

Scouting Costs and Fundraising

Dear Parents and Youth,

With the start of the new Scouting (and Beaver, Cub and Venturer) year, also comes the activities and the fundraisers. As a parent I often wondered why all that fundraising is needed, especially considering the Registration fees just paid. As a Leader in Cubs, I began to see why these funds are needed, and what they are used for. As your new Commissioner, I can tell you how important fundraising is to the continued existence of the 137th Scouting Group.

WHY FUNDRAISE?

Simply put, the Group requires approximately \$2500 every year to pay for the overhead costs of providing the Scouting program to youth. This money is not frivolous. It pays for all the neckers, insignia, Leaders uniforms, Leaders registration and Leaders training: all of which are essential to meeting Scouts Canada requirements.

Leader training includes:

- Section-specific training (which is mandatory for all Leaders),
- First Aid and CPR,
- Specialized training (ie boat rescue) as applicable

Additional fundraising is also done for special event camps (such as Scouts Centennial Camp in July 2007) that your youth may be participating in.

FUNDRAISERS

The 137th participates in a number of fundraisers throughout the year. Three national ones are:

- Apple Day (last weekend in September),
- Scouts Popcorn (Oct-Nov),
- Scout Trees (May).

The Sections may also organize other fundraising events such as Beaver Movie Morning and bottle drives. Our Cubs currently have an idea for selling pumpkins before Halloween.

Other than the money, there is considerable benefit to youth participating in fundraising activities. They learn how to approach new people, make a polite request, explain what they are doing/selling. Older youth learn how to read others body language and adapt a sales pitch. Most importantly, youth learn how to accept rejection graciously and professionally. All these experiences develop useful skills for youth in their future.

WHEN AND WHERE?

We attempt to notify everyone as far in advance as possible of events requiring participation. Due to plans that can change, the best way to keep current is through this website <http://www.137thottawascouts.com>. Your Section will ask for sign-ups for specific times. Our maxim is "many hands make light work", so your maximum participation is required. It is not fair to Leaders nor the Leaders' children to carry the burden of fundraising for the benefit of the entire group.

The first fundraiser (Apple Day) is coming up this weekend. So sign up and enjoy the benefits of a great new Scouting year!

Yours in Scouting,

Sherry Oake

137th Ottawa Scouting Group