

Apr-Jun 2025 -

SCOUTING

IN CANADA



FEATURED
BEAVERS VISIT FIRE
HALL
ISSUE NO.04

SCOUTING Around:
Learn to Camp National Expansion
Camp Samac "SCENES" certification
Volunteers Spotlight
World Scout Moot Live



Table of Contents

MY VISIT TO FIRE HALL #5 IN BURNABY

06

A story written by Gael, a 6-year-old Blue Tail Beaver Scout, who shares his exciting adventure visiting Fire Hall #5 in Burnaby, BC with his Beaver Scout group. From climbing into a fire truck to learning how to stay safe in an emergency, Gael takes us through a day full of fun, learning, and appreciation for the brave firefighters.

EXPANDING HORIZONS: LEARN TO CAMP GROWS ACROSS CANADA

10

Weekly camping skill sessions, gaining practical, hands-on experience in real-time.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

12

Meet some of the volunteers around Canada that are inspiring others and are working to leave this world better than we found it.

STEAL THE "SCENES" LIKE CAMP SAMAC

14

Camp Samac became our 6th property to earn SCENES (Scout Centres of Excellence for Nature and Environment) accreditation.



16TH WORLD SCOUT MOOT LIVE FROM PORTUGAL

16

International Patrols will explore nature, culture, adventure and community over six days on various trails, exploring the rich history from Portugal.



SCOUT POPCORN 2025

21

Our biggest national fundraiser program is bringing something extra flavourful



Editor-in-Chief

Gustavo Hinojos

gustavo.hinojos@scouts.ca

Ambar Varela

Editorial Correction and Supervision

Photographers

GHH

Sonia V

Alexandre Gomes

Diana Oliveira

Gonçalo Pinto

Ivo de Jong

Joao Silva

Pedro Corte-Real Gonçalves

Contributing Writers

GHV

Ambar Varela

Gael H

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FROM THE EDITOR

This past weekend, I returned from a camping trip—exhausted but fulfilled. Despite the fatigue, I immediately joined my wife in supporting a new Scout group. That moment reminded me of something deeply rooted in Scouting: Scouts should face challenges with a cheerful and optimistic spirit, even while being prepared. That spirit gave us renewed energy and hope.

Scouts Canada is currently undergoing a period of change and restructuring. Like the mythical phoenix, transformation often requires letting go of what no longer serves us—whether outdated decisions or ineffective leadership—so that something stronger and more vibrant can rise in its place. This is not just a renewal; it’s an opportunity to build a better organization for the youth of today and tomorrow.

On a personal note, my time as staff is coming to an end. However, my journey with Scouting is far from over. As a father of three, my commitment remains steadfast: I want my children to grow in a safe, empowering organization that offers them—and all youth—the chance to explore Canada and the world, and to become active contributors to a better future.

Let’s embrace this moment of change with courage, optimism, and unity. The path ahead may be challenging, but together, we can shape a Scouts Canada that truly reflects the values we hold dear.

Now is the time for all of us—volunteers, staff, parents, and youth—to lean in. Let’s be part of this transformation. Let’s speak up, support new groups, mentor new leaders, and help shape the future of Scouts Canada. Together, we can ensure that our movement continues to thrive and inspire generations to come.

GUSTAVO HINOJOS
Editor-in-Chief



CORRESPONDENCE



29th

**Interamerican Scout Conference
Conferencia Scout Interamericana
CURAÇAO 2025**

Interamerican Scout Conference 2025

30 Oct -2 Nov 2025 @ Willemstad, Curaçao

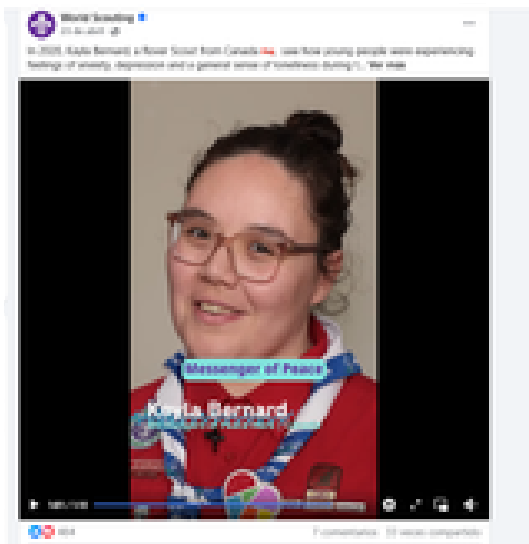
Join Scout leaders from all the Interamerican Region in this 4-day event for decision-making sessions, workshops, cultural exchange, strategic planning, networking, and of course... lots of fun!

