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1. Welcome to 12th Barrie Scouts

A warm welcome is extended to the returning Scouts and to those new to the Scout section. We hope everyone had a terrific summer. For those who attended the World Jamboree in England, we look forward to hearing about your trip. The same for those who attended the Canadian Jamboree in Quebec.

We're looking forward to another exciting year with lots of outdoor activities.

1.1. *The Team*

We have been blessed with a fabulous leadership team once again this year. Of course, we're always interested in having new leaders join. If you are interested, or you know of someone who is interested, please have them contact me.

- Scouter Barry Mitchell has several years of experience in Scouting. I understand he was too busy to attend the first Scout camp held in 1907 but he's managed to attend just about every one since! Scouter Barry is an avid sailor, canoeist, hiker, camper in all 4 seasons. His practical knowledge and experience working with youth is certainly an asset.
- Scouter Joan Hill has worked with the Cub section and now enters her second year with Scouts. Her daughter, Jessica, also joins us. Scouter Joan enjoys the outdoors and is one of the first to suggest we hold the meeting outdoors. She has an interest in outdoor cooking and challenges the Scouts to improve their skills in this area. Her keen interest in camping helps ensure we have a dynamic outdoor program.
- Scouter Chris Smith has moved from the Cub section to Scouts this year. Those moving from Cubs will feel welcomed by Scouter Chris's great sense of humour. He has an interest in challenging the youth both indoors and out. We look forward to working with Scouter Chris.
- Scouter Wayne Morrison has returned for another year in Scouts. This year he has two daughters in the Scout section. Scouter Wayne's interests include camping, hiking and canoeing especially light-weight tripping. He's looking forward to seeing how much improvement we can see in one year with the Scouts.
- Scouter Mike Kodama joins us this season as a leader. Scouter Mike attended all hikes, camps and outings last year then brought a Scout unit to the Canadian Jamboree this summer. He has one son in our troop. We welcome Scouter Mike and look forward to having him on the team.
- Scouter Donna Cooper is a new addition to our leadership team. She has two sons in Scouts this year both of whom attended this summer's Canadian Jamboree. Scouter Donna is an accomplished outdoors person, canoeist and a fantastic cook. Last year's cooking class was one of our highlights. The other leaders are certainly looking forward to improving our camp cuisine.
- Scouter Richard O'Connell is looking forward to more camps and outdoor programs with the Scouts. This summer Scouter Richard led the 12th Barrie unit at the Canadian Jamboree. He has one son in the troop.

1.2. *Meeting Times / Locations*

Our Scout section meeting location is typically Cundles Heights Public School (intersection of Harding Ave and Cundles Road). The start time is 7:15pm to 8:45pm. The Scouts usually spend the first 15

minutes playing games while the leaders collect paperwork, talk with parents, update financial records and prepare for the night's activities. Likewise, our closings should end at 8:45pm with a few minutes to put away any equipment used during the evening.

This year, we have also booked the hall at Trinity Anglican Church (on Collier St) on Thursday nights. Our troop equipment is stored in the basement of this church. We may occasionally switch our meeting night from Monday to Thursday to either work on (or pack) equipment or hold an event downtown near the well-lit waterfront trails.

At the Scout age, we do not require parent's to sign in and out their child on drop off and pick up. However, leaders will not leave a Scout at the meeting location unattended. If you are going to be delayed, please call me or one of the other leaders on their cell to let us know. If you do not arrive at the meeting pick up location within 20 minutes of our closing, we will attempt to call you or your emergency contact person.

1.3. School Access

Access into the school is controlled by the janitorial staff. One door is either unlocked or is supervised from 7:15pm-7:25pm and 8:45pm-8:55pm to allow Scouts and parents into and out of the building. If you arrive after or before this time, you can attempt to knock on the exterior gym doors at the west side of the school. Depending on our activity, we may or may not hear you.

The school is not available during school breaks and holidays. For this reason, we normally do not have a meeting that week.

During the winter months it is possible for a snow storm to close the school. If this is the case, the Scout meeting is also cancelled. Use your best judgement. Under no circumstance will anyone miss an important event due to inclement weather. In addition, please keep in mind that Scouters Wayne, Joan and Barry all work in Toronto and beyond. We may not make it back to Barrie in time for the Scout meeting. If this is the case, the meeting will likely be cancelled.

1.4. Communications

Communication to and with the Scout leaders is extremely important. Please feel free to call the leaders to discuss a problem or concern before it starts to interfere with your son or daughter's enjoyment of the program. If it's a quick or simple question, an email is often the best way to reach us followed by a phone call.

