



It starts with Scouts.

# 8<sup>th</sup> Ajax Scouts P A R E N T S ' G U I D E



[www.8thAjax.ca/scouts](http://www.8thAjax.ca/scouts) ◇ [scouts@8thAjax.ca](mailto:scouts@8thAjax.ca)

Welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> Ajax's Scout Program! Scouting is the world's largest youth organization, with over 25 million members in almost every country in the world. This guide is a brief overview to Scouts to help everyone become familiar with the terminology, traditions, and opportunities that exist in the 8<sup>th</sup> Ajax 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?

Boys and girls in Grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 can join Scouts at any time of the year. Regular meetings and outings occur from mid-September until mid-June and are based out of the gymnasium at Westney Heights Public School at 45 Brennan Road in Ajax on Thursday evenings between 6:30 and 8:30 pm. **Please check the calendar on our website for details and exceptions.**

**In order to register**, please complete a Participant Enrollment Form, pay the registration fee, and purchase a suitably fitting green Scout Shirt and *The Canadian Scout Handbook* (online at [www.ScoutShop.ca](http://www.ScoutShop.ca) or in person at Camp Samac – 1711 Simcoe Street North in Oshawa. Additional optional Scout clothing (green t-shirt and hat) and accessories are also available.) The registration fee enables the various groups and councils of Scouts Canada to develop program resources, provide training and support for the Scouters, and provide insurance coverage for all registered members. To help 8<sup>th</sup> Ajax pay for supplies, badges, and some of the outings, \$2 a week "dues" will be collected (payable at each meeting or can be prepaid). If an outing costs a lot of money, a supplement for that particular activity may be required.

After a few meetings (which includes learning the Scout law, promise, and motto) the new Scout will be **"invested"** receive a series of crests for the shirt, along with a neckerchief and woggle (see the diagram at right for the placement of the crests). Earned badges and awards as pictured on the diagram can be attached to the shirt, but note that some badges are keepsakes only and can be attached to a "Scout Blanket" or similar memorabilia collector.

In order to be effective, the Scout program needs adults with a variety of expertise – please approach a current Scouter to indicate your interest in helping out. We will be glad to help you through the volunteer screening process.



**Scout Law:**

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 Promise:**

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

**Scout Motto:** Be Prepared

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.”
- **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.

In order to fulfill Scouting's principles and mission, the Scout program is geared specifically to meet the developmental needs of most tweens and early teens. The program emphasizes activities which encourage Scouts to:

- understanding of God,
- ability to accept responsibility for themselves physically, socially, mentally, spiritually, and for the consequences of their actions,
- ability to respond to others in caring ways, and
- awareness of, and concern for, the environment.

**How Troops are Organized**

The **patrol system** is the key to a Scout’s advancement through, and enjoyment of, the overall program. Baden-Powell described patrols as permanent groups of youth led by one of their own number. He saw that young people naturally organized themselves in this way, whether for mischief or fun.

This patrol system is still used today to divide members of a troop into small groups so everyone can play a part and be actively involved. Big groups of more than 20 usually break into smaller gatherings anyway; and by having smaller groups, everyone can have a say in what's going on and be important to that group.

A patrol normally has four to eight members, of which one is the patrol leader and another is the assistant patrol leader. Other patrol members may act as quartermaster, secretary and treasurer. Patrol leaders are trained so they can play a strong role running the troop with other patrol leaders in the Court of Honour.

The Scouters in your Scout's troop are supported by a **group committee**. The committee is responsible for ensuring the programs offered meet Scouts Canada's guidelines and that the troop has enough resources to operate effectively. The group committee represents a sponsor which is the overall partner with Scouts Canada. Sponsors are typically community centres, clubs, religious institutions or parent groups. The sponsor works closely with Scouts Canada to ensure Scouting programs and resources are meeting the needs of all its youth and adult members.

After learning a bit about Scouts, your child will be ready to become "invested", or formally welcomed, into the troop. You will be invited to attend the "investiture ceremony" to help welcome your child into the Scout troop.