- 35 Member Organizations from 36 countries around the Interamerican Scout Region will meet again.
- Institutional Sessions for decision-making and Workshops to prepare us for the next triennium.
- Kick-off of the new Regional Plan based on the new Strategy for Scouting approved in Egypt 2024.

World Scouting -Facebook Featured News

In 2020, Kayla Bernard, a Rover Scout from Canada, saw how young people were experiencing feelings of anxiety, depression and a general sense of loneliness during the COVID-19 pandemic and decided to take action!

Kayla launched the project 'Heart in a Box', creating and shipping over 1,000 at-home art and mindfulness kits to support the mental health and well-being of youth across Nova Scotia! Young people were able to explore different art mediums while also learning simple mindfulness techniques to help them cope with stress.



Interamerican Youth Forum

Youth Forum is a renewed space for education, dialogue, and youth-led action—bringing together young people from across the Interamerican Region to connect, share, and shape a better world through Scouting. Now, it's time to take the next step!

Held within the framework of International Youth Day, the event will take place on August 16 and 17, 2025, in virtual mode, using our own event platform.



BEAVERS VISIT FIRE HALL TO LEARN FIRE SAFETY SKILLS

By Gael H - Beaver Scout (age 6)
Photography by GH



Do you know your local Fire Hall, well this beavers take an adventure and went to visit the Burnaby Fire Hall #5

My Visit to Fire Hall #5 in Burnaby!

One day, our Beaver Scout group went on a super cool adventure to Fire Hall #5 in Burnaby, BC! We were so excited because we were going to meet real firefighters and see where they work.

When we got there, the firefighters told us something important: this is an active fire hall, which means if there's an emergency, they have to leave right away. And guess what? While we were there, the alarm actually went off! It wasn't a big emergency, but one of the fire trucks had to go. We all watched it drive out with its lights on—it was awesome!

We were like real firefighters

The firefighters were super nice and showed us all their equipment. We even got to climb inside a fire truck! It was huge and had so many buttons and tools. Then, they showed us how they put on their full firefighter suit—it looked heavy but really cool.

And the best part? I got to use a real fire hose! A firefighter helped me aim at a cone, and we all got a little splash of water. It was so much fun!



Good to know
when you visit an active Fire Hall, they are on duty and if they get a call they have to leave and run the the emergency.





Fire Safety Tips We Learned:

The firefighters also taught us how to stay safe. Here are some of the tips they shared:

- Know your address so you can tell it to 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- Don't hide during a fire—go outside and stay outside!
- Stop, drop, and roll if your clothes ever catch fire.
- Check smoke alarms at home with your parents to make sure they work.
- Have a family escape plan and practice it together.

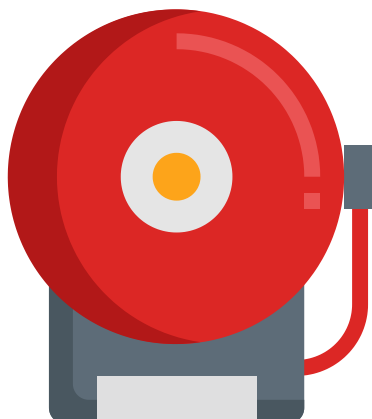
What I Learned and Why It Matters

Visiting the fire hall was one of the best days ever! I learned that firefighters are real-life heroes. They are always ready to help people, even if it means leaving in the middle of talking to us. They are brave, strong, and super kind.

I also learned that emergency services like firefighters, police, and paramedics are very important. They keep us safe when there are fires, accidents, or other scary things. That's why we should always listen to them, say thank you, and remember what they teach us.

At the end, we all said a big thank you to the firefighters for showing us around and keeping everyone safe. Then we went back home with big smiles and lots of stories to tell.

Emergency services like firefighters, police, and paramedics are very important, I want to be brave like them one day!



Hi! My name is Gael and I just turned 6 years old! This is my second year in Beavers, so now I'm a Blue Tail—that means I get to help the younger ones.

I love going on camping trips with my family, roasting marshmallows, and sleeping in a tent under the stars. I also love playing with my brothers, running around, and building cool things with legos.

Writing this story about our visit to Fire Hall #5 was super fun because I got to share everything I saw and learned. I hope you liked it!



