



It starts with Scouts.

**Scouts Canada - Nova Scotia Council
Newsletter – October 2014**

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

Good Scouters,

I want to start by thanking all the Scouters and the Scouts that help to make the ideal Home Show a great success. The youth and parents alike had a great time! Marshmallow Fight and all!

Membership growth is essential to our future. We are currently on track to meet our goal, however, we need your help! Please ensure that all members are entered into MyScout as soon as possible.

Are you on the Canadian Path? Scouts Canada is embarking on a new journey and is looking for your help in bringing great Scouting adventures to more Canadian youth. Join us on the Canadian Path as we launch the next great chapter in Canadian Scouting. (<http://www.scouts.ca/canadianpath/>)

YIS,

Martin D. Drapeau

Council Commissioner

Scouts Canada – Nova Scotia Council

DCC - TRAINING REPORT

Training: WB 1 Group Commissioner

Dates: Wednesday November 12th or Monday November 17th

Location: Scout Office, Dartmouth

Time: 7-9pm

Cost: free

Description: One evening of training to provide participants already holding Group Committee WBI an upgrade to Group Commissioner WBI.

Training will cover the Group Commissioner's:

- key responsibilities as well as the aspects of their group that they are accountable for and
- role in group visits to sections including use of Group Health Checks.

To register: contact George Mawko at ns.dcctraining@scouts.ca

Scotia Jamboree 2015

SJ'15 planning is well underway, just a short 9 months until jamboree! Please visit www.scotiajamb.ca for detailed information. For those coming to the annual conference we will be having an information session on Saturday providing a detailed overview of what we have planned. It is not too late to give us your ideas and suggestions on how we might make SJ'15 a stronger event for all. Don't miss the Conference dinner being hosted by the JOG (Jamboree Organizing Group), there will be a cast of many characters there to entertain you. Don't forget to follow our planning activities in the Jamboree Newsletter that is issued every several weeks.

Thanks
Herb Ripley

The Canadian Path in Nova Scotia

The Scouting Element: Youth Led

The best way for a Scouting group to make their members keep coming back year after year is for their youth to have a say in what goes into their program.

This doesn't mean that there is no Scouter involvement in the program. Youth-led is not a free-for-all where anything goes while the adults stand back and watch. Scouters have an important role in actively mentoring, encouraging, guiding and inspiring the youth in our sections. We are ultimately responsible for creating a safe, inclusive, and fun environment where youth can take on increasing responsibility and leadership roles.

Why Youth Leadership?

From Article 12 of The United Nations Convention on the rights of the child:

“Children have a right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions. Children have a right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.”

Within Scouting, we bring this a step further. We see Youth Leadership as being of paramount importance to achieving the Aim of Scouting. It sets in place the skills, attitudes and knowledge as well as the personal confidence which each young person will need to become responsible adults and to change the world.

According to the Scout Method, adults in all Sections must facilitate decision-making as an alliance between young people and adults. This should be a progressive process where young people are supported and encouraged to express their views and to make an increasing amount their own decisions about what they do in Scouting.

Throughout the Scout program, in all Sections, opportunities for young people to take on the responsibility of leadership are provided and encouraged by Scouters.

What does Youth Leadership in the Sections look like?

Beaver Scouts

Beaver Scouts should be given a say in what is happening in the program. This is done through reviewing games and at Lodge gatherings. These gatherings should be led by the Scouter but they exist to get the opinions of the Beaver Scouts and to take account of these opinions when making decisions for the future. Individual Beaver Scouts should be given responsibility for minor jobs, such as setting up for activities and tidying up afterwards, so the youth can learn to

build on their ability to take on such jobs. Every Beaver Scout should have a job within the Lodge, for example minding equipment, putting notices on the board, etc. Scouters should ensure that each Beaver Scout is given the chance to take on additional responsibility as they develop.

Cub Scouts

Cub Scouts should be given more responsibility and more say in the running of the program. They should spend more time working in small groups and making decisions as a team. Every Cub Scout should have a job to do in the small group and they should be given more responsible jobs as they progress. The Sixers Council should meet periodically to chat about bigger issues or topics and to guide the direction of program. Scouters should ensure that

each Cub Scout is given the chance to take on additional responsibility as they develop and the chance to act as the leader of a small group on a regular basis.

Scouts

In the Scout Troop, the Patrol should be the grouping for most activities, meetings and events. More and more should be done in Patrols and Patrols should be encouraged to organize separate activities, meetings and events on a regular basis. Each Scout will share their needs, their requirements and their suggestions with the Patrol, and the Patrol Leader will represent the views of his/her Patrol members at the Patrol Leaders Council (Court of Honour). The Patrol Leaders Council will direct the Scout Troop and will help maintain a high standard of program and good order in the Troop. Most activity is done in Patrols and each Patrol will make decisions for itself, review its own progress, and decide on its own future plans. The Patrol Leader, with the Assistant Patrol Leader, has overall responsibility for the Patrol and should encourage each Scout to take on more responsibility as they progress over time. Each Scout should be given the opportunity to take on a leadership role on a regular basis; different activities, events or topics should be used to provide such opportunities.

Venturer Scouts

The Venturer Scout Unit should decide its own program and should run itself. The Venturer Scouts should have full say in the running of the program. The Scouters role is to support and encourage the Venturer Scouts to implement the Youth Program as designed; generally speaking they should only interfere with decision making when there is an issue concerning welfare, safety legality or Scouting principles.

Rover Scouts

Each Rover Scout is an equal member in their Rover Scout Crew, and the Crew will generally make collective decisions. All decisions relating to the Rover Scouts should be made by the Rover Scouts themselves except where it contradicts Group or Association policies or principles.

Alert 2014 - Mars & Beyond Results

This year Alert had a total of 55 teams and 199 youth participating and **193 Volunteers** on site working on projects and supporting the event.

Scouts

- 38 teams, 133 youth participating
- Total # of Scout projects was 15.
- Total number of Scout scores compiled was 166.

- 3rd place goes to team # 5, **1st Gays River**, with 392 points
- 2nd place goes to team # 25, **6th Sackville**, with 430 points
- 1st place goes to team # 17, **1st Bedford**, with 453 points

- highest score awarded was 453
- average score awarded was 259

Venturers

- 17 teams, 66 youth participating
- Total # of Venturer projects was 7.

- Total number of Venturer scores compiled was 108.
- 3rd place goes to team # 155, **1st Riverlake**, with 312 points
- 2nd place goes to team # 167, **1st Hammonds Plains**, with 318 points
- 1st place goes to team # 166, **36th Halifax**, with 329 points
- highest score awarded was 329
- average score awarded was 244

HOLIDAY RECEPTION - December 10, 2014

You are cordially invited to join us at your Scouts Canada Nova Scotia Council Service Centre for a reception to celebrate the 'Holiday Season.' We hope you can drop by and join us for Light Fare -Soup, Cheese & Crackers, Sweets, Punch, Tea & Coffee.

When: December 10th, 2014

Time: Between 4 PM – 8 PM

Location: 84 Thorne Ave. Dartmouth NS

Dress: Casual (uniform NOT required)