We maintain a calendar of events, posted on our web site 12thBarrieScouts.tripod.com. We routinely send hand outs home end at end of each meeting. These are usually followed by an email (in case the hand out doesn't make it home). We encourage you to provide us with email addresses for both yourself and your son/daughter (if they have one) and to check your email for updates. Email addresses are considered confidential and will not be disclosed.

Unless you explicitly indicated that no photos are permitted, your Scout(s) will appear in slide shows, newsletters and other occasional publications. Under no circumstance will names or addresses be released.

For event cancellations and communications to/from the Scouts, we will depend on the Patrol Leaders. If a Scout will be missing a meeting, s/he should let her/his Patrol Leader know. If a meeting is being cancelled or moved, the Patrol Leader will call his/her members.

In the event of an emergency, eg. cannot pick up your son or daughter, please give me a call at the numbers below. Keep in mind that in some locations, such as camps or hikes, the cell phone coverage may not be adequate.

2. Code of Conduct

The 12th Barrie Scouts have a Code of Conduct outlining expected behaviour of our Scouts and Leaders. All Scouts will be asked to read over the Code of Conduct, discuss it with their parents and leaders and return a signed copy. The code describes how the 12th Barrie Group deals with discipline and the actions expected.

3. Safety Permit – Knives, Axes, Stoves, Lanterns, Fires

During the first few weeks of the Scouting year, new members will need instruction in the proper use and care of a knife, axe, stove, lantern and how to lay and light a fire. Following passing of these tests, the Scout will be presented with a laminated Safety Permit card. This card signifies the Scout has demonstrated the proper handling and can be trusted with this equipment. Should this trust be broken, the Safety Permit will be removed from the Scout and s/he will not be permitted to use this equipment until such time as properly handling has been demonstrated to the leadership team and the trust rebuilt.

Scouts should bring their Safety Permit with them to camp. This is usually the only place where it will be requested.

Knives are not permitted on school property. There is no reason to bring a knife to the Scout meeting. It is not part of the uniform and is used only at camp and only by those Scouts possessing their Safety Permit.

4. Parent Involvement

12th Barrie strongly encourages the involvement of parents in all of our activities. Many of our leaders often start by attending the occasional meeting, then progressing to become a resource person, attending hikes, camps then finally agreeing to become a full leader. All adults involved in the youth program must submit a Police Record Check (PRC) to our Group Committee and pass a screening interview. For security reasons, parents are welcome to join us on outings but must have on file a PRC if they intend to stay overnight. Adults without clearance must be supervised or paired with a registered leader.

The leaders are always looking for interesting places to visit, relevant guest speakers, or activities of interest to Scout-age youth. If you have a hobby or have a connection to a person or company you think

we would be interested in visiting (or having visit us), please let us know. Some of our best outings have been arranged by a parent!

4.1. *Group Committee*

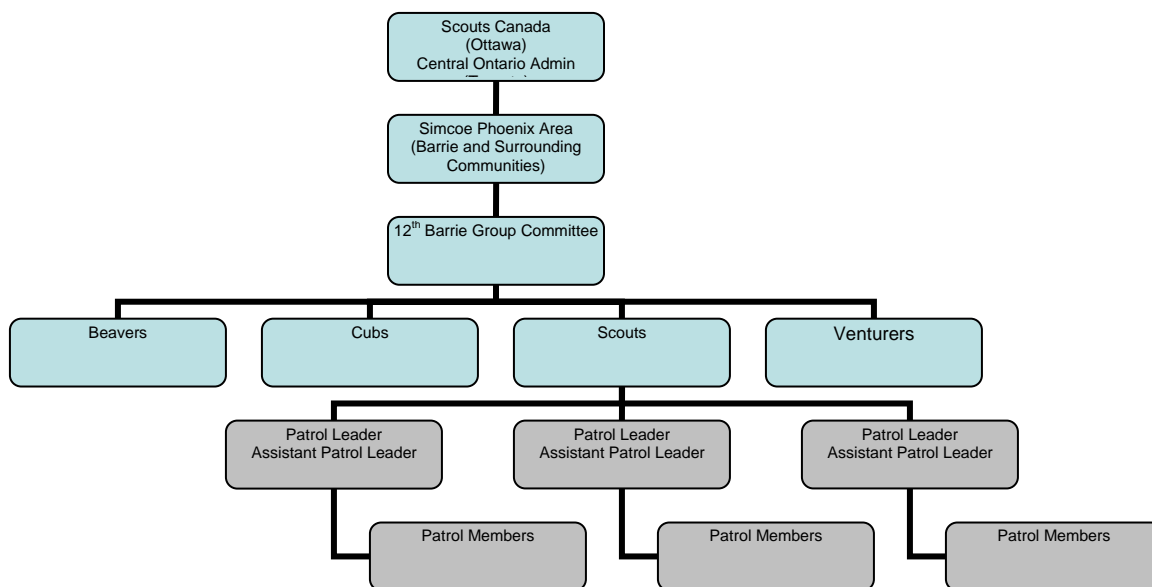
The 12th Barrie Group Committee is a group of individuals (some are parents with youth, some are simply volunteers) who handle the administrative side of our program. Our Group Commissioner, Donna Tomlinson, oversees the operation of all sections (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers). She reviews and approves troop outing application forms and will occasionally visit our meetings to monitor the program delivery. The Group Committee (including representation from our troop leadership team) meets monthly. Our Treasurer is Deb Jacklin. Deb oversees the group expenditures and receives financial statements from the troop for each event. All cheques are made out to '12th Barrie Scouts' and flow through the group books. Our Group secretary is Lisa Wright.

