



It starts with Scouts.

Tout commence avec les Scouts.

### *Scouting Movement*

The International Scout Movement was formed in 1907 by Lord Baden Powell, a former lieutenant-general in the British Army, with the aim to provide personal development and outdoor skills for young boys.

Today, it has grown into a worldwide movement for both boys and girls of various ages, with over 28 million youth and volunteers. The Scouting movement recently celebrated its 100th birthday in 2007.

### *Scouts Canada*

In 1908, Scouts Canada was formed to meet the demand for Scouting in Canada. Since its formation, exciting events that have occurred in the organization include the inclusion of girls into the movement in 1997. Today, the Scouts Movement in Canada has grown from its roots of outdoor exploration and recreation into a not-for-profit organization that is also dedicated to providing leadership training and opportunities for community involvement. Currently, the Scouts Program in Canada is composed of 5 youth sections:

Beaver Scouts (Aged 5-7)

Cub Scouts (Aged 8-10)

Scouts (11-14)

Venturer Scouts(14-17)

Rover Scouts (18-26)

Each section is led by volunteer leaders aged 18 and above. These leaders may be parents, leaders who have grown up in the Scouts program, or simply individuals with an interest in developing youth. Local Scout groups comprise of leaders, youths and a parent committee and range in size from a few leaders and a single section, to the full spectrum of sections with hundreds of members. Typically, groups meet once a week for 2-3 hours in a public/church hall or school gym. Scout groups have activities and programs throughout the school year and some outings in the summer.

The three Position Statements of Scouting are Healthy Active Living, Leadership, and Environmental Stewardship. 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.

### *Pacific Coast Council (PCC)*

The Pacific Coast Council oversees Scouting in the Lower Mainland, which includes Scouts groups in the areas of North Shore, Burnaby, Vancouver, Richmond, as well as the Sunshine Coast and Sea2Sky. In particular, the council is responsible for organizing the necessary programs and administrative support to implement Scouts Canada's objectives. In the past decade, overall membership in the area (of both youth and leaders) has been gradually falling. However, three of the last four years have seen growth (7% in some years).

### *Membership Numbers*

	PCC	BC	Canada
Youth	4139	13567	76414
Volunteers	1131	3568	23106
Total	5270	17135	99520

### *Life as a Volunteer Leader*

All leaders go through a screening process before they are allowed to work with any youth.

Interview

Police Record Check including a vulnerable sector search

Three References

Training is provided for all leaders, appropriate for which age section they are working in. Individuals are accountable for achieving the basic level course for their section within the first year of their new role.

A typical weekly hourly demand is 2 hours a week for the weekly meeting (1.5hr meeting plus set up and wrap up) plus monthly outdoor activities. Examples could include hikes, camping, large field games, community events or field trip style events. They could also expect a few more hours every quarter for a planning meeting. If a volunteer is only available less frequently than weekly meetings, they can volunteer when appropriate. A leader is expected to provide quality work, and engage in professional and responsible behavior.

Volunteers work in a team, so no new leader would be on their own. They would be tasked with activities appropriate to their comfort and skill level. A new leader would start by assisting other leaders to put on activities, while slowly graduating to putting on activities with the help of others. Eventually they may be asked to take on leadership responsibility.