

# Rovering? What's That?



A Beginner's Guide to  
Rovers in Canada

Heard about Rovers and wondered what they're all about? This pamphlet is designed to introduce you to Rovering and provide a brief description of what we are about..

If you already know about Scouting, check out the companion booklet, 'Everything you wanted to know about Rovers, but were afraid to ask.'

### **WHAT'S A ROVER?**

Rovers are the senior program section of Scouts Canada. We're males and females aged 18 to 26 years old, and meet in groups called Crews. Crews choose their activities based on the interests of their members, under the mentorship of their Advisors.

The Rover Program uses the following program activity areas to help guide Rovers in choosing things to do: Leadership Skills, Life Skills, Communication Skills, Spiritual and Social Issues, Personal Interests and Outdoor Activities.

### **WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU DO AS A CREW?**

There are many things that you and your Crew can do. You can go camping or canoeing. You can help with special events for other sections or even plan them yourselves. For example, help out with at an event with one of Scouts Canada's a younger sections or an orienteering course. Take some extra training like a First Aid course. Or take part in multi-Crew events. The only limit to what you can do is your imagination.

### **HOW DOES A CREW CONDUCT ITS MEETINGS?**

This will depend on how the members of your Crew feel. If the Crew follows a theme, then you may want to model your meetings to keep the atmosphere of this theme. However, most Crews are using the basic business setting to run their meetings. They have one person who chairs the meeting and leads the discussion. It is entirely up to your Crew members to decide on how the meetings are run.

### **SHOULD WE USE THE KNIGHTHOOD THEME?**

When Baden-Powell (B.P.), founder of Scouting, created the Rover Section, he modeled it after the Knights of the Round Table from England. Some people feel that this particular theme is outdated, while others believe it is what has kept the Rover tradition alive for so long.

Some Crews use the Knighthood theme and go all out in its use by wearing full Knight's armor to meetings. Another Crew will use only bits and pieces of the Knighthood theme, like the titles for the Executive positions and the Squireship. Some Crews do not use the Theme at all, while still others use a different theme altogether. There are Search and Rescue Crews, Naval Crews, and various Vocational Crews throughout Canada. The decision to become a "Themed Crew" should be made by all the Crew members. And once you choose a theme, it is not engraved in stone. After a time you may wish to change the theme of the Crew. But again, the decision should be made by the whole Crew.

## **HOW DOES YOUR CREW INCORPORATE YOUR THEME INTO THE THINGS YOU DO?**

Activities that your Crew does do not necessarily have to be theme-related. However, ways in which Crews have incorporated theme ideas into everyday Crew activities are:

- Performing ceremonies (investiture, taking on an Executive position) in the style of your theme
- Naming Crew Executive positions in the style of your theme
- A Crew code of Conduct taken from the theme.

## **WHAT CAN WE DO FOR FUNDRAISING?**

Rovers have a difficult time finding ways to fundraise, especially if the other sections in the group are already fundraising. However some Crews have thought up of some creative ideas to get the money they need to keep going. Some Crews perform Silk Screening at events (with the permission of the organizers) and produce T-shirts and such. Others set up an annual fund-raiser like selling cheese or Christmas Trees. Scouts Canada has official fundraising programs that you can participate in. You could even use some of the special talents in your Crew, like airbrushing or leather work, to make some money. It doesn't take a lot of creativity to think up new ways to do fundraising.

## **WHAT ARE MOOTS?**

A moot is a camp for Rovers. It involves a bunch of activities for the Crew to participate in, and a chance for Rovers from all over to meet each other and see old friends. There are several moots each month, and each has some kind of theme associated with the weekend. Many of the moots are advertised well in advance. It's a great way to meet new people.

### **HOW MUCH SERVICE SHOULD OUR CREW DO?**

There are no set requirements or quotas to determine how much service a Crew should, or must do. The amount of service done is up to the members. Some Crews focus their entire program on providing a service, like Search and Rescue, while others concentrate on other aspects of the Rover program. As a Crew, you should decide how important Service is to you. But remember two things; our motto is "Service", and we are here to have fun.

### **WHAT KIND OF AWARDS ARE THERE FOR ROVERS?**

There are several awards that are just for Rovers specifically (for example, the Rambler Badge and National Certificate). There may also be awards given out by your Area, Council and National Councils. Rovers may also wear agency awards on their uniforms (including Standard First Aid, National Life Saving, National lifeguard, Duke of Edinburgh, etc.) Please check with your local Scout Office for the current information.

### **WHAT KIND OF RESOURCES DO WE HAVE? WHERE CAN WE GO FOR HELP?**

Many Councils have a Regional Rover Round Table, who would be more than willing to provide information and advice to your Crew. The Central Canada Rover Round Table (CCRRT) is another resource. They can put you in touch with a number of people who have valuable experience. Other Rovers in your Area are great resources as well. They can help plan, and participate in events with your Crew. There are many people knowledgeable about Rovering who are just a phone call or email away, and have access to a lot of

information and ideas. The Rover handbook can help to give you program ideas to get you started if you are a new Crew. Your Crew Advisor is there to give their sagely advice in times of need; don't forget about them. As well, your local Scouting Office will have people you can contact. The resources are there for you to use, it's up to you to seek them out.

### **WHAT'S A ROUND TABLE?**

A Round Table is a meeting of Rovers. There are various levels of Round Tables. There are Regional/ Area Round Tables and Provincial Round Table. The purpose is to maintain communications between the Crews, provide information about upcoming events and training, and to promote Rovering at that level. Often Round Tables move their meeting locations around so that the same people aren't always traveling the furthest to get there.

### **WHAT KIND OF STUFF SHOULD WE BE DOING?**

Fun stuff. There is no point in doing it if it's not fun right?

Stuff you're interested in or want to learn more about. You can use one of the program activity areas of the Rover Program to give your Crew some ideas. Basically you should be doing stuff that you want to do and helps to develop yourself as a Crew, as a Rover, and as a person.

### **HOW DO I KNOW IF THIS CREW IS FOR ME?**

One of the great things about Rovers is that you can choose which Crew you join. As well, the Crew also has a say in recruiting new members. This isn't meant

to keep new people out; if you find that you and the prospective Crew aren't interested in the same things, then you can continue to search out another Crew to join.

When deciding if you want to join a Crew, ask yourself the following questions:

- What kind of activities does the Crew do?
- Is there any kind of theme they follow?
- How often does the Crew meet, and where?
- What does the Crew expect from its members?
- Are there any types of dues?

If you're interested in high-adventure camping, don't join a Crew that is very service-oriented. You want to select a Crew that does the kind of things that you are interested in, and who will help you achieve your goals. Otherwise both you and the Crew will be unhappy.

### **WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?**

- A chance to learn more about yourself, and what you can do.
- Meet new and interesting people and make lasting friendships.
- Doing things you never thought you would be doing before.
- An opportunity to learn new skills and try different activities you might not have had the chance to do before.

Most importantly, you get to develop yourself into a better person.

**I'M INTERESTED - NOW WHAT?**

Talk to the people who gave you this pamphlet and start the process of finding a Crew that's right for you.

**Local Contacts:**

University of Waterloo Rover Crew  
[uw\\_rovers@bigfoot.com](mailto:uw_rovers@bigfoot.com)  
[http://www.bigfoot.com/~uw\\_rovers](http://www.bigfoot.com/~uw_rovers)

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Or contact your local Scout Office and ask for some Crews in your area. Scouts Canada's national website ([www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca)) has phone numbers and email addresses.

The material in this document was originally developed by the Ontario Rover Round Table (ORRT). It has been revised and re-released by the University of Waterloo Rover Crew. (2004)