

Engaging Parents Program Facilitation

DESCRIPTION

There are many benefits to engaging parents in your program. Engaged parents are able to see the value that their children are getting from the program and do their best to help make it successful. Children of parents who are engaged in their Scouting program are much more likely to return to Scouts year after year. Engaged parents are more likely to volunteer as Scouters because they see how much fun Volunteers like you are having!

The bottom line is that an engaged group of parents will make your role as a Scouter much easier.

Note: We know that every family is unique. Duty of care for young people sometimes falls to other adults such as grandparents, aunts and uncles, or foster parents. For the purpose of this Scouter Development Card, we use the term "parents" to refer to anyone who has legal custody of a young person in Scouting.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

I understand why an engaged team of parents is important and can implement parent-engagement strategies.

- I can describe the key drivers of parent engagement.
- I can facilitate an orientation night for parents.
- I have facilitated at least two parent meetings.
- I understand the importance of involving parents in the seasonal review process.
- I have conducted a program review with parents.
- I have facilitated opportunities for youth to showcase personal progression and skill development to parents.
- I understand the importance of regular communication with parents and its effect on program quality.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- Your Section's Program Quality guide contains a suggested number of activities with parent participation per year.
- Invite your Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts to visit the Canadian Path website to discover exciting resources, like Trail Cards. These online resources will help your youth to plan their parent night.
- Remember to be inclusive! Define Scouting terms that may confuse parents.

I DON'T
KNOW...

I KNOW...

I CAN...

I HAVE...

Engaging Parents Program Facilitation

PLAN

- How would you rate the level of parent engagement at this moment?
- What steps can be taken to improve the overall level of parental support and engagement? What do you need to do to achieve this in the next six to twelve months?
- Where can you get support and advice?

DO

- Contact parents regularly for one-on-one conversations regarding youth's personal progress; involve them in goal setting and supporting their child's progress towards those goals. Ask them if they are still enjoying it; has anything changed since your last conversation?

- Hold seasonal parent information meetings to highlight all the Section's best features. Remember to get youth to help with this by sharing their stories!
- Become more familiar with parents; learn about their skills, what time they have available, their interests and motivations, and their previous Scouting experience.
- Debrief Scouters after one-on-one conversations and parent-engagement activities to share feedback on what happened and where to improve in the future.

REVIEW

- What insight did you gain and how did you apply it?
- What have you learned about parent engagement that helps you in your role?

SAFETY NOTE

- Familiarize all parents who are involved in Section activities with expectations and with the Code of Conduct. Remember to explain their role to youth, and remember that parents must work with two Scouters at all times.
- Any parent helping for the first time who intends to stay overnight must complete Safe Scouting for Parents Training, available through his or her **Myscouts.ca** account. This takes time, so make sure parents get enough notice of upcoming overnight outings.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- eLearning course: How to Engage Parents (DHLC ID 6530)
- **Scouts Canada Parent Engagement Resources**
- **Scouts Canada Code of Conduct**
- **Volunteer Screening Policy**
- **Orientation Guide for Parents**