### **Your 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 Canadian Scout Handbook* together. What activities do you find interesting or appealing? How could you work on these activities as a family?
- Find out what activities Scouters plan to run in your child's troop. Most Scouters set aside time at the first meeting to ask Scouts what they would like to do. They draw up program plans from the youth's input.
- Get to know Scouters by their real names. Too often parents only know Scouters by their "Scouting" names. Scouters are truly interested in your child's welfare. Tell them what your child likes to do. This will help them plan fun activities.
- 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.
- 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. When your child joins Scouts, you become part of the troop's support team.

- Become a Scouter. Scouts Canada offers up-to-date training and resource materials. Leadership is fun and exciting. You will be with your Scout during a special time and see him (or her) develop and grow before your eyes. As well, the friendship and camaraderie you'll share with other parents can lead to long-lasting relationships and memories.

## **Program Activity Areas**

*The Canadian Scout Handbook* helps outline the badge system, which is designed with Scouts Canada's program goals for the Scout section its guide. It provides the framework for troop and patrol program activities. To earn an award, Scouts must complete the requirements as indicated.

### **PIONEER SCOUT REQUIREMENTS**

1. Know and understand:
  - a. Scout Promise,
  - b. Scout Law,
  - c. Scout Motto,
  - d. Scout Slogan,
  - e. Scout Handshake, and
  - f. Scout Salute and Sign.
2. Participate in one Scout troop activity (preferably outdoors).

### **VOYAGEUR AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

1. Pioneer Scout
2. At the Voyageur level, complete:
  - a. Citizenship
  - b. Leadership
  - c. Personal Development
  - d. Outdoor Skills
3. Four Challenge Badges from at least two categories.
4. Spring/Fall portion of Year-Round Camper Award



### **PATHFINDER AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

1. Voyageur Scout
2. At the Pathfinder level, complete:
  - a. Citizenship
  - b. Leadership
  - c. Personal development
  - d. Outdoor skills
3. Six Challenge Badges from at least four categories.
4. Summer and winter portion of Year-Round Camper Award



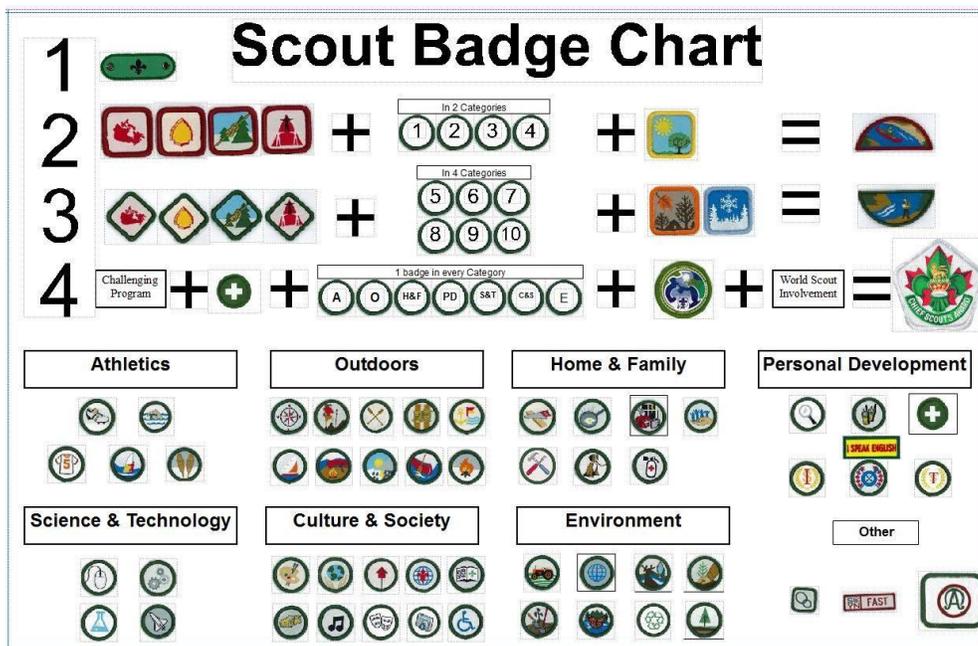
### **CHIEF SCOUT AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

To receive the Chief Scout's Award, Scouts must:

1. successfully complete the Pathfinder Scout requirements;



