

SCOUT TRAILS NEWSLETTER

October 2003



The ODAWA Area is named after the Odawa Nation whose past included trading along the Ottawa River, throughout the Great Lakes and down the Mississippi River.

In more recent times, the Odawa Nation joined forces with the Ojibwa and Potawatami Nations to form the "Council of Three Fires".

The Ojibwa are the "keepers of the drum", the Potawatami are the "keepers of the pipe" and the Odawa are the "keepers of the fire".

This history is reflected in our ODAWA badge, which is worn above the Voyageur Region (now Council) crest.



2003 / 2004 Troop Leadership Team

Troop Scouter: Cherilyn Swallow (613-487-1877)

Group Chairperson: Betty Way

Troop Meetings

Meeting Days: Thursday Evenings

Time: 18:30 – 20:00

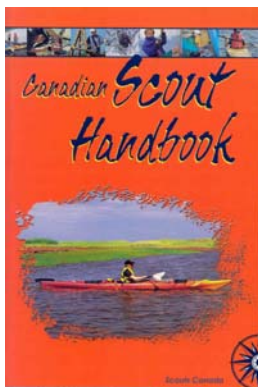
Place: St. Francis Xavier, **Top half of Gym**

1. **Scouts are required to arrive at least 5—10 minutes prior to the start of any Troop meeting.**
2. By pre-assignment, two scouts will be required to arrive **15 minutes prior** to each Troop meeting to set up the flags and equipment, and shall remain following the meeting to put things away.
3. Any Scout unable to attend a Troop meeting is to let his/her Patrol Leader know that he/she is not coming, and the Patrol Leader is to inform the Patrol Counselor.
4. No Scout will be allowed to leave a Troop meeting early without a written note or personal telephone call from a parent or guardian.
5. All meetings that require us to leave our normal meeting place require a permission slip. The Troop provides a special permission slip for every event and we request that you use these slips at all times.
6. Meetings between parents and the Troop Scouter or the assistant can be scheduled at any time throughout the year. Any parent wishing to discuss any special situation is encouraged to schedule such a meeting with the Troop Scouter. We will make every effort to accommodate your schedule.

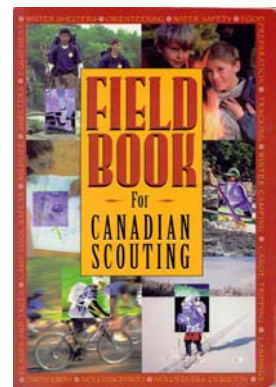
Dues

Dues this year are \$1.00 per week. You can however prepay for the month or year. Dues are used to cover the cost of badges as well as resource material required for the Scout program. Each Scout should be encouraged to earn their dues.

Handbooks



The *Scout Handbook* contains a description of the program and includes the badge system. Each Scout and parent is encouraged to become familiar with the achievement award system, which encourages and recognizes the individual for his activity, learning and growth. **Each Scout is required to bring a copy of the Handbook to each meeting.** This book was reprinted for the 2002/2003 year. I have reviewed the changes and they are minor. **There is no need for existing Scouts to purchase the new version of the Handbook.** The *Fieldbook for Canadian Scouting* is a Scoutcraft and campcraft resource book that provides invaluable aid in outdoor settings. Recently re-written, the Fieldbook is packed full of useful, up-to-date information that will improve any wilderness experience. Experts from St. John Ambulance, the Canadian Recreational Canoe Association, and Environment Canada all had a hand in contributing to the revised book. The Fieldbook is an optional, but recommended, resource.



