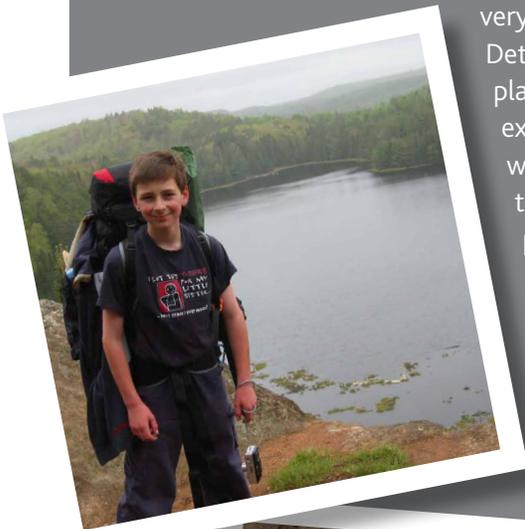


# Canadian Path Program Quality Standards

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](http://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?

# COMPANY STANDARDS

## PER MONTH

**1**  
Meeting outdoors

## PER CYCLE (SEASON)

**2**  
Outings, visits or events

**2**  
Company Leadership Team meetings

**1**  
PQS assessment and action plan\*

## PER SCOUTING YEAR

**12**  
Nights away

**2**  
Adventures for each Program Area

**2** Adventures with Troop and Crew (one for senior Venturers)

**1**  
Personal progression review

**1**  
Section Code of Conduct developed

**1**  
Environmental service project

**2**  
Community service projects

**1**  
Activities with parental participation

Scouts Canada has established 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 Company 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).
- Youth and Scouters plan 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 Company program.
- All Program Areas are explored at least twice a year.
- Adventure is about youth trying things for the first time; programs enable youth to pursue Adventure regularly.
- Expedition Leaders and Company Leader participate in a Company Leadership Team.
- Expedition Leaders and Company Leader are provided with support to lead the Company.

- Programs are regularly delivered in small groups, enabling all members of the Company to learn by doing.
- Section retention is actively managed to 70%; Venturers 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 Venturers (target 90%).
- A representative of the Section Leadership Team attends all Group Committee meetings.
- Scouters regularly pursue the knowledge and skills required to enable a successful youth program.

# OUTCOMES & SELF-ASSESSMENT



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).

## Venturers' Assessment

1. Has our Company spent enough nights camping?
2. Does our Company have enough members?
3. Do we go outdoors on a regular basis?
4. What is something that I would like to accomplish before Venturers is over?
5. What was my favourite experience in Venturers this year?
6. Have I contributed to an Expedition Team?
7. Have I co-led or led an Expedition Team?
8. What support do I need to reach my summit?
9. Have we had at least two experiences for each Program Area?
10. What are some fun experiences we shared with other Sections?
11. How have I developed in the SPICES?
12. Have our Company's Expedition Teams met regularly to accomplish great new experiences?
13. What three things I have done that were new from last year?
14. Do I plan to return to Venturers next year? Do senior Venturers plan to join Rovers?
15. Are my experiences in Venturers valuable to me?
16. How is the Company's attendance?
17. How is the Company's year-over-year retention rate?
18. Number of outdoor activities: are we on track to meet standard?
19. Assessment of skills and knowledge: does the team have what is needed to facilitate a safe, adventurous outdoor program?
20. As a Company, we regularly meet and review:
  - a. personal progression with respect to SPICES
  - b. our use of all Program Areas
  - c. youth leadership
  - d. the experiences included in our program (i.e. how many new activities have we tried and how many new places have we visited?)
21. 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:** Company should set its expectations for the program cycle. Standards will help guide some of the expectation discussions.
- **DURING** the program cycles: Company Leader selects some of the Assessment questions to see how the Venturers feel about their year so far. Log the feedback.
- The Company Leadership Team or a special Expedition Team develops a plan to incorporate feedback from the assessment into the program. Repeat process at next program cycle.