



It starts with Scouts.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Uxbridge Scouts

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW



[www.1stUxbridge.ca](http://www.1stUxbridge.ca)

Welcome to 1<sup>st</sup> Uxbridge's Scout Program! Scouting is the world's largest youth organization, with over 31 million members in almost every country in the world. This guide is a brief overview to Scouts to help everyone become familiar with the structure, terminology, expectations, and opportunities that exist in the 1<sup>st</sup> Uxbridge Scout Troop. **At any time, please feel free to email or approach a Scouter with questions, concerns, or ideas.**

### Just Starting the World of Scouting?

Anyone in Grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 can join Scouts at any time of the year, regardless of their gender. Regular meetings and outings occur from mid-September until mid-June and are based out of the St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church Hall, 38 Church Street, Uxbridge, on Tuesday evenings between 6:30 and 8:30 pm. **Please check the calendar on our website for details and exceptions.**

**In order to register**, please enroll online at [www.MyScouts.ca](http://www.MyScouts.ca) and purchase a suitably fitting green Scout Shirt (online at [www.ScoutShop.ca](http://www.ScoutShop.ca) or in person at Camp Samac - 1711 Simcoe Street North in Oshawa). Most of our members also choose to pick up the green Scout t-shirt to wear in summer, to camps, during physical activities, etc. Beige pants or shorts complete the official uniform.

After a few meetings (which includes learning the Scout law, promise, motto, and slogan) the new Scout will be **"invested"** and receive a series of crests for the shirt, along with a neckerchief and woggle (see the diagram below for the placement of the crests). Earned badges and awards as pictured on the diagram can be attached to the shirt (sewn on or by using "Badge Magic" available at The Scout Shop), but note that some badges are keepsakes only and should not be attached to the shirt. Instead, they can be attached to a "Scout Blanket" or similar memorabilia collector.

**Scout Motto:** Be prepared.

**Scout Slogan:** Do a Good Turn Daily

### **Scout Promise:**

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best,  
To do my duty to God and the Queen,  
To help other people at all times,  
And to carry out the spirit of the Scout Law.

### **Scout Law:**

A Scout is helpful and trustworthy,  
kind and cheerful,  
considerate and clean,  
wise in the use of all resources.



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.

Scouting is based on three broad **principles** which represent its fundamental beliefs:

- **Duty to God:** This is defined as: “Adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom.” You do not need to subscribe to any religion to be a member of Scouts Canada, but you must have a basic spiritual belief. “God” represents spirituality and for some may represent an actual deity, but it may also mean an expression of your personal spirituality.
- **Duty to Others:** This is defined as: “loyalty to one’s country in harmony with the promotion of local, national and international peace, understanding and cooperation”, and, “participation in the development of society, with recognition and respect for the dignity of one’s fellow-being and for the integrity of the natural world.”
- **Duty to Self:** This is defined as: “responsibility for the development of oneself.” This is in harmony with the educational purpose of the Scout Movement whose aim is to assist young people in the full development of their potentials.

Scouts in Canada follow the “Canadian Path” which is rooted in the Scout Method—the basis of all of the adventures Scouts experience. It is a non-formal educational process that makes each youth the principal agent of his or her development as a responsible person. The Scout Method is an approach unique to Scouting and consists of:

1. Scout Law and Promise
2. Learning by Doing
3. The Patrol (Team) System
4. A Symbolic Framework
5. Nature
6. Personal Progression
7. Volunteer Support

## **The Scout Program Activity Areas**

### *Blaze Your Trail: The Scout Symbolic Framework*

Scouts want adventure! They want to experience new and exciting things such as snowshoeing, canoeing, camping and hiking. The symbolic framework of the Scout program uses the diversity found in our great country as a basis for a variety of adventures. Scouts are inspired to discover more about the world and themselves by reflecting on the historical trails that are found throughout Canada.

Scouts are supported in this great Canadian journey by **Scouters**, adult volunteers who act as mentors for the youth. Scouters encourage and engage Scouts in the “game of Scouting” through the Four Elements and the Scout Method. Toward the end of the Scouting journey, youth can undertake the Chief Scout’s Award to demonstrate their personal progression and development in Outdoor Adventure Skills, and make a contribution to the global community.