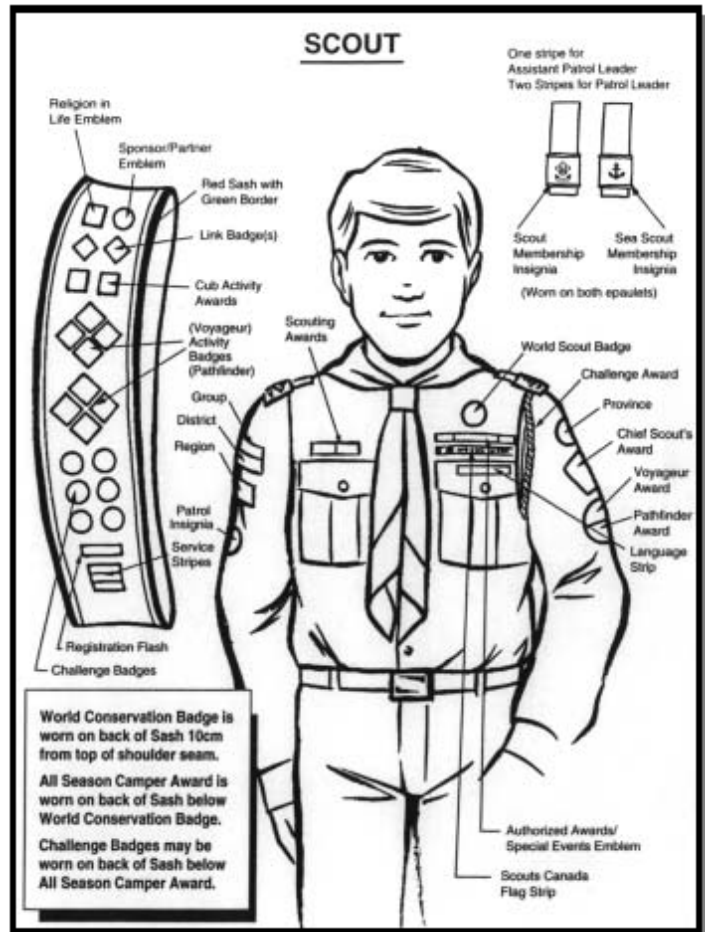


Uniform

The uniform identifies each Scout and adult leader as a member of the world's largest youth group - just as a baseball uniform identifies members of a baseball team. The uniform is both practical attire to be worn during selected Scout activities, and it provides a place to display the badges and awards earned by Scouts. The complete uniform consisting of tan shirt (same shirt used for Cubs if you are coming up from the Pack), blue Scout **pants** (or clean, no holes blue pants), green belt, green woggle, red & green badge sash, and Group scarf must be worn. Although we may have "no uniform" nights, most nights the Scouts will need the uniform for opening and closing ceremonies. **It is recommended that the Scouts wear a T-Shirt under their uniform for games and activities.**

Shoes worn in the Gym must have NON-MARKING SOLES.

Uniforms may be purchased at the **National Scout Shop** 1345 Baseline Road Ottawa, Ontario K2C 0A7
scoutshop@scouts.ca Phone: 613-224-0139
 Fax: 613-224-3571



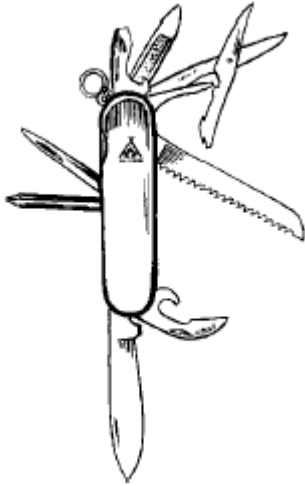
Patrols

Our Troop will operate using the Patrol Method. We expect to have 1 Patrol this year. The goal is to have program planning is done by the Court of Honour, which meets approximately once a month. One of the Patrol Leaders, under the supervision of the Troop Scouter, is elected to run the Court of Honour (COH). **Every Patrol leader and / or their assistant MUST attend the COH.** All actions of the COH are democratically decided. As a result of this method of operation, Scouts learn more about responsibility and stand to realize greater rewards from involvement in this program.

Investiture

This ceremony formally welcomes new members into our Scout Troop. Family members of Scouts being invested were invited to attend this important milestone event. Thank you for coming out and show your support for them all!

Knives & Matches



The use of pocketknives is a traditional part of the Scout program, however certain rules must be followed for safety. No large sheath knives will be allowed. Smaller pocketknives with a locking blade are recommended. Knives are not allowed unless the bearer has received the proper training and is carrying his "Knife Permit" Card. **The "Knife Permit" will be retested and renewed annually.** Violations of the safety rules will result in confiscation of the knife and suspension of the "Knife Permit". Intentional dangerous acts using a knife with another person will result in disciplinary action.

