

Volunteer Screening Policy Update



In order to ensure that all Scouts Canada youth members continue to benefit from a safe and healthy environment in which to explore Scouting programs, the Board of Governors recently approved a number of changes to member screening policies. These changes were undertaken to address a number of opportunities identified by the external Child and Youth Protection Advisory Committee. In addition, they ensure that all members in a position of trust are aware of Scouts Canada's Code of Conduct and are knowledgeable of their obligation to plan for and deliver programs in a safe manner.

Scouts Canada's screening policies and adult registration practices are designed to clearly demonstrate our commitment to keeping our youth members safe from harm at all times.

The recently approved policy, which comes into effect on September 1, 2012, is reflected in the table below.

New Members:

	SCOUTS CANADA MEMBERS			NON SCOUTS CANADA MEMBERS		
	Responsible Position under 18 (e.g. SIT, AL, CYC, AYC)	Rover Scout	Scouter & other adults (e.g. BP Guild)	Adult-Regular Meeting; Day Activity (occasional)	Parent or Guardian - Overnight	Adult - Overnight
NEW						
Application	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Interview	Yes	Yes	Yes	Code of Conduct, expectations	Code of Conduct, expectations	Code of Conduct, expectations
Reference Check	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Signed Code of Conduct (annual)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PRC (Clean)	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
VSS (Clean)	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Mandatory Training	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Child & Youth Safety	Child & Youth Safety
Supervision	Yes - 2 registered adults	No - always 2	No - always 2	Yes - 2 registered adults	Yes - 2 registered adults	Yes - 2 registered adults
Count for Ratio?	Yes - if WB1	Yes - if WB1 (Effective Sept. 2013)	Yes - if WB1 (Effective Sept. 2013)	No	No	No
Other Restrictions	No	No	No	Role explained to youth	Role explained to youth	Role explained to youth

Member Registration Steps

SIT Scouter in Training AL Activity Leader CYC Council Youth Commissioner
 AYC Area Youth Commissioner WB1 Wood Badge 1



No pending member can participate in Scouting programs or wear the Scouts Canada uniform without first completing all of the registration and screening steps noted in the table on page 1. For clarity, the term occasional refers to between three and five times annually. Non members attending more than five meetings in a given Scouting year should be registered in keeping with the steps outlined above. Members must apply for a Police Record Check (PRC) upon turning 18.

The mandatory training program is comprised of the following:

- [Module 1 of Wood Badge 1](#)
- [Accessibility Training](#)
- [Child & Youth Safety Training](#)

The full training program is available online via e-learning (accessed through myscouts.ca) or can be completed in person.

Returning Members:

	SCOUTS CANADA MEMBERS		
	Responsible Position under 18 (e.g. SIT, AL, CYC, AYC)	Rover Scout	Scouter & other adults (e.g. BP Guild)
RENEWING			
Application	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interview	If new Group, Area, Council	If new Group, Area, Council	If new Group, Area, Council
Reference Check	If new Group, Area, Council	If new Group, Area, Council	If new Group, Area, Council
WB1 Training	Yes (Grace period until Dec. 31, 2012)	No	Yes (Grace period until Dec. 31, 2012)
PRC Renewal	N/A	3 years from last PRC	3 years from last PRC
VSS Renewal	N/A	No	No

Other policy changes approved for future implementation

Several other policy changes were adopted by the Board of Governors for implementation in subsequent Scouting years. These are as follows:

1. Effective September 1, 2013 new volunteers who have not completed Wood Badge 1 for their primary role will not count for ratio, and effective December 31, 2012 renewing volunteers who have not completed Wood Badge 1 will not be an active member.

SIT Scouter in Training AL Activity Leader CYC Council Youth Commissioner
 AYC Area Youth Commissioner WB1 Wood Badge 1



Frequently Asked Questions

What are the major changes between current policy and the revised policy as approved by the Board?

- All members over the age of 18 require consistent screening; this is a change for Rover Scouts and BP Guild members.
- Screening for volunteer members under 18 years of age is consistent with adult screening with the exception of the PRC requirement.
- Addition of mandatory training to the registration process.
- Addition of a requirement to certify review and acceptance of the Code of Conduct.
- Wood Badge 1 training must be completed prior to renewal of membership. This is consistent with current policy on training but differs from current registration practice.

What are the expectations of Parents or Guardians attending overnight activities with their own child?

Parents or Guardians attending an overnight Scouting activity with their own child are not required to provide a PRC so long as they do not have responsibility for other youth and that they are supervised by two registered adult members at all times. They must, however, complete the other screening steps as defined in the policy. Parents or Guardians assuming a position of responsibility for other youth or who act as a resource (e.g. camp cook) must be screened in accordance with the adult overnight requirements.

If we ask a Venturer Scout to come help at Cub camp for the weekend, but they aren't registered as an SIT or AL, do they have to be screened?

Yes, any member who is in a position of trust must be appropriately screened. In this case, the Venturer Scout should be screened in keeping with the process for Scouts Canada members who are under the age of 18.

Can a Rover Scout participant have a criminal record? Are there any exceptions for Rover Scouts?

The exemption process for PRCs is documented in Section 3000 of Bylaw, Policies & Procedures.

Do BP Guild members have full membership rights if they are screened like Scouters?

The screening requirements apply to all adults (individuals aged 18 years and older) who apply to be members of Scouts Canada. All applicants who successfully complete all of the screening requirements are eligible to be members of Scouts Canada; this includes members of the BP Guild.

How do we ensure hired resource persons (e.g. canoe guide) are screened properly?

- For companies, confirm PRC and reference checks done for employees; review expectations re Code of Conduct with specific guide and youth; steps should mirror non-member adult screening
- For private individuals, complete non-member adult screening as specified in the policy

What if parents want to attend activities just to watch their child from the sidelines but not participate at all? Do they need to be screened?

If parents are not participating, screening is not specifically required; however, best practice would be to provide all parents with an orientation to Scouting and an outline of the Code of Conduct at some point early in the Scouting year. We should engage parents in helping us to ensure the safest environment possible for their youth.

How long do volunteers have to complete Wood Badge 1 training for their primary role?

Volunteers must complete the full Wood Badge 1 course within their first year as a volunteer.

Effective September 1, 2012, all volunteers must complete Module 1 of Wood Badge 1 before they can be an active member and participate in any Scouting activity as a volunteer.

Effective December 31, 2012,, all renewing volunteers must have completed Wood Badge 1 before they can be an active member and participate in any Scouting activity as a volunteer.

