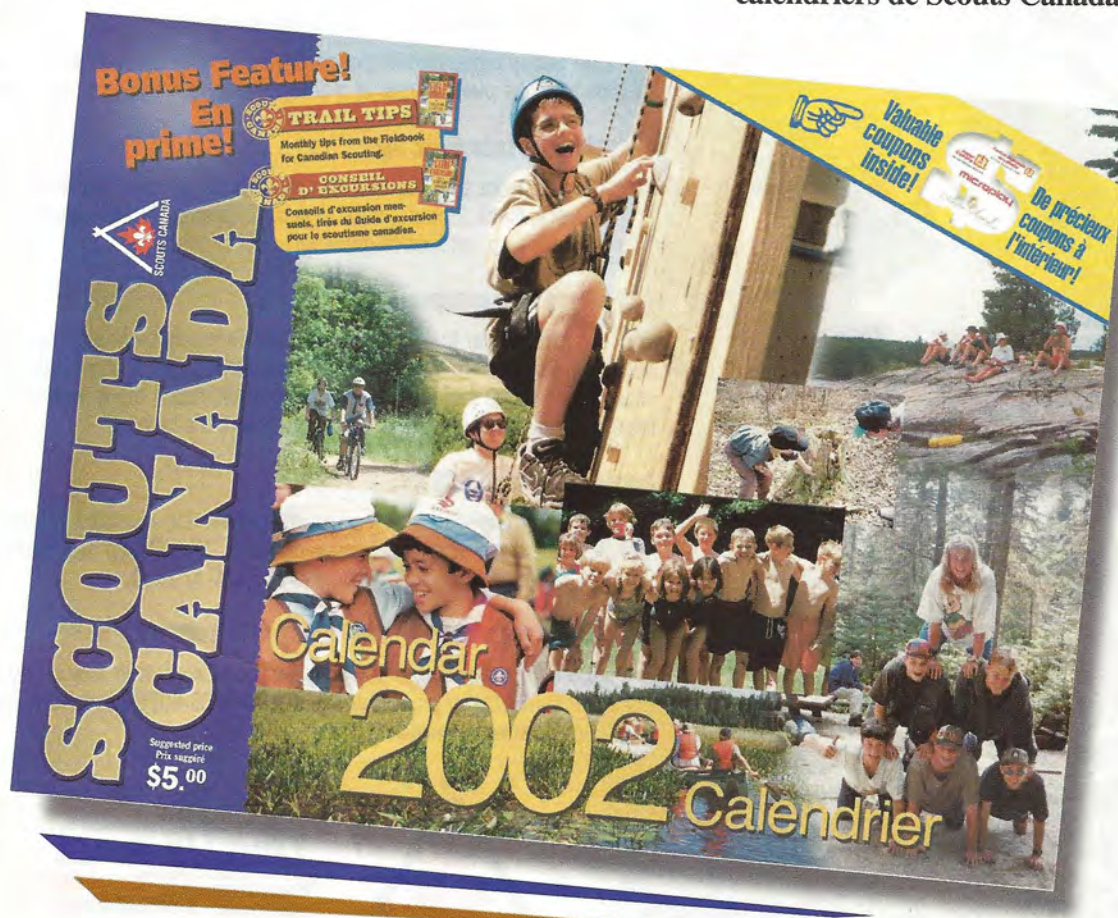
Ce joli calendrier aidera votre groupe à recueillir des fonds et à promouvoir l'année scout à longue d'année dans votre collectivité.

Il est facile à vendre!

- photos couleurs dynamiques de jeunes scouts à l'oeuvre.
- grands carré où les gens peuvent inscrire leurs multiples activités.
- le prix de vente suggéré de 5 dollars signifie que la collecte de fonds est abordable et sera couronnée de succès.
- *Nouveau en 2001-2002 : coupons de valeur dans le calendrier, ce qui facilite la vente.*

Cet automne, chaque groupe recevra deux calendriers par membre pour vous aider à recueillir ces fonds de lancement si nécessaires en septembre. Pour commander davantage de calendriers, veuillez vous adresser au bureau du conseil local.

Lancez bien votre année scout grâce aux calendriers de Scouts Canada.



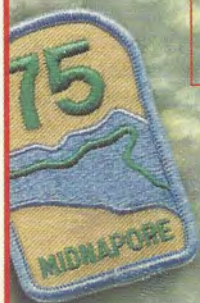
Visit www.scouts.ca today for more details or contact your local council office.

Pour en savoir davantage, contactez votre groupe local ou visitez www.scouts.ca



"Without popcorn, we couldn't run even half the activities we do today."

Leah Donald, Fund-raising Coordinator, 75th Midnapore Scouts, Calgary, Alberta



"Before, we were operating 'hand to mouth'."

Parents remember doing fund-raisers every other weekend, and Scouts were doing as much fund-raising as Scouting. That had to change.

Now, one big popcorn sale...and a full program.

The 75th Group expanded its popcorn sale, and its income, so that today it's able to make plans a year at a time, operating with an annual budget.

Recruitment, retention, up.

Leah Donald notes that popcorn has made a full program possible for 290 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers. "Now, recruitment is up, retention is up, and we're growing!"

\$40,000 in new equipment.

Popcorn profits over the years allowed the Group to buy camping tents, cooking pots, thermal containers, a new 6-lane Cub Car track, hockey sticks, flags for all thirteen sections, and much, much more. Even the Family Banquet is subsidized by popcorn, and it's catered!

Popcorn sales of \$85,000 in 2000.

"When the 75th needed a new popcorn coordinator, I jumped in with both feet. And, it's easy. Everybody buys popcorn." The Group had Trail's End Popcorn sales of \$64,000 in 1999 and \$85,000 in 2000.

Isn't it time for a bigger fund-raiser, with popcorn?

For more information about how to grow your Group with Trail's End Popcorn, contact your local Council at 1-888-726-8876 or visit the Trail's End website at www.trails-end.com.