Throughout the year the group will be looking for volunteers to assist with the annual family banquet, the BBQ, Santa Claus Parade, etc. Please consider offering your assistance. It makes event planning and delivery easier when we have several volunteers.

We are looking for a volunteer to act as the Group Quartermaster. The job entails maintaining an inventory spreadsheet showing the condition of equipment, where it's located and whether it's signed out/in to a leader and when it's expected back. A periodic check on condition is required. At present we do not have a secure facility to store equipment. Consequently, we have equipment located at several leaders homes, the school, Trinity Church, etc. We've recently added some more expensive camping equipment and do not want it to go missing.

4.2. *Scouts Canada Organization*

For those new to Scouting, the organization terms can be confusing. The diagram below is a simplification of structure. The 12th Barrie Group is made up of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts (including Sea Scouts) and Venturer sections. Several groups across the area from Barrie to Elmvale to Base Borden to Alcona make up Simcoe Phoenix Area. Some events will be organized at the Area level meaning several troops will participate. Simcoe Phoenix Area is one of several Areas within Shining Waters Council. Several Councils from central Ontario report to the Central Ontario Administration office in Toronto. This office reports to the National Scouts Canada office in Ottawa. For those Scouts wearing the traditional Scout uniform, these badges appear on the left arm from the top of the shoulder: the 12th Barrie crest, underneath is the Simcoe Phoenix badge then the Shining Waters Council crest.



5. Financial Considerations

The 12th Barrie group works diligently to keep costs down. The group also does fund raisers throughout the year to help reduce our operating costs. We will work with parents to ensure all youth have an opportunity to experience Scouting. This involves assisting with other agencies who help offset or subsidize the cost of Scouting. If you are in a situation where a camp fee or the cost of the program is a problem, please talk to Scouter Wayne or our Group Commissioner, Donna Tomlinson (dl_tomlinson@hotmail.com or 728-1975).

Each week we collect 'dues' of \$1.00 from each Scout. This revenue pays for the badge program and minor expenses we incur (cooking items, hot chocolate, cookies, soccer balls, etc). The dues are collected by the Patrols (group of Scouts), recorded in their record books and turned in to our financial Scouter. If dues are missed, each missed week while the Scout is in attendance is expected to be made up. If the problem persists, we'll discuss the issue with the parents.

5.1. *Special Events*

Special events are those over and above the normal Scout year program. These events are optional and most often require additional effort on the part of the parents and the Scouts to prepare for – both financially and in terms of training.

This past summer we had two groups of Scouts from 12th Barrie attending two separate special events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Scouting. One unit attended the World Jamboree held in England. Another group attended the Canadian Jamboree in Quebec. The WJ group started fundraising over a year in advance. The CJ group spent 8 months raising funds. In some cases we require a commitment from a large number of families to attempt a particular fundraiser. The leaders are not in a position to take on these special events without the time commitment of a core group of families.

The next World Jamboree is in Sweden in 2011. All Scouts today are eligible to attend. Scouter Barry will be expanding his invite to include other troops from the Simcoe Phoenix (Barrie) Area. There may be some fundraising events this year with the proceeds going towards the Scouts attending this Jamboree.

At the moment, the next Canadian Jamboree has not been announced. The Jamborees are traditionally 4 years apart, alternating between CJ and WJ every 2 years.

In summer 2008, the 12th Barrie is investigating attending the Haliburton Scout Reserve (HSR). This is the largest youth camp in Canada and attracts Scouts from all over Canada and US.

