

1st Moncton St. Georges Scout Troop
St. Georges Church, Moncton, NB



Troop Handbook

Your Scout Leaders are committed to making the Scout Program better than ever this year. In return, a commitment is needed on the part of Scouts and parents. That commitment starts with “being prepared”, and that starts with reading this brief handbook, which will answer most of your questions regarding our Scout Program.

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Contact Information:

Your Scout Leaders are happy to speak with you after meetings to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding our program. Time is somewhat limited after meetings, and things can sometimes be a little hectic, so please feel free to contact the leaders listed below at any time:

- Jason Goodwin, Troop Scouter; 506-854-6971
- Allen Urquhart Scout Leader; 506-386-1269
- Ruth Aiken, Group Commissioner; 506-854-2672

Scout Uniforms, Camping Equipment:

- **Scout Shop** (*the place to buy uniforms, also some camping gear*):

201 Union Street
Saint John, NB E2L 1A9
Phone: 506-646-9123
Fax: 506-646-9122
www.scoutshop.ca

- **Mountain Equipment Co-op** (*huge selection, especially backpacks & clothing, excellent quality*)

1550 Granville Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1X1
Phone: 902-421-2667
www.mec.ca

NOTE: you must be a member of the Co-Op to purchase items. (Cost is 5 dollars for a lifetime membership)

- **Wanderlust Outfitters** (*high quality camping gear*)

12 Bridge St Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 3N5

Phone: 506-939-3100

www.wanderlust.ca

- **Mark's Work Warehouse** (*good for basics, such as wool socks, boots, raingear*)

Various locations

- **Canadian Tire** (*keep an eye on the sales; some good values for raingear, boots, flashlights & general camping gear*)

Various locations

- **Salvation Army Thrift Store** (*consignment store; selection varies, but bargains to be had*)

Various locations

Great place to get old clothes for camping and sometimes even equipment like sleeping bags and backpacks!!!

Websites:

- **1st Moncton St. Georges Scout group**

www.1stmonctonscouts.com

Our own website; you'll find schedules, notices, photos, equipment lists, registration forms, camping tips and a guide for the new scout. **Check it out regularly!!!**, as this is our prime method of making schedules and notices available to Scouts and parents. Make sure you can download "pdf" documents, as we use this format.

- **New Brunswick Scouting Council**

www.scoutsnb.ca

Website for our Regional Office; information about regional activities.

- **Scouts Canada**

www.scouts.ca

Lots of information about all aspects of Scouts; links to other sites with information on everything from camp cooking to knots and pioneering.

e-mail:

We use e-mail to inform Scouts of upcoming events, and to advise them of new postings on our website. It is each Scout's responsibility to check it regularly. "**Hotmail**" or "**Yahoo**" accounts have proved troublesome in the past; so now each Scout will have their own email account using the 1st Moncton St. George's domain. IE: yourname@1stmonctonscouts.com Parents will be copied on all e-mail communications, so please send me your e-mail address as well. This will be set up at the beginning of the year.

Things Your Child Will Need:

- **Canadian Scout Handbook:** Available from **The Scout Shop**; an absolute must, as it describes the entire Scouting Program.

- **Field Book for Canadian Scouting:** Available from **The Scout Shop**; highly recommended – great reference book for camping gear, clothing, knots, safety, diet, and almost all aspects of camping and outdoor activities.

- **Uniform: We wear our Grey t-shirt at all indoor meetings.** The formal Scout uniform is shown in the **Canadian Scout Handbook**; you'll need to obtain the **shirt and sash**, from The Scout Shop. We provide the scarf, epaulets and badges as they are earned.

- **Camping Gear:** See the **Personal Equipment List** on the following page. The most important items on this list are **raingear, boots**, and a **sleeping bag**. Following are some brief comments about camping equipment; the **Field Book for Canadian Scouting** goes into much more detail, and you can always ask your Scout Leader or download the PDF's on our website.

- o **Raingear:** Includes jacket (hooded) and pants, must be **waterproof, not water repellent!** Coated nylon most economical and most waterproof, Gore-Tex not necessary for Scout-aged boys.
- o **Footwear:** High-top sturdy boots with cleated soles. Leather is best, as it can be waterproofed, but the most important thing is that they give proper support and good traction on slippery surfaces. **Athletic shoes or low-cut approach shoes are not acceptable.**
- o **Sleeping Bag:** Synthetic fill (not down), rated to at least -10°C. If your bag is not warm enough, you can use 2 bags, one inside the other. Polyester fleece liners also add a lot of warmth and comfort.
- o **Clothing:** The **Field Book for Canadian Scouting** provides lots of great information on types of clothing, layering, etc. The most important thing to remember is **no cotton!** Cotton is great in the summer, but for the rest of the year it's just not acceptable; if it gets wet, and it will, it doesn't dry easily, and provides almost no insulation. **Polar fleece** is the best for warmth, as it provides maximum insulation and dries quickly if it gets wet. **Wool** and **acrylic** are also very good; they don't dry as easily, but still provide insulation when wet. Wool pants are great (army surplus), polyester blends such as Scout uniform pants also perform very well, but cotton pants such as jeans are not acceptable. Please be sure pants have pockets so your son can carry pocketknife & flashlight.
- o **Pocket Knife:** A pocket knife is very useful at camp, and Scouts are shown how to use a knife safely. Please buy your child a **locking blade or a Sheath** knife; a single blade 3-6 inches long is perfect – Swiss Army knives with multiple attachments are needlessly expensive, and not as safe.
- o **Saw:** a "Bow" type or folding camp saw suitable for cutting small trees for firewood and pioneering projects.
- o **Flashlight:** Small, weather resistant (2 AA size is best).
- o **Wristwatch:** Essential to camping & hiking safety. **You must wear a watch to camp.**
- o **Labeling:** Please put your name on **everything** your son takes to camp; we have a sizeable collection of towels, mitts and socks at the end of each year that no one can identify.
- o **Backpacks:** You don't need one until after Christmas; **duffle bags** or sport bags will be fine for the first few camps. Be sure to talk to your Scouter and then get expert advice from the retail store before purchasing a backpack.
- o **Packing:** Everything in the bag must be waterproof; **Zip-lock** bags are the best for clothing, and a garbage bag for the sleeping bag. Make sure your son packs his own bag (with parent's help if necessary), as he needs to know what's in it.

