

Who You Gonna Call? PROGRAM HELP!

by Susan Muehlherr

Did you know you have someone available who can either answer your program question or direct you to the correct authority? Since 1999, Scouts Canada's Program Help Line has answered thousands of questions from Scouters and members of the public; yet it remains a little-known resource.

It started with a skilled volunteer, who came in during the evenings and answered voice-mail

and e-mail questions. After a year it became apparent that there was a need for this service, and it became a permanent part of Scouts Canada's Program Division resources. Each working day, the phone messages and e-mails are checked and answered.

Every type of question is asked – from craft ideas to policies and procedures to uniforms. Here are the top ten questions and their answers:

Where do I register?

This question occurs throughout the year. Even with multiple ways of advertising Scouts Canada in your area, parents still don't know where to register their child. Program Help directs their mail to the closest office for information. The toll free phone number, 1-888-Scouts-Now, found on our Scouts Canada web site, also directs them to their closest Scout office. Brainstorm ways to keep your Scouting contact numbers available to the public. Can you be included in the local phone books? In the Community Resource booklets? Posted at the library or inserted into school

newsletters every month? Remember - the easier it is for parents to register their child, the more members we can enroll.

Ceremonies

Quick! I need to perform an investiture ceremony and don't know how to do it! This is a frequent question from new leaders. Every section handbook contains instructions for investing new members, as well as all other ceremonies. Program Help directs the leader to the page they need, or if the new leader hasn't received their Leader Handbook yet - faxes or e-mails them the directions.

Are you aware that only a registered leader can invest other leaders? If you are an experienced leader who has changed sections, maybe you could offer to help a new leader plan their first investiture ceremony.

Forms

What form do I need to take my youth to the firehall? Who can approve it? I want to go camping - what do I need? These and many other answers to forms questions can be found in Scouts Canada's *Camping/Outdoor Activity Guide*. Every leader should be aware of this Guide and what is in it. You can download it for free,



Photo: Kevin Foxton

from Scouts Canada's web site, www.scouts.ca, under the "For Leaders" section. Your Council office offers advice too.

World Scouting

Senior Scouts working on their Chief Scout award often call looking for information. If they have access to the web, they can find it on www.scouts.ca, under "International Scouting," as well as a link to the World Scout web site. They can also write the National Office, Program Division, for a package that contains all the information they require to complete that portion of their award.

Mother's Day and Father's Day

These are two of the more popular holidays that leaders want to celebrate in a special way. Program Help answers each question with a clever idea or craft suitable to the age range of the section. Do you have any favourites to share? Send them in to the *Leader Magazine* for possible inclusion in a future issue.

Scouts Own

How do I plan a Scouts Own? Can Cubs do a Scouts Own? A Scouts Own is a gathering of Scouting youth to worship and develop a fuller realization of the Law and Promise. The most effective length is 15 – 20 minutes and must be acceptable to all faiths present. Try to involve the youth as much as possible. Older youth can read parts of the Scriptures, lead a song or even plan a Scouts Own. A mix of familiar spiritual songs (Kum-Bah-Yah or He's Got the Whole World in His Hands), a yarn with a moral, and some spiritual messages will make it interesting and worthwhile. Consult Scouts Canada's *Best of the Leader* book, *Let's Celebrate II* or save the Scouter's Five from the *Leader Magazine* for useful ideas.

Scout/Guide Week

– Church Parades

How can I plan a church parade during Scout/Guide week? A frequent way to celebrate Scout/Guide week is to hold a special religious event at a sponsor's church. It's important to discuss such a service well in advance with the clergy, keeping in mind the wide range of ages within all the sections. The service might include a parade into the church with the youth carrying their section flags. Youth participate by handing out pamphlets, helping to read Scrip-

tures, offering a prayer and repeating their Promise. Consider donating any offering collection towards the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund.

Program Help invites you to use its service to help you provide the best program you can.

Kub Kars

How much should my Scout Truck weigh? Can I put a spoiler on my Kub Kar? These and other questions on how to build a track are some of the many queries Program Help answers in the spring. If planning a group Kar Race, remember to advise the leaders from the different sections how the race will be run so that they can explain it to the youth. Directions for building Kub Kars are very clear in the packaging. The weight for Scout Trucks is left up to the discretion of the Troop. For ideas on how to "play" with Kub Kars, see the November 2001 *Leader Magazine* article.

How to Plan a Camp

Help! I'm a new leader taking my youth to camp! Planning a camp requires time and experience. Consult with senior leaders and your council. For a great guide, read Scouts Canada's *Fieldbook for Canadian Scouting* - it's packed full with all the details you need, from site selection to making fires. Using a theme helps prompt ideas for games, crafts, meals and activities. Tie in badge work too, but remember to let the youth have some time to just enjoy the outdoors. Don't forget to fill in all the paperwork found in the *Camping/Outdoor Activity Guide*. It's another great resource!

Camp Menu Planning

How many pieces of bread do I need to feed 10 people? What do I do about allergies? Before beginning to plan meals, ask the youth what they would like to eat. Brainstorm ideas, then help the youth whittle them down to a well-balanced menu. If youth have input into what they are eating, they will enjoy cooking it all the more. Follow Canada's Food Guide and the suggestions for portions in Scouts Canada's *Fieldbook for Canadian Scouting*.

Review the Physical Fitness Certificates for allergies before serving any food. The *Leader Magazine* frequently features recipes for camping, and Program Help has a wide list of favourites to share. (The answer for how much bread: plan on 2 – 4 slices of bread per meal for each person.)

Program Help invites you to use its service to help you provide the best program you can. Please keep in mind that we need at least 24 hours to respond.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon! ^

– Susan Muehlherr operates the Program Help Line at the National Office.

Notice of Annual Meeting Boy Scouts of Canada

Saturday,

November 29, 2003

4:30 p.m.

Ottawa Marriott Hotel,
Ottawa, Ontario

Purpose:

- (1) Receipt and consideration of reports including the Corporation's annual report.
- (2) Receipt and consideration of the financial statement for the National operation and the auditor's report thereon 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 Chief Commissioner.
- (5) Appointment of Officers and election of Members of the Board (except for the Executive Commissioner & Chief Executive Officer, who is appointed by the Board, and the Chief Commissioner, who is appointed by the Chief Scout).
- (6) Appointment of an auditor.
- (7) Consideration of any matter placed before it by the Chief Commissioner on behalf of the Board.
- (8) Selection of three (3) Voting Members to serve on the Nominating Committee for the ensuing year.
- (9) Consideration of any resolution(s) introduced by the Voting Members in accordance with Article III i., and the recommendation(s) of the Board relating thereto.
- (10) Such other business as may come before the meeting and which the Members under applicable law are authorized to transact.