6. Equipment and Clothing

Scouts do not require the latest high tech invention to participate in the program. They do, however, require some basic equipment. Our uniform for the weekly meetings is the Scouts Canada T-shirt (most youth have selected the orange colour). This is available at the Scout Shop. Once a Scout has progressed, you may wish to consider purchasing the tan Scout shirt. This shirt is the more formal attire used in ceremonies, church functions, etc. It is not necessary to purchase the Scout shirt immediately.

The school gym requires that we wear appropriate (clean) shoes. During the winter months this means bringing a separate pair of shoes and leaving outdoor shoes/boots in the foyer.

Scouts should always come prepared to go outside. Our evening program could be run entirely outdoors. In the winter months, this means wearing a warm coat, boots, hat and mitts/gloves.

The 12th Barrie neckerchief will be awarded to all Scouts who have learned the Scout promise and law. We wear the necker at all Scouting events, meetings and outings. During winter months, the necker is worn on top of the coat. This allows us to spot our members easily and identifies the Scout as a member of 12th Barrie Scouts.

Camping in the fall and spring means wearing appropriate clothing for the outdoors as well as sleeping equipment. Summer weight sleeping bags may not be adequate. Two sleeping bags may be placed one inside the other to increase warmth. A personal equipment list will be sent home prior to camp. Again, Scouts do not require the best equipment but do require adequate equipment to stay warm, dry and comfortable.

Occasionally equipment must be thoroughly cleaned or dried following a Scout camp and returned the following week. We'll attempt to ensure this hardship is shared equally or ideally, all equipment is cleaned at camp (or dried) and doesn't require this treatment. Unfortunately, we do not live in an ideal world.

7. Permission and Medical Forms

Permission forms will be sent home prior to all hikes, camps and other outings. The forms must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned. Copies of the consent forms must be readily available to the Group Commissioner and the Troop Scouter. Scouts are not permitted to attend these events without the necessary signed paperwork.

Medical conditions are disclosed on the membership application form. This information is kept confidential, however, medical conditions are made known to all registered Scout leaders. These leaders are responsible for the safety and well being of Scouts. If your Scout has a medical condition that you do not wish disclosed, please discuss with me. I'll pass along the level of detail necessary to the other leaders.

A summary of medical conditions will appear as a paragraph on each permission form. Should medical conditions change, please inform me so the records may be updated.

8. Badge Program

The 12th Barrie Scout troop takes great pride in promoting the [Scouts Canada](#) badge program. If you do not own the Scout Handbook (orange book), we suggest you consider acquiring one. It provides the details behind the program.

12th Barrie Scouts is pleased to have received again the 2006-2007 Bob Edwards Quality Award. This award is presented to those sections running a quality program. The criteria include outdoor events, inter-troop and inter-section linking, family events, leader training, to name a few.

There are two streams to the badge program: Achievement badges and Challenge badges. The Achievement badges are the square ones. They have several requirements and normally take some time and effort to achieve. Throughout the Scouting year, we'll be planning events, camps, hikes, etc with the purpose of providing an opportunity to complete the badge sections. In fact, many Scouts complete 90% of badge requirements by simply participating in our activities. The Achievement levels cover the typical three years in Scouting: Voyageur level (year one), Pathfinder level (year two) and Chief Scout level (year three). The Challenge badges are personal or individual effort badges. These are the round badges. They are normally done at home and recognize an individual's personal effort in such areas as pet care, team sports, recycling, collecting, etc.

We'll maintain an electronic copy of the badge records and periodically print or email your son/daughter's progress. We encourage you to review their progress and send us a note with corrections or additions. Scouts wishing to pass a badge requirement are asked to speak with a Scouter at the start of a meeting. We'll attempt to work in some time to ask a few questions to verify the work completed. This year we'll also be working from Achievement Workbooks. These are sheets with space to fill in the answers. Again, we encourage Scouts to complete as much as possible at home and hand in at the start of the meeting.

The Achievement, Challenge, Religion-In-Life, World Conservation, First Aid badges (to name a few) are official badges worn either on the uniform or a red sash (purchased at the Scout Shop). Participation badges are often handed out and are not worn on the uniform or sash. Participation badges may be saved in a box (some use these to trade with others) or sewn on a campfire blanket or vest.

9. Contacts

The troop leader for 12th Barrie is Wayne Morrison. He can be reached at ScouterWayne@rogers.com, home number is 739-9665, cell number is (416) 457-3901.

The Group Committee Chair is Donna Tomlinson, dl_tomlinson@hotmail.com or 728-1975.

The Patrol Leader names and their phone numbers will be communicated in the next couple of weeks.