Dangerous and irresponsible use of fire starting materials will not be tolerated and disciplinary action will be taken. A fire of any sort may not be commenced without the expressed consent of the Registered Adult Leader or designate responsible at Camp. All Scouts working with matches, lighters, and other fire source materials should have the proper training. Violations of the safety rules will result in confiscation of any fire starting materials.

Health Cards

Please be advised that Hospitals now require a current Health Card to be shown before any treatment will be given, except in the case of a life-threatening injury. A parental note or a photocopy will not be accepted. **As a result, for any camp or hike, each Scout's Health Card must be given to the Leader in charge, in addition to the parental consent form.** The Leader will be responsible for the Health Cards, and will return them to the parent at the end of the event. Please speak to the Troop Scouter if you have any questions or concerns about this requirement.

Group Committee

We want your parent to be active as well! We have a variety of areas in which we need and would appreciate their participation.

Our Group Committee is made up of parents and other adults that meet monthly to discuss and finalize plans for Scouting events, programs, facilitate transportation and fund raising necessary to help our group go and support the plans made by the sections.

Parents are welcome at all Group Committee meetings

The next meeting is Monday October 27, 2003. We encourage parents to consider a role in which they can best use their talents and skills (i.e., Section Leader, Assistant Leader, Committee Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Fundraising, Activities Chairs, Transportation, or as an assistant to one of these positions). We have found that in most cases the Scouts who have parents who take an active role in the Group's leadership are the Scouts who make a strong commitment to and get the most of their Scouting experience.

Parents--Shhhh--don't tell the Scouts, but sometimes we have as much or more fun than the Scouts do.



Fund Raisers

These are held occasionally. You will be notified ahead of time and asked to participate with your son. Funds raised are used to offset the costs of Scouting to the Scouts and their families. Funds raised are used for equipment (repairs, tents, cooking gear, etc.), camping fees (site fees, registration fees, etc.), Summer Camp Costs, and other expenses approved by action of the Group Committee. All Scouts are required to participate in fund raising activities, and all parents are encouraged to assist when requested.

All activity cost not covered by fund raising activities end up being passed on to the Scouts and to their families.

We attempt to, where possible, select types of fund raising activities, which insure the money, will be raised by action of the youth working together, rather than by action of their parents imposing on fellow workers or on networks of friends.




Personal Gear

General Equipment

- 1 Sleeping Bag (For winter camping - Winter sleeping bag or two summer bags with a wool blanket)
- Backpack or Duffel Bag
- 1 Plate, Bowl, & Cup (unbreakable), Knife, Fork, & Spoon
- 1 Toothbrush & Paste
- 1 Soap, Comb, Towel, & Facecloth
- 1 Personal First Aid Kit / Emergency Kit
- Water Bottle or Canteen
- 1 Repair Kit (Needles, buttons, thread, safety pins)
- 1 Notebook and Paper
- 1 Set Rain Gear
- Lip Balm
- Sunscreen (yes, sunscreen!!!)
- Assortment of plastic grocery bags (they make great boot liners if you all of a sudden spring a leak)

You Might Also Want

- Scout Knife (Remember to bring your permit)
- 1 Flashlight with fresh batteries or spares
- 1 Small Pillow
- 1 Compass
- 1 Pair Sunglasses
- Medicine or Medication (Scouter Must Know)
- 1 Deck of Cards
- Watch
- Camera & Film
- 1 Waterproof Match Container
- Campfire Blanket