The **Canadian Trails Map** provides a variety of trails to use as the basis for creating adventurous journeys. The trails are based on actual Canadian trails and geographic regions of historic and cultural significance. Scouts will explore the trails as a symbolic framework supporting their personal progression (though, of course, they may be inspired to actually visit and explore some of the trails as

well!). Each of the four Scouting years (Pioneer, Voyageur, Pathfinder, Trailblazer) is named in keeping with the trail-blazing framework.

Each trail in the map corresponds to program areas of Scouting in general – the same topics that youth of any age participate in in Scouting (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, and Rovers): Active and Healthy Living, Beliefs and Values, Citizenship, Creative Expressions, Environment and Outdoors, and Leadership.

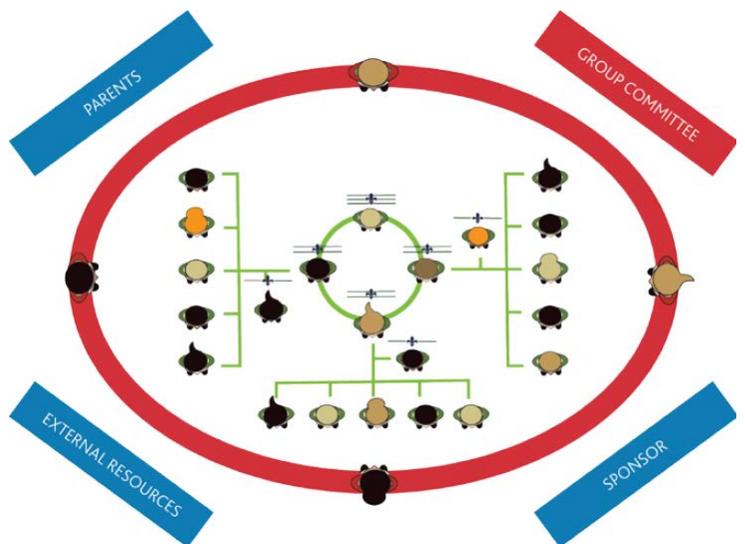


## How Scouts are Organized

The basic unit of Scouts is the **Patrol**. A Patrol is a group of approximately six to eight Scouts. Patrols are formed at the beginning of the year and becomes that place where working together, learning by doing and taking on responsibilities to support one another happens. Youth joining Scouts for the first time are identified based on their age—not by the number of years they’ve been Scouts. A Patrol is led by a *Patrol Leader*, who is assisted by an *Assistant Patrol Leader*. Both the Patrol Leader and the Assistant Patrol Leader are Scouts. The Patrols elect their respective Patrol Leaders and Assistant Patrol Leaders.

A collection of Scout Patrols and Scouters make up a **Troop**. Troop size can vary greatly from community to community, from two Scouters supporting three or four Scouts, to as many as 40 Scouts supported by six or seven Scouters.

The *Troop Leader* should be an experienced and accomplished Scout, but not necessarily the oldest Scout. Ideally, a Troop Leader will have already spent time on the Troop Leadership Team and served as a Patrol Leader or Assistant Patrol Leader; a Troop should work to prepare its Scouts for the role of Troop Leader.



The *Troop Leadership Team* consists of the adult volunteers (Scouters) and formal youth leaders (Patrol Leaders) which makes decisions regarding the program. It is one of the key program components for successful youth development, as it builds youth leadership through the cycle of introducing, mastering, mentoring and reviewing youth leadership within the Troop. The purpose of the Troop Leadership Team is to:

- Draft, review and promote a Code of Conduct in consultation with the entire Troop
- Work out issues arising from behaviours that do not uphold the **expectations of Scouts: responsibility, respect, independence, and willingness to participate**. These expectations are to ensure everyone in the Troop is and feels safe, as well as not hindering others’ efforts to make the most of the program.
- Determine consequences for not meeting the above expectations (which would progressively include: reminders, conversations, calls home, being sent home, and not being able to attend certain events or activities)
- Make program decisions for the Troop
- Make major equipment purchase decisions
- Act as a quality check to ensure the program is meeting the needs of the youth

