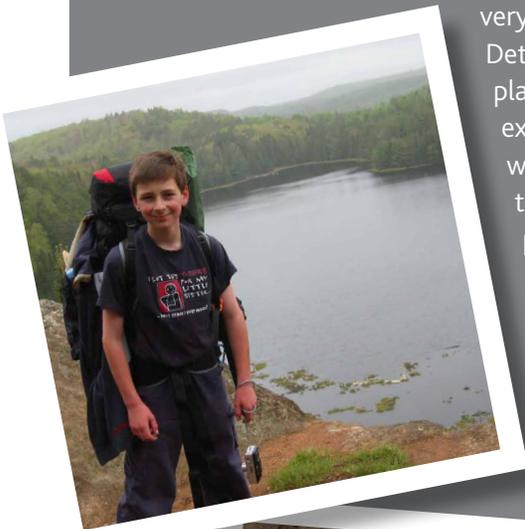


Canadian Path Program Quality Standards

The new Program Quality Standards have arrived! They have been completely revitalized to work hand in hand with The Canadian Path. Standards are broken down to bring youth aboard the evaluation process. After all, The Canadian Path is their program.

You will discover three parts to the whole process, and it will sound very familiar. First, the standards help set the bar for the Section (Plan). Determine your Section's goals for the program cycles. Follow your plan when you go on your Adventures (Do). As cycles end, assess the experience as a Section and identify areas that lacked in planning while identifying some of the Section's strengths (Review). Repeat the process at every cycle. This will foster support for short-term planning and encourage ongoing discussions for youth and Scouters alike.

Use the standards to create an awesome Scouting program! Have open discussions guided by the assessment questions to help your program move forward. Be honest, and challenge yourselves as a Section to live up to your own expectations for a great, safe Scouting program.



Canadianpath.ca

It starts with Scouts.

YOUR GOAL

The days of check-boxes are gone. Live up to your Section's potential! The standards will drive conversations. Use these discussions to improve your Section's program possibilities. Like any event that you are organizing, log the notes and discussion points. Apply these notes where they are needed most.



YOUR CYCLES



FALL: September – November



WINTER: December – February



SPRING: March – May



SUMMER: June – August

Our Scouting program breaks down quite easily into four cycles. Each cycle offers new possibilities. With each new season, we can imagine great new Adventures.

Each Section has a series of standards and assessment questions to help evaluate its program. Review these items at every cycle. Make adjustments to the program as needed.

ASSESSMENT

Use the assessment questions at each cycle. Log the results of your discussion to further your program. Your notes should also be used to report to your Group Committee.

Have your Section take the time to look at how it is doing with the assessment questions. With your Section Leadership Team, discuss the following:

- The Section's attendance and retention
- How is the program?
- How does our Section compare to the standards?
- Interests in the coming cycles
- Personal development: are we getting what we need?
- How are we managing risk?

Program cycles help to refine goals and expectations for the Scouting Year. Planning in terms of the program cycles creates meaningful discussions within a Section.

The Section will also share its plans (and its accomplishments) with its Group Committee. The Group Commissioner, Section Scouters and representative youth from the Sections will meet to evaluate the quality of your program and identify how you have fared.

Hitting your Standards

What better way to celebrate your journey as a Section than by flying your Section's flag with its new Program Quality Standard year badge?

TROOP STANDARDS

PER MONTH

1
Meeting outdoors

PER CYCLE (SEASON)

2
Outings, visits or events

2
Troop Leadership Team meetings

1
PQS assessment and action plan*

PER SCOUTING YEAR

12
Nights away

2
Adventures for each Program Area

2
Adventures with Pack or Company (one for Trailblazers)

1
Personal progression review

1
Section Code of Conduct developed

1
Environmental service project

2
Community service projects

2
Activities with parental participation

Scouts Canada has established a series standards to assist youth and their Scouters as they seek to plan, do and review safe and adventurous Scouting programs. The program standards framework includes objective criteria to aid in the planning process, and to serve as a set of self-assessment tools to assist youth and Scouters in the evaluation and improvement of their programs.

* The Troop utilizes this assessment tool 3–4 times per year as it reviews the program and develops an action plan from each review. These assessments and action plans are shared with the Group Committee.



- Scouting programs follow Scouts Canada's safety policies and practices (e.g. Two Scouter Rule, appropriate skills and knowledge, outdoor activity management process).
- Scouters support programs consistent with the Four Elements of The Canadian Path.
- Youth are fully engaged in all aspects of program cycles following the Plan-Do-Review model.
- Spiritual development is regularly included in the Troop program.
- Adventure is about youth trying things for the first time; programs enable youth to pursue Adventure regularly by using small and large groups.
- Patrol Leaders and Troop Leader participate in a Troop Leadership Team.
- Patrol Leaders, Assistant Patrol Leaders and the Troop Leader are provided with support to lead the Troop.
- Programs are regularly delivered in small groups, enabling all members of the Patrol to learn by doing.
- Section retention is actively managed to 70%; Scouts are personally invited to return each spring, and each non-returning youth is contacted to understand the reason why.
- Section attendance is actively managed to ensure engagement of all Scouts (target 90%).
- Scouters regularly pursue the knowledge and skills required to enable a successful youth program.
- A representative of the Section Leadership Team attends all Group Committee meetings.

OUTCOMES & SELF-ASSESSMENT



The self-assessment/review process should be completed in two stages: one led by the youth and one involving the Scouters. These two steps form the overall Section self-assessment and feed into the Group self-assessment process.

The self-assessment process for youth should mirror previous quality assessments and incorporate an age-appropriate indication of personal development. Some sample questions are given below. They can be used to facilitate reviews between program cycles (rather than a year-end-only approach).

Scouts' Assessment



1. Has our Troop spent enough nights camping?
2. Did we go outdoors enough?
3. What is something that I would like to accomplish before Scouts is over?
4. What was my favourite experience in Scouts this cycle / year?
5. Is our Patrol working well as a team?
6. Did we do what we planned?
7. What activities did we do as a Patrol?
8. What are some fun things we could do with other Sections?
9. How have I developed in the SPICES?
10. Do we use the map of the Canadian Trails regularly and try different types of new experiences?
11. How am I contributing to the Troop?
12. What leadership abilities am I developing this year?
13. Does our Troop Leadership Team meet regularly and make decisions for the Troop?
14. What are three things I have done that were new from last year?
15. Do I plan to return to Scouts next year? Do Trailblazers plan to join Venturers?

SCOUTERS' Assessment



1. Section attendance
2. Section year-over-year retention rate
3. Number of nights away and outdoor activities: are we on track to meet standard?
4. Assessment of skills and knowledge: does the team have what is needed to facilitate a safe, adventurous outdoor program?
5. As a team of Scouters, we regularly meet and review:
 - a. the personal progression of our Scouts with respect to SPICES
 - b. our use of all Program Areas
 - c. youth leadership
 - d. the level of Adventure included in our program (i.e. how many new activities have we tried and how many new places have we visited?)
6. We would rate the level of parent engagement as _____. What steps can be taken to improve the overall level of parental support and engagement?

How do I use the Program Quality Standards?

- **At the START:** Troop Leader should take the time to introduce the Program Quality Standards to the Troop Leadership Team.
- **DURING** the program cycles: Patrol Leaders select some of the assessment questions to see how the Scouts feel about their year so far. Log the comments and strategies.
- **Troop Leadership Team:** The Troop Leadership Team develops a plan for the Troop's program based on the feedback from Patrols. Repeat process at next program cycle.