



What Do You Get For Your Money?



by Ross Francis

Have you ever asked what you get for your Scouting money? It's a fair question.

You receive great value: trained leaders providing an excellent program which will have a positive impact on the education and development of children and youths. But how much is that worth? Whatever it costs – within reason of course.

Let's look at Scouts Canada's Mission Statement.

The Mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

Scouts Canada believes that children and youths who we help develop will turn out to be people...

With freedom and integrity,
clean of thought and true of heart,
strong of will, responsible
and self-reliant,
with personal commitments
for their lives,
consistent and true to their word.

Ready to serve others;
involved in their community,
defenders of their own,
and other people's rights,
pledged to democracy and
committed to development,
lovers of justice and
promoters of peace
who value human labour,
and build their families on love,
are aware of their own dignity
and that of others,
and who share with everybody
joyfully and affectionately.

Creative people;
who leave the world better
than they find it,
and strive for the integrity
of the natural world,

learning continually and searching
for ways still unexplored,
who do their work well
and, free from the hunger
to possess,
are independent of material things.

Spiritual people;
with a healthy sense of life,
who open their hearts to God,
live their faith joyfully and make
it part of their daily life,
who are open to dialogue
and understanding,
and respect the rights and
beliefs of others.

Wouldn't it be nice if everybody had an opportunity to experience Scouting and develop these character traits?! Scouts Canada believes (as did our founder, Baden-Powell) that the world would be a better place if all people had the chance to share in the Scouting adventure. It is this belief that drives us forward, trying to get Scouting programs to as many youths as possible throughout Canada. Our success is measured in numbers – numbers of children and youths who have the opportunity to grow using Scouting's proven methods. The more

people we help, the better. We want everyone to model the character traits previously identified.

Leader Testimonial

Not long ago a Scouter wrote a letter to the National Office that others should hear too. The letter reads....

Years ago, shortly after my son was born, I met one of my former Scouts in a store. I hadn't seen him for quite some time so we had a lot to catch up on. We talked about the fun we had experienced camping, canoeing and hiking.

Then this former Scout said, "I really enjoyed those times. I think I'd like to be a leader someday so I can help more children. Who knows, perhaps I'll even be your son's leader one day."

This made me stop and think. Wow, I've played a significant role in this person's life. Now he wants other children and youths to have the same experience and benefits.

All Scouting leaders should take great pride in what they are doing. They're helping to make Canada and the world a better place. How can anyone put a price on that? Whatever it costs – within reason – it's a bargain!

Features And Benefits

Features	Benefits — Parents	Benefits — Youths
Program encourages youth input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - youth self-expression - youth decision-making - leadership development - working in small groups - hands-on experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opportunities to help plan programs - opportunities to develop leadership skills
Fun/challenging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - youths learn new skills - exciting, high satisfaction level for youths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop new camping and outdoors skills - games, events and great adventures - test your skills and abilities
Comprehensive training program for leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - helps ensure quality experience - helps ensure safety of programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fun/challenging programs
Tested and proven values-based programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - progressive, co-ed programs for youths aged 5-26 - age-appropriate activities to accommodate all youths - provides opportunities for youths to develop socially, spiritually, physically and mentally - opportunities for youths to develop leadership skills and build self-esteem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - challenging/fun, exciting activities/ events with an outdoor focus - opportunities to develop leadership skills
Outdoor focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - learning/practising outdoor skills - self-reliance - healthy life-styles/physical activity - environmental awareness/appreciation - new experiences/adventures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regular opportunities for outdoor adventures - develop new skills (e.g. camping, hiking, cycling, canoeing, etc.) - great adventures
Developed policies and procedures for selecting and screening leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - screened through Scouts Canada's recruiting process - role models for youths - well established, comprehensive - police record checks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - knowledgeable, caring adult leaders
Small groups (lodges, sixes, patrols)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - better opportunities for youths to express themselves - develop sense of belonging - build self-esteem - develop group skills - teamwork - co-operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opportunities to experience leadership roles - be with friends - more opportunities to have input into program events/activities - meet and work with new friends
Family-oriented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opportunities to get involved with their child/children's programs as a leader on a group committee or as a helper - opportunities to participate with their child/children in programs - opportunities for families to participate together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opportunities to share your adventures with your parent - show mom/dad your new skills/abilities
Scouts Canada program standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - refer to section Program Standards in leader handbooks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regular opportunities to get outdoors, to work on new skills, and have fun - try new adventures
Developed policies and procedures for planning, approving and conducting programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - well established, comprehensive - helps ensure quality and safety of programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fun/challenging programs
Uniforms/badges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opportunities to earn badges and display recognition - motivational - measures progress - indicates new learnings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opportunities to earn recognition for skills and abilities - opportunities to test your skills - learn new things - achievement - rewards for your efforts
Large events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opportunities for youths to participate in large events/activities - socialization skills - meet new people - exposure to other cultures and youths of other ages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - opportunities for travel - high adventure activities - meet new friends - meet & visit youth from other cultures
Inexpensive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - excellent value for the dollar - affordable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - accessible/affordable to all - reduces barriers for friends who want to join X