"THE OPEN-AIR IS THE REAL OBJECTIVE OF
SCOUTING AND THE KEY TO ITS SUCCESS."
ROBERT BADEN-POWELL







EXPANDING HORIZONS: LEARN TO CAMP GROWS ACROSS CANADA

By Wayfinders NPS

Whether you're a seasoned outdoor enthusiast or taking your first steps into the wilderness, Wayfinders invites you to join us on a journey of discovery, exploration, and growth. Together, let's carve pathways to a brighter future for generations to come. Since its launch on March 9, 2024, the Wayfinders Learn to Camp program has been igniting a passion for the outdoors in youth across Canada. What began as a local initiative has now expanded into three major cities—Winnipeg, Ottawa, and Vancouver—bringing nature-based learning and leadership development to even more young adventurers.

A Strong Start in Vancouver

In Vancouver, 13 dynamic youth kicked off the program with an immersive 8-week training at Camp McLean in Langley, where they learned everything from campfire safety to wilderness first aid. Their journey culminated in a thrilling weekend excursion at Camp Barnard in Sooke, BC, where they put their new skills to the test and deepened their connection with nature—and each other.

Later in the year, from September to October 2024, a second cohort gathered at Warner Loat Park in Burnaby for weekly hands-on sessions. These sessions built confidence and competence in real-time outdoor scenarios, ending with another exciting camping trip to Camp Barnard in early November. The experience promoted mental and physical well-being, environmental awareness, and personal growth.



A National Expansion

Building on the success in BC, the Learn to Camp program proudly expanded to Winnipeg and Ottawa in 2025. These new locations welcomed enthusiastic youth and dedicated volunteers, all eager to embrace the outdoors and build essential life skills. The expansion was met with overwhelming support from local communities, and the program quickly became a highlight for families and youth organizations alike.

Powered by Volunteers, Fueled by Passion

This expansion wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of our volunteers, who brought energy, expertise, and heart to every session. Their dedication helped create a safe, inclusive, and inspiring environment where youth could thrive.

Looking Ahead

As we continue to grow, the Learn to Camp program remains committed to empowering youth through outdoor education. With every tent pitched and trail explored, we're not just teaching camping skills—we're nurturing resilience, teamwork, and a lifelong love for nature.

**WEEKLY CAMPING SKILL
SESSIONS, GAINING
PRACTICAL, HANDS-ON
EXPERIENCE IN REAL-TIME**



Also check this blog post by one of the Volunteers in BC :
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/VQ1oTvq50_WyFV1l1siwQ

AIDAN FREER CHAMPIONING INCLUSIVE SPACES IN SCOUTING

Aidan Freer, a dedicated Scouter with the 1st Sooke Company, is helping to shape a more welcoming and inclusive Scouting experience for all. Recognizing the importance of belonging, Aidan led the launch of a pilot social group that provides a safe, supportive space for youth to connect, share, and build friendships.

Beyond this initiative, Aidan actively contributes to youth leadership training and plays a key role in supporting Council open houses. Their leadership, compassion, and commitment to inclusive values continue to inspire both youth and fellow Scouters, strengthening our Movement and community one step at a time.

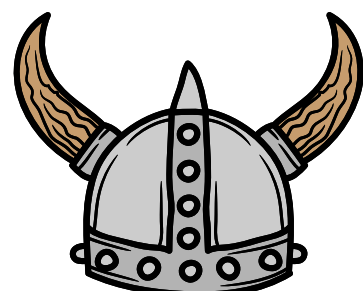


NEIL ZLIPKO LEADING WITH HEART AND HUMILITY



For the past 14 years, Neil Zlipko has been a dedicated force behind the success of 1st Lakeview Heights. As Group Commissioner, and as a Colony and Company Scouter, Neil brings warmth, encouragement and a steadfast commitment to youth. He also serves on the Camp Boyle committee, helping strengthen outdoor experiences for Scouts in his region.

Under Neil's supportive leadership, the group has grown to welcome 141 youth, a reflection of his belief in saying "yes" to every young person who wants to join the adventure. His generosity and dedication have been recognized with the Certificate of Meritorious Conduct and the Bar to the Medal of Good Service, honors that speak to his exceptional service and compassionate approach to Scouting.