 <p>Summer Clothing</p>	 <p>Spring/Fall Clothing</p>	 <p>Winter Clothing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Uniform • 2 Long sleeve shirts • 2 Short sleeve shirts or T-shirts • 2 Long pants • 2 Short pants • 3 Sets of underwear • 3 Pair of Socks • 1 Bathing Suit & extra towel • 1 Light jacket or Windbreaker • 1 Set PJ's or Sweatshirt & Pants • 1 Pair Running Shoes • 1 Pair of Hiking Boots • 1 Bottle Insect Repellent (no aerosol cans) • 1 Field Hat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Uniform • 2 Short sleeve shirts or T-shirts • 2 Long pants • 1 Short pants • 3 Sets of underwear • 3 Pair of Socks • 1 Sweater • 1 Light jacket or Windbreaker • 1 heavier jacket (depending on weather forecast) • 1 Set PJ's or Sweatshirt & Pants • 1 Pair Running Shoes • 1 Pair of Hiking Boots • 1 Field Hat • 1 Touque • 1 Pair Gloves or Mitts (depending on weather forecast) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scout neckerchief and woggle (leave uniform at home) • 2 pair undershorts • 2 long sleeve undershirts (polypro or polyester is best) • 2- pair long underwear - bottoms • 2- heavy shirts or sweat shirts (avoid cotton) • 2- sweaters or 1 sweater and vest or polar fleece • 2- pair pants (NO JEANS!!!!!!) • 1 - Pr. sweat pants with nylon shell pants, or ski pants. • Winter Jacket - Ski jacket or Parka • 4-5 pairs of socks (wool or wool blend if possible) • 2 pairs of mitts or gloves (mitts better). 1 pair "Magic" gloves • 2 hats/toques (If you insist bringing your baseball cap or ski band make it 2 toques and 1 ball cap or ski band.) • 1 Scarf or "neck gaiter" • Sleep wear (PJ's or track pants with shirt -DON'T SLEEP IN THE SAME CLOTHES YOU WORE ALL DAY.) • Raincoat (Yes - lightweight raincoat with plastic rain hat) • Winter boots • 1 spare pair of boot liners (look for label that says at least 50% wool; the best are 75% wool/ 25% polypropylene) • Handkerchief



Scouting & the Family

Scouting is a family-based organization. Activities we offer, plus the values and skills we provide, are aimed at supporting your efforts to teach your child what is needed to become a well rounded person. Your personal involvement is important to help reinforce the lessons your Scout learns. Here are some suggestions to help you become involved:

- Sit down with your child and look through the Scout book together. What activities do you find interesting or appealing? How could you work on these activities as a family?
- Find out what activities leaders plan to run in your child's Troop. Most Scout troops set aside time for the Patrols to discuss desired activities. The Patrol Leaders and their Assistant Patrol Leaders meet with the Patrol Councillors and the Troop Scouter to draw up program plans from the scout's input.
- Get to know leaders by their real names. Too often parents only know leaders as "Scouter Bob". Leaders are truly interested in your child's welfare. Tell them what your child likes to do, and how you can help out. This will help them plan fun activities.
- If your Scout is interested in working on an activity outside of the meeting, or you want to make it a family project, talk over your plans with the leaders. They can provide useful tips and tell you how well it fits into the weekly programs or activity badges.
- Your talents, hobbies and interests are great program assets worth sharing with the Troop. Find out how you can become a resource for the troop's programs. This will let you spend valuable time with your child and share experience. Scouts really enjoy showing off for an adult family member who attends a meeting. This sense of pride helps strengthen adult-child relations. When your child joins Scouts, you become part of the group's support team.
- **Become a leader. Scouts Canada offers up-to-date training and resource materials.**

Leadership is fun and exciting. You will be with your Scout during a special time and see him (or her) develop and grow before your eyes. As well, the friendship and camaraderie you'll share with other parents can lead to long-lasting relationships and memories.

Communications

We like to keep Scouts and parents well informed of our activities. One of our methods of communications is this *Scout Trails* newsletter. The newsletter will feature long-term planning information to help you in scheduling your time. In addition, from time to time, we will be sending home notes dealing with specific camps and activities. **Please take the time to read these. The due dates for permission forms and funds listed on these forms are critical.** Most of the camps we attend have very strict due dates, after which we will be unable to register. If you have any problems, please contact one of the Scouters.

Another method of communication that worked well last year, in addition to phone calls, is "E-mail" notices of current events. If you have E-Mail at home, please let Scouter Cherilyn know and she will add you to her mailing list. Scouter Cherilyn can be reached at theswallowsnest@primus.ca.

We also have a group website. A Web site is a great source for up-to-date information regarding Group activities. It contains pictures of recent trips, important Scouting forms, Troop history, and many other areas for your use. If you can assist us with this endeavour, please let us know.