



Area Support Managers (ASM's)

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Voyageur Council Area Support Managers Report August/September 2013

REMINDER: Phase 2 of Updated Screening and Training Requirements starting in Fall 2013: Group Commissioners – please note that a few more requirements with respect to Screening and Training will come into effect September 1st 2013 (as per the Screening Chart that was released in Spring 2012 – see attached):

- Scouters Returning in their Section must have a full WB1 in that Section or they will not be allowed to register and/or participate in the delivery of program for the 2013-14 Scouting year until they have done the training.
- New Scouters require the following to be able to work “on the floor” with the youth or work in an administrative role with the Group:
 - A clean VSS and PRC.
 - An Interview and 3 reference checks done by 2 fully Active and Registered Scouters – one of whom has Interview Training.
 - An Application for Adult Membership.
 - Initial training items – CYS training, Accessibility Training and WB1-Module 1. Council Approval (through the Council Registrar)
- Once a new Scouter has completed these steps they can start their role running program for the youth or supporting the Group Committee. The difference starting September 1st, 2013 is that they will NOT count towards ratio until they have completed their Full WB1 in their Section. They can be on the floor and participate wearing the uniform but are not considered towards ratio until they have completed all of the training for their role. This is the same for returning Scouters moving from one Section to a new one. They will not count towards ratio until they have completed their full WB1.

BackCheck and References: Starting Sept. 1, when a prospective volunteer wants to register with Scouts Canada they will be asked to provide five references with email addresses as the primary method of contact. Three references are still needed to complete the screening requirement. BackCheck will contact the first three references provided. If these references are not completed within eight days, BackCheck will contact the remaining two. This will help ensure timely completion of the process. The reference types may include employer, volunteer organizations, and those who can attest to an applicant’s character (such as an educator), with a maximum of one family member permissible. See the email you received from the National Marketing and Communications department in late August for more details.

Fall Advertising 2013: The Council will be running ads in various EMC/Metro newspapers in early September to promote Fall Registration. We are focusing on the rural Areas of the Council as feedback has shown us that these ads are more effective in these communities, and generally not effective within the city limits. Keep your eyes peeled for our Fall ads!

School Flyer Campaign 2013: Flyer packages have been prepared for Groups that requested them. We will also be sending flyers to all of the schools that we are aware of having participated in the program in past years. Your ASM will be able to get your schools packages to you.

School Newsletter Notices: A notice that can go into school newsletters has been created and circulated to all the School Boards in Eastern Ontario for electronic distribution or to be placed on School Board websites. The message is very generic but it includes the Group Locator. The notice will be available on the Growth page of the new Voyageur website soon if any Groups want to use it in their local schools, or contact your ASM directly if needed now ASAP.

Group Parent/Youth Information nights and Safety Education: The 2013-14 season will be all about Child and Youth Safety and Compliance. All Groups/sections are encouraged to use the section specific [CYS Jumpstarts](#) and create a [Section Code of Conduct](#).

Groups are encouraged to run a Parent Info Night before Section meetings start to do the following:

- a. Discuss program plans, scheduled events (camps, hikes, tours and fundraisers) with parents and youth, generate excitement about the upcoming Scouting year.
- b. Ensure all myscouts data is up-to-date for each family (health info, phone numbers, emergency contacts etc.) for youth and parents.
- c. Hand out and review the (blue) Parent pamphlet "[A Great, Safe Scouting Experience](#)" from the Recruitment Tool Kit box
- d. Discuss and educate parents around our policies such as the 2 leader rule, communications through [social media](#), our Screening process, training and issues around transportation. The more parents and youth know, the safer the environment is for them.
- e. Show new parents the CYS video and have parents sign the [code of conduct](#).

Training Opportunities:

- **Myscouts.ca Training Tool Disc:** The council has received a limited quantity of MyScouts Training DVD's – you can obtain one through your ASM or find it online at this link: <https://www.myscouts.ca/ca/content/training>
- **It's Your Duty Training:** As we head into the new Scouting Year it is also a good time to establish who your Group Interview Team will be. Your Area Interview Team will assist the Group Commissioner in screening prospective volunteers and can lend greater consistency and rigour to the interview process. Ideally interviewers have a background in areas of social work, police investigation or human resources where interviewing is part of their job. This will speed up the learning curve and provide a better quality interview. All interviewers must complete the *It's Your Duty* training. This [training video has been updated and is available through e-Learning](#). For more resources to support your Area Interview Teams visit the Orientation section on the [Volunteer Support Toolkit](#).
- **Group Committee Training Online September 2013:** Role-specific Group Committee training (i.e., Registrar, Treasurer, Secretary) will be available through e-learning starting in September for those Scouters that are involved in a Group Committee role. Woodbadge 1 for Group Commissioners will still be in the format of either an In-Person course or a Live Webinar (i.e., it will not be available as an e-learning course due to the nature of the content – it is much more effective when the participants and trainers can interact for this type of training). A WB1 Group Commissioner course is being scheduled for the early Fall with the possibility of taking it through webinar as well. More information to come out shortly.

We wish you all a SAFE and FUN 2013-2014 Scouting year!

Yours In Scouting, Kelly and Heather ☺