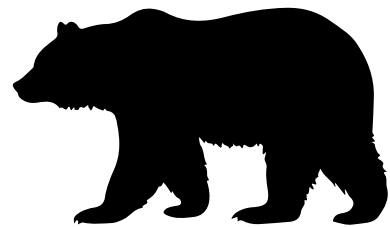
GEMMA LENARDUZZI

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT 1ST BEAR ROVER CREW



Gemma, from 1st BEAR Rover Crew is an incredible volunteer making waves across Cascadia Council. From serving as a Colony Scouter at multiple groups to championing mental health efforts and helping lead planning for the 2025 Youth Leadership Training event, Gemma's energy and passion shine brightly. Her awards, including the Chief Scout Award and the Medal of the Maple, show just how much she gives to the Scouting community.

"We're incredibly grateful for all she contributes to our community" said Jennifer Hannah, Cascadia Council Relationship Manager.



SYLVAIN JOANIS

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT 1ST AYLMER GROUP

Since joining the 1st Aylmer group at the age of seven, Sylvain's Scouting journey has been full of skill-building adventures. Now a key member of our Translation Volunteer Network, Sylvain brings his talents to help Scouting communications reach even more people across Canada.

"My best Scouting moment happened during the 25th World Scout Jamboree, where I realized that, without Scouting, I could not have become the person I am today."





STEAL THE “SCENES” LIKE CAMP SAMAC

*By Ambar Varela in collaboration with Lewis Williams,
Camp Samac's Scenes Committee Lead.*



In May, Camp Samac became our 6th property to earn SCENES (Scout Centres of Excellence for Nature and Environment) accreditation. Its success is more about people, partnerships and persistence than paperwork. Would you like to be our next environmental flagship?





SCENES IS A NETWORK OF LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHERE SCOUTS CAN EXPERIENCE THE THREE FUNDAMENTAL ROLES OF NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN SCOUTING

Lewis shared that Brian Wick, Whitby Area Commissioner, suggested that this certification matched what volunteers were doing already: "We could see that the camp had heat pumps, and we got Wi-Fi, and connections were made with an arborist school, and they started to clean up our forests that have been wrecked with ice storms and windstorms (...) Debby Corneal was tasked with starting a program committee, and we now have a program cabin dedicated to activities connected to Scouting so that when people come in to rent our facilities, they have really interesting activities for the youth to do."

How could you start?

1. Recruit a multi-disciplinary team. Carpenters rebuilt an off-grid Nature and Tree Centre complete with microscope and Wi-Fi. Train new generations to prevent burnout.
2. Review what you're currently offering at the camp.
3. Seasonal weather sessions and 16 badge-ready activities linked to the Canadian Path and Earth Tribes goals became environmental education.
4. Establish partnerships that add expertise at no cost: Durham College produced a curriculum manual. Friends of Second Marsh will plant indigenous trees this November.
5. Invasive-species removal days build morale and fill social media with inspiration for potential donors. Marketing based upon SCENES signage and online stories reassure sponsors who back excellence.
6. Ask for support: Grants from Retired Teachers of Ontario and Canada's "The 2 Billion Trees" program (2BT) funded equipment and saplings.
7. Generate revenue: Scouts, Guides, and community rentals increased, providing income and sustainability.

What's next?

- They're currently building "Samac Nature Encyclopedia" as a resource book.
- Over the summer, they'll work with the five categories in the Canadian Path (earth, air, space, water, science) of Personal Achievement Badges to link them with the SCENES' four themes, and the Nature Centre to produce a Scouter reference book.

16TH WORLD SCOUT MOOT PORTUGAL

What is happening at the World Scout Moot?

From Lisbon to the coast, mountains, and beyond, the Canadian Contingent is making waves at the 16th World Scout Moot in Portugal!

Our Scouts have been soaking up every moment: hiking scenic trails, tasting local cuisine, and connecting with fellow Scouts from around the world. At the same time, our IST team has been the heartbeat behind the scenes, making sure every experience shines.



16

Issue No.04 | Scouting in Canada

DAY 1

The first day was all about setting the up camp and bringing the spirit of Scouting to life. And to wrap it up, we already had our first welcome party!

This is the beginning of what will be the biggest and most diverse Moot ever.



THE THEME OF THE MOOT IS TO ENGAGE - WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH PORTUGAL!

At Parque Papa Francisco in Lisboa! The Opening Ceremony was filled with energy, unity, and Scout spirit, featuring inspiring words from the President of the Lisboa City Council, two representatives from WOSM, Inês Graça and Ivo Faria, and many other special guests.

We danced a little, sang a little, and most importantly - we filled Lisboa with positive energy! Now, it's time to carry that spirit across Portugal.





