



BP Service Association

Traditional Scouting in Canada

FACT SHEET

How a BPSA Scouting Group is Structured

A complete scouting group within the BPSA consists of five youth sections: 1) Otter Raft, 2) Timber Wolf Pack, 3) Explorer Troop, 4) Senior Explorer Troop, 5) Rover Crew, and two adult sections: 6) Group Council, and 7) Group Auxiliary.

Otter Raft

For children 5 through 7 a Raft is further broken down into Otter Dens consisting of 5 to no more than 8 Otters with each Den led by a youth Den Leader and an adult leader.

Timber Wolf Pack

For children 8 through 11 a Pack is further broken down into Timber Wolf Sixes consisting of up to 6 Timber Wolves with each Six led by a youth leader called a Sixer and an assistant called a Second. Each Six also has an adult leader that provides guidance and assistance to the Sixer.

Explorer Troop

For youth 11 through 15 a Troop is further broken down into Explorer Patrols consisting of 5 to no more than 8 Explorers with each Patrol led by a youth leader called a Patrol Leader and an assistant called a Second. Youth lead the Troop and adults are only there to assist and not to take charge (unless it's a safety issue.)

Senior Explorer Troop

For youth 15 through 17 a Troop is further broken down into Senior Explorer Patrols consisting of 5 to no more than 8 Explorers with each Patrol led by a youth leader called a Patrol Leader and an assistant called a Second. Senior Explorers may form their own Troop or may act as the leadership of the patrols in the Explorer Troop.

Rover Crew

For youth and adults 18 and up, there is no upper age limit as was intended by Baden-Powell. The crew acts as an autonomous unit typically choosing to give back to the group or community in the form of service. Rovers often act as leaders of one of the youth sections.

Group Council

The Group Council consists of the uniformed leaders of each section and primarily deal with matters affecting the group as a whole. It is chaired by the Group Scoutmaster who is also a member of the Group Auxiliary.

Group Auxiliary

It is the responsibility of the Group Auxiliary to obtain sufficient funds to maintain the Group. The Group Auxiliary is also responsible for Group equipment, and to assist the Group Scoutmaster with recruiting, obtaining accommodation, and similar logistical help. Members of the Group Auxiliary do not wear uniform and have no involvement with youth.

A group can operate with as little as one youth section. Depending only on the desires of the Group there are three membership options for the Group:

- a) All male
- b) All female
- c) Co-ed