2. be currently qualified in First Aid Standard level or demonstrate the equivalent attitudes, skills and knowledge as judged by a “qualified instructor” of First Aid;
3. have earned at least one Challenge Badge in each of the seven (7) Challenge Badge Categories (Athletics, Outdoors, Science & Technology, Home & Family, Personal Development, Culture & Society, Environment);
4. hold the World Conservation Badge;
5. Investigate Scouts Canada’s involvement in World Scouting. Present your findings in an interesting way to your patrol, troop, or other group. Your presentation should include information on the following:
  - a. Scouts Canada’s involvement with:
    - i. the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund,
    - ii. world jamborees, and
    - iii. the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).
  - b. the purpose and location of the World Scouting Bureau, and
  - c. the current World Scouting membership, and how Canada’s membership compares to that of other countries;
6. Develop yourself further in each activity area by:
  - a. designing a challenging program with a Scouter which includes the requirement to excel in a component of each activity area (Citizenship, Leadership, Personal Development, and Outdoor Skills). Citizenship must include providing at least 30 hours of leadership to others. These hours are in addition to the hours required for the Citizenship Activity Area. If at all possible, provide this service outside of Scouting.
  - b. offering your plans and goals for discussion, and approval to your Court of Honour and Troop Scouter prior to beginning.
  - c. reporting to, and being evaluated by, the Court of Honour and Troop Scouter on your ongoing progress.



## CHALLENGE BADGES

Challenge Badges are designed to encourage Scouts to develop individual interests, hobbies, knowledge, and skills. They can be worked on individually, as patrols or in a troop setting.

### Athletics

- Team Sport
- Individual Sport
- Winter Sport
- Water Sport
- Swimming

### Outdoors

- Pioneering
- Exploring
- Winter Scouting
- Paddling
- White Water
- Water Tripping
- Sailing
- Powercraft
- Advanced Camping
- Weather

### Home & Family

- Home Repair
- Builder
- Cooking
- Family Care
- Pet Care
- Safety

### Personal Development

- Collector
- Communicator
- Language Strip
- Lifesaving
- Individual Specialty
- Troop Speciality
- First Aid

### Science & Technology

- Computer
- Engineering
- Science
- Space Exploration

### Environment

- Naturalist
- Recycling
- Fish & Wildlife
- Soil/Water Management
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Horticulture

### Culture & Society

- Artist
- Literary Arts
- Performing Arts
- Music
- Photography
- Handicraft
- Modeller
- Heritage
- Special Needs Awareness
- Cultural Awareness

## **Typical Scout Meeting Format**

Special guests and certain activities may vary the routine, but a typical troop meeting might look something like this...

6:30 pm Scouts start to arrive, chat with Scouters, join a game.

6:45 pm Opening circle: flag break, announcements.

6:50 pm Activity

7:10 pm Game

7:30 pm Activity

7:50 pm Game

8:10 pm Clean-up and prepare for closing

8:20 pm Closing circle: award badges, announce coming events, flag lowering.

Please ensure Scouts arrive properly prepared for the program and activities scheduled for the evening or outing.

- Scouts should arrive and depart from all meetings and outings in full uniform.
- When we are in the gym, indoor running shoes are required. **No outdoor footwear is to enter the gym** – either on Scouts or their parents or guardians.

- When we are outside, appropriate shoes / boots and coat / hat / mitts are required, depending on the weather.

### **Typical Scout Yearly Overview**

While the specific events and activities that occur each year will vary depending on Scout interest, Scouter expertise, and availability of resources, here is a glimpse of some of the activities that happen over the course of the year in Scouts.

**Themed Meetings:** often arranged around badge work of a particular activity area.

**Outings:** Santa Claus Parade, Hikes, Campfires, Scout Trucks (with many other Scout groups), and Sports (going swimming, skating, etc. *plus* watching hockey, basketball, etc.).

**Camps:** In addition to Scout-only camp(s), each year Scouts will participate in an All Section Camp (with 8<sup>th</sup> Ajax Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venturer Scouts, and Rover Scouts), a joint Cub-Scout camp, a joint Scout-Venturer camp, and Camporee (with many other Scout groups).

