Chapter 18

Organization

Colony Support → The Sponsor/Partner → Group/Section Committee
   → The Area → The Council
COLONY SUPPORT

In this chapter, we describe the people, committees and teams which form the support structure established to help you run a successful colony. Make use of them and become involved in the decision-making process. In Scouting, as in any other organization, strength comes from actively seeking and giving support.

Colony Scouters are also Scouters of the group. Their concerns naturally extend to the activities of other sections in the group. It’s important to know, understand and cooperate with other section Scouters.

The pamphlet *In Partnerships for Youth* is a good resource, which also describes the function of sponsors and groups. It’s available at www.scouts.ca or through your service team.

THE SPONSOR/PARTNER

Every Beaver colony must have one or more sponsors/partners. Working in partnership, the major purpose of Scouts Canada is to provide programs for community-based groups to use in their work with youth. These community groups include religious institutions; service, fraternal and civic clubs (Canadian Legion, Knights of Columbus, Elks, Kinsmen, Kiwanis, etc.); professional, business and occupational associations; military bases; public and private schools; home and school associations; and community associations.

Occasionally, a group may be sponsored without institutional backing. This often happens in rural communities or in neighbourhoods in a city where no one organization has enough children to form a group. In these cases, a number of parents or other interested citizens may organize to form and sponsor a community group. Such a group might include representatives from the religious, educational, civic and business life of the community.

These sponsors are free to choose and use any or all of the programs, and to receive services from Scouts Canada, provided they accept the Mission and Principles and follow the policy of Scouting as set out by Scouts Canada.

For the sections under its care, the sponsor/partner undertakes to provide support such as a suitable meeting place, adequate facilities, supervision and leadership.

In order to carry out these obligations, Scouts Canada appoints a Group Commissioner who assembles a team to oversee the Group. The sponsor/partner may recommend members of the sponsoring body. Other sources often include parents of potential Beavers, and men and women especially interested in working with children. The sponsor/partner lends its name and prestige to the group. The group/section committee reports to the sponsor/partner and Scouts Canada on the activities of the group.
GROUP/SECTION COMMITTEE

A group committee is responsible for two or more sections (i.e. Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers).

A section committee is responsible for only one section.

Since there is no one leader in charge of a Beaver colony, the leadership team selects a representative, usually on a rotational basis, who has full membership rights on the committee. In other sections, the leader in charge becomes a member of the committee.

Committee Functions
The committee’s responsibility is to ensure programs are operated to achieve maximum benefit for children and support for leaders.

Committee functions fall into two major categories: program and administration.

Program
Committee functions relating to the program include:
- To provide for the operation of programs in accordance with Scouting’s Mission, Principles, program objectives and operating policies, and in keeping with the goals and ideals of the sponsor/partner.
- To ensure that due emphasis is given to the spiritual aspects of Scouting in the conduct and life of the group/section.
- To recruit, screen and appoint Scouters who are acceptable to Scouts Canada.
To encourage Scouters in their personal development by making opportunities for training available to them.
To maintain a program of membership growth for the group/section.
To ensure that program resources and personnel are available as required. For example: equipment for camps and other events; instructors, resource persons, examiners and facilities.
Where necessary, to assist Scouters in the operation of the group/section.
To assist Scouters in preparation of camps and other special events, and to approve arrangements and budgets.
When necessary, to assume direction of the section.

**Administration**

Committee functions relating to administration include, to:

- Establish and provide for the continuous operation of the group/section.
- Register the group/section.
- Secure adequate facilities, such as a meeting place, for the group/section.
- Audit the accounts of the group/section annually.
- Prepare and submit to the supervising area and sponsor/partner, an annual report covering the activities of the group/section. This report shall include an inventory of real property, and audited financial statements.
- Promote harmonious relationships within the group/section and any institutions or organizations in contact with, or affecting the group/section.
- Assume responsibility for all property.
- Raise funds as required in accordance with the policy on finance of Scouts Canada and that of the sponsor.
- Provide for an annual review of group/section Scouters, and to ensure that the appropriate recognition for service is provided.
- Arrange for adequate insurance to cover all group/section equipment and property. Don’t confuse this with the National Indemnity and Liability insurance coverage. Insurance information is in *B.P.&P. Section 13000 and 20000* at [www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca), or see appropriate pamphlets currently in effect provided by your local Council office.

**THE AREA**

Groups are situated in geographical areas, under the responsibility of an Area Commissioner. The Area Commissioner may have a service team of Scouters who are responsible for the support of the Beaver program and available to help colony Scouters within the Area. Colony Scouters may hold periodic meetings to exchange ideas on programs, games, songs and other activities. These gatherings, referred to as Sharing Sessions, give leaders an opportunity to increase their knowledge of Beavering and share ideas with fellow Scouters.

**Area Service Team**

Each Area has a team of volunteer Scouters available to provide help and guidance to leaders in colonies like yours. They operate under the guidance of the area or council commissioner or their appointee, and are assigned to work with section Scouters.

Service team members may work with new Scouters on the initial orientation or interview, and also spend time at colony meetings to help give new leaders on-the-job coaching, mentoring and support.
All new leaders agree to acquire the knowledge and skills for their position within the first year. This includes the information received during the selection interview, the orientation, and the basic program planning and delivery. Ask your Service Team member to help you choose the best approach for you to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills. When you complete this stage of your development, you will receive a special woggle and certificate as your Woodbadge Basic recognition. Do you want to know more about games and storytelling or how to obtain first aid training, arrange for a hike or camp, or handle your records? The Service Team representative will help you with any of these areas, or will advise you of adult development opportunities which will help you.

Regardless of your circumstances, make sure you know your Service Team representative. Keep his or her name and telephone number near, and make use of the help they are able to offer.

THE COUNCIL

Areas are under the responsibility of a council commissioner who reports directly to the Executive Commissioner/C.E.O. of Scouts Canada. The council commissioner may have a service team of Scouters who are responsible for the support of Scouts Canada's programs.

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