

Facilitating the OAS Program

Program Facilitation

DESCRIPTION

Young people join Scouts to have adventures. These adventures can be hiking in a local conservation area, sailing a boat across a lake, exploring the local community, or planning and executing a multiday trip across Baffin Island. As part of The Canadian Path, Scouts Canada has developed a comprehensive Outdoor Adventure Skills (OAS) program. Each OAS pathway is divided into nine stages, with a badge awarded for each stage. The purpose of the OAS program is not the badges, however. The Outdoor Adventure Skills should be seen as tools to support the Plan-Do-Review cycle.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

I can facilitate the Outdoor Adventure Skills program for youth in my Section.

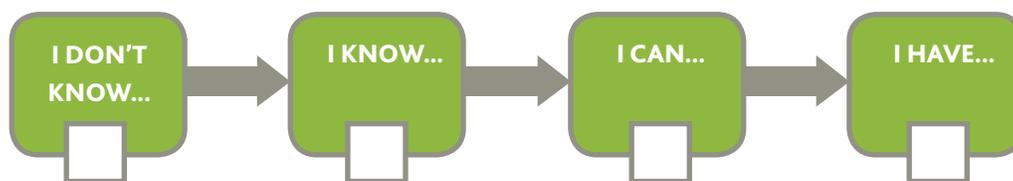
- I understand the role of OAS in marking the youth's personal progression through adventure.
- I understand that there are OAS competencies that I am not qualified to facilitate or instruct.
- I can help youth be aware of safety and risk management while pursuing the OAS program.
- I can find a resource person to help youth in my Section learn Outdoor Adventure Skills that I may not be qualified to facilitate or instruct. This resource person could be a youth or Scouter from another Section, or a third-party resource.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- Each OAS pathway is organized into nine stages. Each stage builds on the previous stage and leads to the next.
- The starting points are not aligned to any Section. A Beaver Scout would naturally start at Stage 1 and move through the stages during his or her time in Scouting; a new Venturer Scout starting at age 15 with no Scouting experience would also be expected to start at Stage 1 and move up. The assumption is that the Venturer Scout would be able to quickly move to an appropriate stage based on his or her ability and experience.

SAFETY NOTE

- Are we doing things the right way in the right place at the right time with the right people and the right equipment with the right training?
- Don't instruct Outdoor Adventure Skills that are beyond your own capability. Part of your role as a facilitator is connecting youth with the resources that they need for adventures.



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PLAN

- Which Outdoor Adventure Skills are the youth in your Section interested in pursuing?
- Does your Scouter Team have the skills necessary to safely facilitate these adventures? If not, where can you find subject matter experts to help?

DO

- Read “Outdoor Adventure Skills” in the *Scouter Manual* (pages 81–84).
- Review the Outdoor Adventure Skills competencies.
- Shadow another Scouter to observe how he or she facilitates the incorporation of the OAS program into Section programming.

REVIEW

- Why is it important to be aware of safety and risk management when facilitating the OAS?
- Why is it important to be aware that you may not be qualified to facilitate or instruct some of the OAS?
- Why is it important to find a resource person to help youth learn OAS that you are not qualified to facilitate or instruct?

ONLINE RESOURCES

- **The *Scouter Manual* page 81–84**
- eLearning course: Facilitating a Program—Section-specific: How to Facilitate Outdoor Adventure Skills
- **Outdoor Adventure Skills Online**
- **Intro to OAS**
- **Anatomy of OAS**
- **OAS Frequently Asked Questions**