



WELCOME TO SEA SCOUTS

“A Guide for Parents”

144 Lake Bonavista Scout Group

Monday Night Sea Scouts – Scout Hall 7:00 to 9:00PM

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1. Scout Troop Leaders

NAME	POSITION
Andy Den Otter	Group Commissioner
Gary Masur	Troop Scouter (Skipper)
Mick Somerwil	Scout Counsellor
Rhonda Blakney	Scout Counsellor
Walter Blakney	Scout Counsellor

2. Introduction to Scouting

Welcome to the Monday night Lake Bonavista Scouts. We are looking forward to another exciting year. This document is meant to provide you with information you will need to assist your youth and the troop leaders in putting on a high quality program.

As the only Sea Scout group on the Prairies, we tend to do things a little differently than you may be used to with other Scout Groups. From our distinctive blue uniform shirt to the nautical flavour of our opening and closing ceremonies, we try to incorporate seafaring themes as much as possible. Canoeing, kayaking, sailing, knots & lashing . . . , we're up for it!

Your leadership team is committed to putting on the best program possible with the knowledge, experience and resources available. We encourage you to attend and participate in any Scout meeting, outings and camps. Parental participation is critical to success particularly in outings and camps. Scouts Canada publishes "The Canadian Scout Handbook" available at the Scout Shop (2140 Brownsea Drive N.W., [403-283-7060](tel:403-283-7060)) We encourage you to obtain this book and read it for a clear explanation of Scout Canada's principles, mission and program goals. The material in this "A Parent's Guide" handout is meant to compliment The Canadian Scout Handbook by providing more detail about our program in the coming year. If you feel you can offer any assistance to improve the quality of the program after reading this package and familiarizing yourself with the planned activity areas, please approach one of the leaders. We welcome any help that will enhance the program!

Additional Part-Time Volunteers are needed to:

- 1) Assist with Badge Testing. No experience necessary! We go on the principle of did the Scout "do their best"? We need parents who are willing to come in and test the Scouts on their various badges. Testing will be pre-arranged once or twice a month as needed.



- 2) Coordinate sending out group emails for: Calendar updates, Activity permission forms, etc. It is essential that we obtain permission for every event that is not held in the Scout Hall so that Scouts Canada Insurance will apply to all participants.
- 3) Additional Leaders. Being a leader doesn't mean that you have to be able to attend every meeting. All of us have jobs and responsibilities that result in times when we are unable to be present as well. Many hands make for light work!! Additional full or part-time leaders help to provide a better program and leadership for the Scouts. Please be aware that Scouts Canada requires a background check and screening for all leaders and volunteers! This small measure provides additional confidence for all parents.

We, as Scout Leaders, are all VOLUNTEERS that share an interest in the development of children through Scouting. We always strive to offer a good program and we sincerely welcome any constructive feedback and/or direct assistance that will improve the quality of our program.

3. Troop Discipline

Good behaviour is an expectation, not an option! At the outset of the program we will make the behaviour expectations clear with all of the Scouts. With a well-behaved Troop we can have a lot of fun, and experience new and interesting things. Unfortunately the converse is also true. If we have to spend an inordinate amount of time keeping control, the program will soon be limited to activities only at the Hall and our youth will miss out. To ensure good Troop discipline, we propose to use a reasonable 3-step approach with the Scouts.

Step 1: The misbehaviour is consequenced in the Troop through a time-out and discussion with a Leader reaffirming our expectation for good behaviour and the consequences of continued inappropriate behaviour.

Step 2: If the misbehaviour persists, Step 1 will be repeated. At the end of the meeting, outing or camp as the case may be, the Signalmen along with the Patrol Leader will talk privately with the parents and explain the concerns. Continued misbehaviour will lead to Step 3.

Step 3: Removal from outings, specific activities or the Troop.

You know your youth best. If there are any behavioural or emotional issues we should be aware of with your child, please let us know. We would appreciate knowing any approaches/routines you have used successfully.

4. Scout Program Basics

a) Principles & Investiture



Scout Canada's Principles form the code of ethics that all members are expected to adhere to while participating in Scouting activities. The Scout Promise, Law and Motto are more age appropriate versions of the Scouting Principles. They are:

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.

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

Motto Be Prepared.

Each of the Tenderfoot Scouts (children new to Scouts) will be required to learn the Promise, Law and Motto. We will be holding an Investiture Ceremony in a few weeks, to invest our new Scouts. Please plan to attend this special night. Details will be communicated to you shortly by email.

As we move through the year, we will use the Promise, Law and Motto to remind the Scouts how they should behave.

b) Program Elements

The Scout Program is made up of a number of inter-related elements. They include;

<i>Acting</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Adventure</i>
<i>Campcraft</i>	<i>Competence</i>	<i>Conservation</i>
<i>Exploration</i>	<i>Field Trips</i>	<i>Fitness</i>
<i>Games</i>	<i>Handicrafts</i>	<i>Hobbies</i>
<i>Naturecraft</i>	<i>Observation</i>	<i>Spirituality</i>
<i>Sports</i>	<i>Vocations</i>	

If you have any particular talents in any of these areas, please let us know.

c) Patrols/Watches

Our Scouts will be organized into groups called Patrols or Watches. Each Patrol/Watch will typically have a 3rd year Scout as the leader and a 2nd or 3rd year Scout as Assistant. In addition, one Scout Leader (Advisor) will be assigned to each Patrol/Watch. Selection as a Patrol Leader or Assistant is a privilege and a responsibility!

d) Dress Requirements



We are the only Sea Scout group on the Prairies and we wear the distinctive blue uniform shirt with pride. Whenever we participate in any Scouting activities with other groups from across Alberta and farther afield, we stand out and get noticed! Unless otherwise specified, Scouts are expected to wear their full uniform and appropriate footwear (no sandals, flip-flops) to all meetings, outings and camps. We will discuss a possible compromise to this at our first regular meeting.

