



Program Standards for Excellent Scouting Programs

Scouts Canada has developed Program Standards for each of our sections. Having these minimum standards in place, and working with leaders to meet or exceed them, will ensure that leaders deliver programs at a high level of consistency across the country.

In past years, it has been very difficult to judge program quality levels with certainty from section to section. Scouts Canada knew what it wanted youth and adults to receive in terms of excellent programs, but couldn't guarantee that members would receive this. With program standards, Scouting will be able to ascertain many quality factors, such as number of outings, number of camping trips per year, and linking opportunities.

Set Nationally

The National Program Services Committee (made up of volunteers representing the program sections) established the Program Standards several years ago after consulting Scouters in each province. Provincial commissioners endorsed the new standards.

Members of the National Program Services Committee believe that the standards have been set at a reasonable level to guarantee that youth receive the fun, challenging, outdoor program for which they joined Scouting.

Scouting recognizes that, in fact, most of our groups currently operate programs that in many ways exceed these standards. This is excellent, and Scouts Canada encourages this to continue. However, Scouts Canada also recognizes that some groups do not currently meet these standards. The new standards provide guidance and direction to these groups.

The Program Standards will allow leaders to more consistently plan and conduct their programs, and explain to parents and youth what they can expect to receive when they join.

Bring on the adventure! Make sure your group meets or exceeds Scouting's Program Standards.

Check Off the for Excellence



The standards (in English and in French) are presented in this month's *Sharing*, *Paksak*, *Patrol Corner*, and *Venturer Log* columns (pages 20-29).

Each requirement has a check box opposite it for leaders to use when they're planning and evaluating their programs. When all check boxes are filled, leaders know that they are delivering a program that meets all Scouting requirements.

Beaver Quality Program Standards

As adult volunteers, we have made a commitment to deliver a quality program to our members. Scouts Canada is pleased to provide volunteers with this checklist to ensure the program that is being delivered meets quality standards.

Program Planning

The colony has a:

- short-range (one month),
- medium-range (three months) and
- long-range (one year) program plan which reflects the program goals as outlined in *B.P.&P.*, and/or elements as outlined in the *Beaver Leader's Handbook*.
- Weekly programs are typically conducted as described in the *Beaver Leader's Handbook*, and incorporate appropriate safety precautions.

Outdoors

Opportunities are provided for Beavers to participate in outdoor activities as often as possible. Beaver minimum standards require:

- One regular meeting per month outdoors
- One weekend outing every two months
- One night at camp annually
- All activities follow Policies and Accepted Practices, as outlined by *Camping/Outdoor Activities, Section 10000, B.P. & P.*

Youth Input

- Beavers are regularly consulted and utilized, when and where appropriate, in program planning and delivery.
- Small groups (lodges) are used to deliver activities to different aged members which reflects their skills/interests.
- Youth are actively engaged in the creation of their section's Code of Conduct.

Environmental Awareness

Opportunities are provided (as often as possible) for Beavers to participate in activities which increase their understanding and awareness of their role in preserving the environment, with the minimum standard being one project/activity annually.

- All activities are conducted in a manner which reflects appropriate environmental awareness and practices.

Spiritual Emphasis

Spiritual emphasis is regularly incorporated throughout the program. Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- Opening and Closing Prayers
- Use of Promise, Law and Motto
- Scouts Own and Scouter's Five

Community Service

Opportunities are provided for Beavers to participate in community service projects/events as often as possible.

- Minimum standard: one annually.

Membership/Retention

- No youth who is willing to subscribe to the Promise and Law is denied membership (i.e. Scouts Canada does not want any waiting lists).
- Leaders personally invite Beavers back at the beginning of each year.
- Those not returning at any time of the year are contacted by a leader to determine the reasons why.

Linking

Opportunities are provided (as often as possible) for Beavers to interact with Cubs, with the minimum standard being:

- One regular meeting and one other activity with a Cub pack annually.
- Keeto is utilized as part of the leadership team.
- Senior Beavers of swimming up age have at least one other opportunity to interact with a Cub pack.

Family/Parental Involvement

- Parental involvement is encouraged. Opportunities are provided for family/parent involvement as often as possible.
- Minimum standard: four events annually.
- Regular communication occurs to inform parents of program plans and changes through contacts, such as meetings, phone calls, calendars and newsletters, etc.

Training/Leadership

- Scouts Canada expects all leaders to achieve Woodbadge Basic during the first year.
- Scouts Canada expects at least one leader to have Woodbadge Advanced (Beavers).
- At least one member of the leadership team holds a current, recognized first aid qualification.
- The leadership team has obtained the necessary attitude, skills, knowledge and/or training required to conduct outdoor programs, or has recruited a skilled resource person(s) with such knowledge to attend the outing/activity.
- Youth members (e.g. activity leaders, Scouters-in-Training, Keeto) are included as part of the leadership team.

Administration

The following are performed to administer the colony:

- Submit a budget to the group committee for a year's activities.
- Maintain appropriate financial records, and submit proper financial statements to the group committee.
- Provide an annual inventory of all equipment and property to the group committee.
- Ensure a representative from the section leadership team attends at least 90 percent of group committee meetings.
- Participate in Scouts Canada's official fundraisers.