



BPSA-AB

***Traditional Scouting
in Alberta***

Parent's Guide

Version 1.0 April 2018



Welcome to Traditional Scouting

It's great to have your son or daughter express interest in the worldwide Scouting movement. There's an exciting program lined up in the years ahead with plenty of outdoor adventure on offer. Activities such as hiking, camping and canoeing will provide fun with good friends in a healthy and stimulating environment.



There is plenty of fun in store for your children, and we urge you to play an active role. To introduce you to this great Scouting family of ours, we would like to tell you something about our Movement.

Your son or daughter will be following millions of others who have been Scouts and Explorers since our founder, Robert Baden-Powell started Scouting in 1907.

Today, there are over 25 million members of the Scouting Movement in over 200 countries and territories.

Membership

The BPSA welcomes as members all youth and adults regardless of their gender, ethnic or national origin, religious affiliation, social or financial circumstances.

Open to anyone over the age of five years, and to adults, who accept the Aims and Methods of scouting and who make the Explorer or Timber Wolf Promise. Scouting groups form the basic unit at which the majority of our members operate.



Each Group can consist of up to five sections – Otter Rafts, Timber Wolf Packs, Explorer Troops, Senior Explorer Troops and Rover Crews. They serve the following ages:

- 1) Otters 5 to 8 years old
- 2) Timber Wolves 8 to 11 years old
- 3) Explorers 11 to 15 years old
- 4) Senior Explorers 15 to 18 years old
- 5) Rovers 17 and older (including adults)

The Aim of BPSA

The aim of the Association is to develop good citizenship among young people by assisting in the development of their character by training them in habits of observation, obedience and self-reliance. Teaching them loyalty, thoughtfulness for others, services useful to others and handicrafts useful to themselves will promote their physical, mental, and spiritual development.

What We Offer

Traditional Scouting refers to using the original program and principles set down in “Scouting for Boys”, by Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement around the world. In broad terms, it is a program of development of each youth to his or her full potential through:

- 1) Character development.
- 2) Outdoor adventure.
- 3) Training in Leadership.
- 4) Service to others.
- 5) Learning useful skills.
- 6) Developing healthy habits.
- 7) Education for life.
- 8) Teamwork and friendships.
- 9) Accepting responsibility.
- 10) Understanding and caring for the environment.
- 11) Building self-confidence to meet challenges.
- 12) Stimulating respect for self and others.



Lord Baden-Powell (B-P) envisioned a program for youth that concentrated on building services and programs to excite and lead youth on their life journey. His vision had leaders leading and encouraging youth, building their confidence and allowing them to share in that leadership through a Patrol and Court of Honour which is a system where the youth are encouraged to govern themselves.



The vision did not include a lot of bureaucracy or hierarchy that put the program cost out of the reach of the average. B-P's program started with Explorer age boys with a strong focus on the outdoors, centered on his book "Scouting for Boys".

When the interest of younger boys became so strong it could not be ignored, B-P added a program for boys aged 8 to 10 using the stories from the "Jungle Books" written by his friend Rudyard Kipling. Baden-Powell called his manual "The Wolf Cub's Handbook."

Some requirements of the original program have been adjusted to meet changes in technology and environmental issues, but the basic principles and ideals are maintained.



Traditional Scouting Facts

BPSA has a uniform dress code which encourages respect for the uniform, and provides easy recognition in the community.

It is the objective of the Association to offer all Sections in all Groups, but often Groups start with one or two Sections until interest and leadership strengths develop.

Service to our community by Sections and the Group – older Sections working with the younger Sections, all teach responsibility to the family, the Group and the community.

All Sections develop a knowledge and respect for the outdoors and nature.

Registration fees pay only for insurance and any Group fees.



There are no paid positions in the Association at any level to keep our costs affordable.

The Group Council, under the Group Scoutmaster, manages, and is responsible for, the program and leadership team of each Group.

The Group Auxiliary manages the finances and logistics for each Group.

Youth are challenged through a series of program levels and badges.



Community Groups and institutions may act as sponsors providing facilities and guidance.

Program options offered can be all male, all female or co-ed. Depending on the options chosen, appropriate leadership must be offered.



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