1st Moncton St. George's Scout Troop

Personal Equipment List

Day Hikes:

- Sturdy boots
- day pack
- rain pants, rain jacket with hood
- waterproof hiking boots
- hat (wide brim preferred)
- sweater or fleece shirt
- extra pair of socks
- toque
- water bottle
- wristwatch
- compass
- small flashlight – carry in pocket
- pocket knife (folding lock blade only) – carry in pocket

- matches in zip-lock bag – carry in pocket
- sun screen
- insect repellent
- personal first aid kit
- toilet paper

Overnight Camps:

all the above items plus

- back pack
- sleeping bag
- ground sheet
- foam mattress
- 1 extra warm shirt or sweater
- 1 extra pair pants (with pockets!)
- 1 extra pair underwear
- 2 pairs warm socks
- 2 pr. long underwear
- sweat top & pants for sleeping
- running shoes
- mitts or gloves
- toothbrush & toothpaste
- soap (biodegradable)
- face cloth & hand towel
- brush or comb
- large zip-lock bag for storage
- plate, bowl, mug, knife, fork & spoon in mesh bag.

Remember: no cotton clothing (not even socks) for winter camps - that means from October until May!!

Meetings:

Being a member of a Scout Troop is a privilege and a commitment! **The expectation is that all Scouts attend every meeting, camp, hike or other activity.** Your child, the leaders, the other Scouts, Troop morale and the program itself all benefit from full attendance by everyone. Therefore, attendance is expected. Please contact one of the leaders or Have your scout contact their Patrol Leader ahead of time if your child cannot attend a meeting or event due to sickness.

Grey Shirt and Neckers are mandatory for all indoor meetings unless otherwise noted. Dress for outdoor meetings according to the weather.

Meeting dates are Tuesday evenings unless otherwise noted; We will be posting a schedule onto our website so that its readily available for all.

• **Indoor Meetings:** Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm to 9:00pm, St. George's church 51 Church Street, Moncton .

You must wear your Grey Shirt and Necker at all indoor meetings.

• **Outdoor Meetings:** In the past we've had occasional meetings at the Centennial or Irishtown Nature Park. We'll notify you when there is a change of venue

Please be **on time** for all meetings; it's not fair to make the rest of the Troop wait for you. We find that the boys who are on time are the ones who get the most out of Scouts. Be prepared to be outdoors at every meeting (warm sweater, raingear, flashlight). ***Safety concerns compel us to insist that a parent or guardian accompany each Scout into the meeting place at the beginning of the meeting, and come into the meeting place to pick him up after the meeting.***

Registration Fee & Dues- The registration fee at the beginning of the year covers Scouts Canada insurance and administration costs and is not kept by St. Georges Scouts.

Scouts bring \$1 dues each week. Dues are used to pay for badges, scout supplies, camping and other incidental expenses throughout the year. All amounts are spent carefully & exclusively on the Scout Troop. Dues are due if a Scout is present or absent or no matter where we meet.

Camp Fees Designed to Break even With Cost

Camp fees are planned with thin budgets. Camp fees range in the \$20-\$50 area and are budgeted to break even to costs. At each camp \$15-\$17 per Scout is budgeted for food, \$10-\$15 on camp fuel/transportation and the remainder on any outside registrations/permit fees the troop is charged and other expenses. Food is typically the largest portion of the budget, accounting for nearly 50-80 percent of an average camp budget.

How You Can Help:

Scout Leaders are volunteers who are trained and prepared to spend the time required to deliver the best Scout program possible. Parent's participation is required and encouraged to make the Scout program work. Some ways you can help are:

- **Driving to Camp:** Parents are responsible for transporting Scouts to and from camp and other activities.
- **Group Committee Member:** Administration for our Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts is handled by the Group Committee, comprised of parents and other interested adults, as well as a representative from each Section (Cubs, Scouts,.....). The Group Committee's responsibilities include registration, finance, volunteer screening, and liaising with the Southeast Area Scout Council. Meetings are on average once every month; Please tell your Scout Leader if you'd like to help.
- **Be a Leader!** More work than the other positions, but then we get to have all the fun! Great training available, and then you get to spend weekends at camp with a bunch of kids having good old-fashioned wholesome fun, sleeping in the great outdoors, seeing some of our wonderful scenery, and listening to your son and his friends as they sit around the campfire each night. No experience necessary; we'll help you learn all you need.

Troop Equipment:

Scouts will take turns bringing home tents, tarps, and other Troop equipment after each camp. The equipment must be cleaned, dried and returned to the Troop Quartermaster(a position held by one of the Scouts) within one week of the camp. Equipment needs to be properly cleaned, received and checked, so it will be ready for the next use.