Uniform

ITEM	PROVIDED BY
Shirt, blue	Scout Troop – no charge
Woggle – Green (provided at investiture)	Parents ▶ The Scout Shop (for all lost)
Pants (dark or navy preferred)	Parents ▶ The Scout Shop
Badges	
• Section Insignia	Scout Troop – no charge
• Group Badge	Scout Troop – no charge
• Region Badge	Scout Troop – no charge
• Province Badge	Scout Troop – no charge
• All badges on Sash	Scout Troop – no charge
Scarf (provided at investiture)	Scout Troop – no charge

Footwear

Running shoes are essential at the Scout Hall but are not recommended for hiking.

During winter months and inclement weather, Scouts should wear boots and change to running shoes at the Scout Hall.

We will provide camp packing list and discuss appropriate footwear/clothing prior to each camp.

e) Other Essentials

Canadian Scout Handbook

Please ensure that the Scout Handbook comes to each Scout Hall meeting.

Scouting Field Book

A very good resource for anyone in Scouting

Inspections

At each meeting in the Scout Hall the Scouts will be inspected in their patrols. Points will be awarded based on the following criteria:

Shirt – clean, tucked in, all badges properly mounted	Pants – clean
Scarf & Woggle - clean & properly folded	Shoes – clean, laced & tied



Sash – clean with all badges properly mounted

Face, Hands & Nails – clean

Belt (Green – optional) clean & properly attached

f) Time Tables/Consent Forms/Newsletters

The calendars for each of our sections are also posted on our web site, www.144scouts.ca. Although a great deal of effort has gone in to developing the calendar we may have to make program changes throughout the year. To ensure good communication, we will email home notices of changes to the timetable, physically send parental consent forms for outings and camps & newsletters as required. E-mail is our preferred communication delivery system for these updates. PLEASE WATCH FOR THEM.

- 1. Scout Hall Troop Meetings** will run from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. We will start at 7:00 sharp, so please be about 5 minutes early. We will wrap up our meeting by 9:00 so please ensure your youth is picked up at that time.
- 2. Outings;** we will provide a notice with specific times and drop off/pick up instructions. If you are planning to attend an outing with your youth, you must sign a Scouts Canada “Individual Release and Hold Harmless Agreement” and a “Physical Fitness form for Non-members” and turn them into Scouter Rob before leaving for the outing. These can be found online at <http://www.scouts.ca/ca/scouters>.
- 3. Camps;** we will provide a notice with specific times and drop off/pick up instructions. We will provide a packing list for all of the Scouts. Camp fees will be collected for all camps. Please have the Scout pack their own bag/pack as this will help them remember where their items are packed. If you are planning to attend a camp with your youth, you must sign a Scouts Canada “Individual Release and Hold Harmless Agreement” and a “Physical Fitness form for Non-members” and turn them into Troop Scouter before leaving for the outing. These can be found online at <http://www.scouts.ca/ca/scouters>.

Note: Scouts Canada does not provide insurance for youth travelling to Camp or activities with leaders. Therefore, parents are required to arrange to have their youth delivered to and picked up from Camp. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. Leaders, in their capacity as parents, may participate in carpooling, at their discretion. All drivers are encouraged to ensure they have adequate insurance.

g) Activities

- 1. Poppy Campaign Parade** is usually held on the Saturday that falls two weekends prior to November 11 each year. We support our veterans by marching with them in their parade to kick off the poppy sales. This parade will be held at Chinook Centre. Scouts are encouraged to attend.

h) Fund Raising

The Lake Bonavista Scout Group runs 5 fund raising events each year:



- 3 Bottle Drives
 - Saturday, mid September
 - Saturday, early January
 - Saturday, early April
- Popcorn Drive
 - October – please watch for separate email notice to come.
- Summerfest
 - Mid June – we collect empty bottles and sell water & pop.

This is how our program raises the money to put on an outstanding program. We require your participation in all of these events for the program to work. The fees you paid at the beginning of the year went to Scouts Canada to pay for insurance, Scout Facilities and Leadership training.

If your business would like to help us out please let us know. Currently we have Agrium, Atco Power and Shell Canada's Research Facility supporting us.

i) Community Events

The Lake Bonavista Community Association sponsors the 144th Scout Group by providing us with the Scout Hall to hold our weekly meetings. The Lake Bonavista Homeowners Association stores our canoes for us at the Lake! In return, we try to give something back to the community.

We support our veterans by marching with them in their Parade to kick off the Poppy Sales. This parade will be held at Chinook Centre in late October.

Just after Halloween, we involve the Cubs and Beavers in Operation Christmas Child. We ask each youth to bring some small toys, school supplies like pencils, pens, and paper, and hard candies from their Halloween candy. This is boxed up in shoe boxes and shipped with Samaritans Purse to children in a third world country.

Our Scouts and Venturers go to the senior's facility in Bonavista for an evening of Christmas Caroling.

Every spring we involve the Cubs in a Food bank Drive. We distribute collection bags and notices to every home in the community. Then we collect the donations and turn them over to the Food Bank.

Our Scouts, Venturers and Rovers perform a clean-up day at the Lake Park each spring.

Our Scouts, Venturers and Rovers help at the Community Associations annual Winter Carnival and the Pre-Stampede Breakfast.