## A Parent or Guardian's Role in Scouting

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 Program together. What activities do you find interesting or appealing? How could you work on these activities as a family?
- 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 Scouters. They can provide useful tips and tell you how well it fits into the weekly programs.
- Support the expectations of Scouts: responsibility, respect, independence, and willingness to participate, as a lack of these would compromise the integrity of the program and its enjoyment by other members.
- Be a guest expert: Your talents, hobbies and interests are great program assets worth sharing with children. 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.
- Join the Group Committee. In order for proper management of the entire 1<sup>st</sup> Uxbridge Scout Group, we need volunteers in a variety of capacities – Secretary, Treasurer, Quartermaster, Fundraising Coordinator, etc. Group Committee meets once a month on Thursday evenings.
- Become a Scouter. You will be with your Scout during a special time of their life and see him or her develop and grow before your eyes. As well, the friendship and camaraderie you'll share with other volunteers can lead to long-lasting relationships and memories. Some Scouters are full time, but many “come when they can” given busy work and personal schedules. **Many hands make light work, so we welcome any and all help that you can offer.**

## Uniform

We have two possible uniforms. For all Scouting activities, neckerchief and woggle are a must.

<b>Uniform Type</b>	<b>Components</b>	<b>Appropriate Use</b>
Full Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Scout Dress Shirt* (with all appropriate badges sewn on)</li> <li>• Neckerchief and woggle</li> <li>• Beige pants or shorts</li> <li>• Appropriate footwear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular weekly meetings</li> <li>• When representing Scouts in public (parades, visits, fundraising)</li> <li>• Ceremonies</li> </ul>
Activity Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Scout T-Shirt (or other scouting t-shirt)</li> <li>• Neckerchief and woggle</li> <li>• Beige pants or shorts</li> <li>• Appropriate footwear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On hikes</li> <li>• To and from camps</li> <li>• During outdoor and/or physical activities</li> </ul>

\*It is highly recommended to wear the Scout T-Shirt or other t-shirt underneath the Dress Shirt to a) allow for a quick transition from a ceremony to a physical or messy activity, and b) to protect the Dress Shirt from extra wear and tear from sweat or dirt, reducing the frequency that the Dress Shirt will need to be washed (to protect the shirt and badges).

Scouts arriving at an event/meeting not in proper uniform should expect to be sent home to retrieve the proper attire. If there is a situation that makes it impossible for appropriate uniform to be worn, Scouts should check-in with a leader upon arrival. Scouts are expected to wear appropriate footwear for every activity: **Clean non-marking indoor running shoes for meetings at St Andrew's**, sturdy shoes or hiking boots for night hikes, winter boots for outdoor winter activities. For safety reasons, Scouts without the appropriate footwear will not be allowed to participate in games or events.

Each week's inspection will check for proper uniform (neat, clean, buttons fastened, all badges attached), appropriate shoes, clean appearance, pen/pencil and notepad, and other materials (as required) to successfully participate in that day's activities. We also expect a respectful attitude and recollection of good turns done during the previous week.

### **Meetings and Activities**

Troop Meetings are normally held on Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Scouts that arrive late (after Opening Ceremonies have begun) are asked to wait quietly at the hall doors until Opening Ceremonies are complete.

We try our best to be finished meetings right at 8:30. For safety reasons, a minimum of two leaders must stay with any youth waiting to be picked up, and are not permitted to leave until all youth have been picked up. **Please ensure arrangements for transportation home are in place by 8:30** at the latest. If your Scout will be finding their own way home, please be sure to let the leadership team know in advance.

Night Hikes will typically be held on the third Tuesday of each month. Hike locations will be posted to the online calendar as they are chosen. All Scouts must bring their emergency kit, compass, whistle, water bottle, and wear weather appropriate clothing (including neckerchief and woggle).

Activities might occur on a Tuesday night, or on the weekend or other week night – check the online calendar for details. **In the event that a Scout cannot attend a meeting or activity, he or she should inform a Scouter in advance** (email is best!).

### **ScoutsTracker**

Our Troop uses [www.scoutstracker.ca/scouts](http://www.scoutstracker.ca/scouts) to track badge requirements and to update our event calendar. Each Scout and his/her parent or guardian will be given a login for Scout Tracker. From this login, the Troop calendar can be imported to a phone or other device of your choosing, thus minimizing the need to check the website for upcoming events.