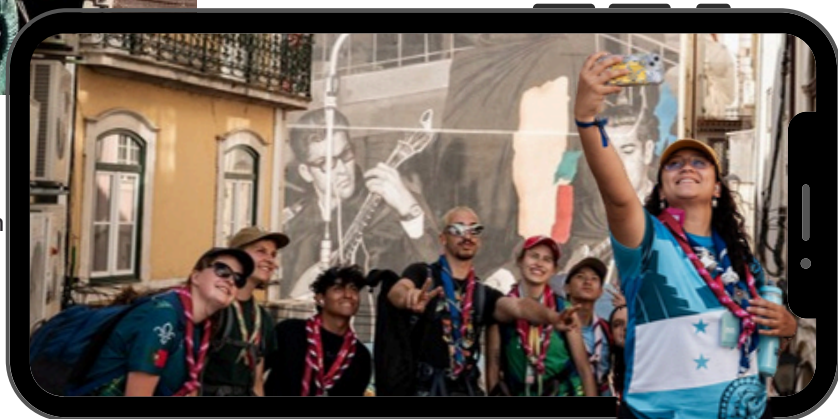
But what happened in the morning hasn't stopped here.

Scouts also visited Machico, in the Madeira Island, a city with a strong fishing tradition and spectacular views. And there was time for a dance.



From Aveiro to Madeira Island and Açores, there is so much to see
Getting to know local traditions, handmaking Portuguese sweets, and much more.

The paths has started in the best way!
Some of our scouts went down the Vouga River, and some others went to make masks in Aigra Nova Made out of cork, these masks are used during the Carnival in the Góis villages, in the north of Portugal



Mountain, city, village. From the north to the island, the scouts today did a lot!

In the mountains of Gerês, they felt the freshness of the waterfall on their feet, the energising air of the top of the mountain and their beautiful sights.

They discovered the city of Funchal in Madeira Island - that is closer to Africa than Portugal's mainland.

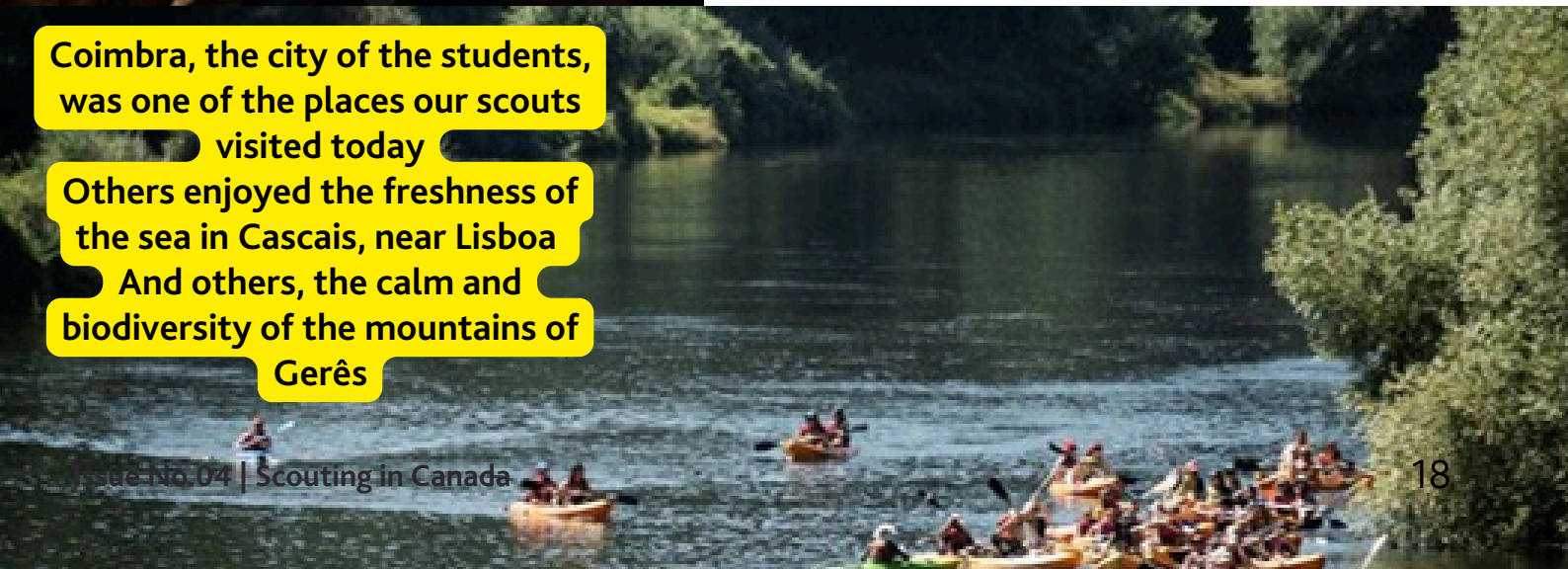
And they helped a local community and learned more about the forest and how to take care of it.

These are just some of the experiences that people in the paths are living

Coimbra, the city of the students, was one of the places our scouts visited today

Others enjoyed the freshness of the sea in Cascais, near Lisboa

And others, the calm and biodiversity of the mountains of Gerês





The Paths at the World Scout Moot has taken young people on unforgettable adventures across Portugal

Scouts hiked the breathtaking trails of Gerês, explored the rich history of Coimbra through a city-wide game, and paddled along the scenic Mondego River from Penacova to Coimbra by kayak. In another path, participants hiked to a hidden waterfall, ending with a refreshing swim.

Meanwhile, the main camp is preparing to welcome back all participants

With over 100 paths happening across the country, each path offers unforgettable memories and meaningful connections, the essence of the Moot spirit. From climbing the highest point in Portugal (Pico, 2351 m) , to standing at Cabo da Roca, the westernmost tip of Europe, the journey is as bold as it is beautiful.

7,500 PARTICIPANTS AND VOLUNTEERS CAME TOGETHER IN LISBON



Mcot

16TH
WORLD SCOUT
SCOUT MONDIAL
PORTUGAL 2025



Get ready to fundraise this fall with Scout Popcorn 2025

Scout Popcorn 2025

As your Scout group catches some rays this summer, pop into adventure with Scout Popcorn 2025. Our biggest national fundraiser program is bringing something extra flavourful through our new partnership with Kernels Popcorn, our provider of high-quality, Canadian-made scrumptious popcorn. The campaign is running from September 3rd to November 3rd.

You asked and we listened

Scout Popcorn now comes with free shipping to all our distribution hubs across the country. Sell popcorn in your community without the worry of additional costs. That's more fundraising dollars in your pocket to attend the 26th World Scout Jamboree Poland 2027 or gear up for an upcoming camping trip. With 27 distribution hubs across the country to choose from, our trusted partners at AMJ Campbell make pickup smooth and simple.



Here's how it works:



1. Register your group.
2. Access and instructions to set up your My Scout Group Shop Online Fundraising Dashboard will be emailed to you in early August.
3. Sell Scout Popcorn online through My Scout Group Shop from September 3rd to November 3rd.
4. At the end of the selling period, Scouts Canada will email you a list of customers that purchased popcorn through your group. These are the customers you will need to distribute popcorn to.
5. Kernels will make the popcorn for all orders and ship it all at the end of the campaign. You will pick up all your popcorn orders from your selected Distribution Hub at a scheduled pickup date between late November to early December.
6. Organize with your customers when they will receive or pickup their order from your Group.

Collect sales through your Group's online Fundraising Dashboard

My Scout Group Shop is your all-in-one fundraising platform! Promote your campaign through your Group's personalized Fundraising Dashboard for broader reach and donations. My Scout Group Shop provides an interactive way for the community to stay involved in the hard work and achievements of their local Scout Groups while providing Groups with a seamless way to collect donations to fund their next adventure. Funds raised through national fundraisers and designated donations will reflect on their dashboard to engage supporters.

Achieve Your Fundraising Goals with Ease

Whether you're planning a camping trip, launching a community project, or upgrading your gear, our fundraising tools are here to help you succeed.

Explore ready-to-use resources including order sheets, brochures, and selling tips — all available in the D.A.M. Brandfolder.

Have questions? Please contact popcorn@scouts.ca

The banner features a dark background with the text 'CAMP BYNG' in large, white, serif font, followed by 'SUMMER PROGRAMS 2025' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below this is a black button with the text 'BOOK NOW' in white. At the bottom, the website 'WWW.Scouts.ca/CAMPS/CAMP-BYNG.HTML' is listed, along with the location 'CAMP BYNG, LOCATED AT 2139 LOWER RD, ROBERTS CREEK, BC.' On the left, there are two polaroid-style photos: one of a person in an orange shirt archery and another of a person in a green shirt. On the right, there is a polaroid-style photo of three people in green shirts smiling. The background of the banner shows a large, stylized 'BYNG' in the background.

LET'S STAY CONNECTED



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