Also, Scouts should sign on to their account to indicate they are ready to be tested for badges. If testing has been requested, Scouts should be sure to bring all required materials to the next meeting at the church!

### **Dues**

Dues are funds used to purchase badges and supplies required for regular meetings and are not part of the Scouts Canada registration fee. **Dues are \$50 for the year and should be submitted as soon as possible after registration each year.**

## **Fundraising, Subsidies, and Fees**

As much as we'd love for camp and other activities to be free, we are required to maintain break-even financials each year and that just isn't possible without fees for certain activities. Over the course of the Scouting year, our Troop participates in a number of fundraising initiatives that help to reduce the costs of camp, activities, and Jamborees. In order to encourage participation in the fundraisers, our Troop has set up a sliding subsidy scale based on participation and/or success in the following:

- Fall Fair Drink Booth and Grounds Clean-up
- Scout Popcorn
- Apple Day
- E-waste & bottle collection
- Others, as decided upon by the Group and/or Troop

When there remains a fee to be paid, we accept **cash, cheques** payable to "Scouts Canada – 1<sup>st</sup> Uxbridge", and **e-Transfers** to [UxRegistrar@gmail.com](mailto:UxRegistrar@gmail.com), using the password troop, but including what the payment is for in the notes section.

## **Communication**

All 1st Uxbridge Scouting events are posted to the [www.1stUxbridge.ca](http://www.1stUxbridge.ca) online calendar. The website also contains a Scout Troop page that has links to standard camp kit lists, information on how to select a backpack, uniform badge placement diagrams, etc. We strive to make sure our event calendar is up to date so please check it often. Remember to look not only at Troop activities but also All Sections activities as both apply to Troop.

Additionally, communications from the adult leadership team to youth and their parents and guardians will be mainly via email. As we encourage the youth to take responsibility for their own commitments, **please ensure the Scouters have current email addresses for youth members** in addition to parent/guardian emails. To assist with scheduling, **all Scouts and Scouters are to come to each meeting with their own calendar** with school, family, work, and personal commitments loaded into it. The calendar can be in a phone, in an agenda, or in a flip calendar.

We will be sharing information about upcoming events and highlights from completed events on **Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram**. Choose a social media platform and follow us **@1stUxbridge**

There are all kinds of wonderful opportunities for Scouts, but arranging logistics for getting there can be tricky sometimes. If you would like to be able to contact other parents and guardians to arrange car pooling to Scouting events, please indicate on the tear off form below. We will share contact information with other parents only with your permission. If you have any questions, concerns, and/or offers of assistance with any aspect of the Scout program, please speak with any of the Scouters at a meeting or contact one of us as follows:

- |                            |              |  |
|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| • Scouter Sandra Bowers    | 416-579-1653 | <a href="mailto:Sandra@gud.ca">Sandra@gud.ca</a>                       |
| • Scouter Rob Christiansen | 647-821-3985 | <a href="mailto:ve3nte@gmail.com">ve3nte@gmail.com</a>                 |
| • Scouter Alan Lyons       | 416-702-9398 | <a href="mailto:jklspec@sympatico.ca">jklspec@sympatico.ca</a>         |
| • Scouter Craig Marlatt    | 905-409-2002 | <a href="mailto:CraigMarlatt@hotmail.com">CraigMarlatt@hotmail.com</a> |
| • Scouter Greg Mills       | 416-806-3798 | <a href="mailto:Greg.P.Mills@gmail.com">Greg.P.Mills@gmail.com</a>     |
| • Scouter Rob Yamamoto     | 416-931-5922 | <a href="mailto:Rob.Yamamoto@gmail.com">Rob.Yamamoto@gmail.com</a>     |

If you do not feel comfortable discussing a matter with one of the Troop Scouters, you can contact our Group Commissioner, Lisa Hutchinson, at [UxScoutsGC@gmail.com](mailto:UxScoutsGC@gmail.com)

**Please complete, detach, and return this page of the booklet so we can be assured that everyone is on the same page as we begin this year's Scouting adventure!**

We have read and understand the program and its expectations as described in the 1<sup>st</sup> Uxbridge Scouts Program Overview.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scout Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scout Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I give 1<sup>st</sup> Uxbridge Scouters permission to share my contact information with other parents and guardians in the Troop so we can arrange carpooling to Scouting events.

