

OUR ROOTS

Lord Baden-Powell's vision of a scouting movement for boys (and subsequently for girls), quickly took root in Poland and the beginnings of organized scouting date back to 1910. Throughout its history, Polish scouting has been closely affiliated with the Polish nation's independence movement.

Polish Scouting in Canada

Prior to WWII, youth of Polish descent belonged to 30 Polish scouting companies/troops which functioned within the structures of Boy Scouts of Canada and Girl Guides of Canada.

Following WWII, Canada welcomed a large group of Polish political emigres. Amongst them were many boy and girl scouts, and scout leaders, who began to spontaneously come together to form scouting packs, companies and troops, out of a desire to continue the Polish Scouting tradition in Canada.

By 1955, the Polish Scouting movement in Canada had united within a formal organizational structure called the Polish Scouting Association in Canada. The Association brings together four organizations:

- The Organization of Girl Scouts
- The Organization of Boy Scouts
- The Organization of Senior/Rover Scouts
- The Organization of Parents' Auxiliaries

The Polish Scouting Association in Canada has been a key member of the Canadian Polish Congress since 1956.

Across Canada and Internationally

The Polish Scouting Association which exists outside of Poland is both national and international in scope. It brings together over 2500 Polish children, youth and adults across Canada, and another 8000 Polish youth and adults who reside in Australia, France, the USA, Great Britain, Austria, Germany, Argentina, Denmark, Sweden and South Africa.

Every six years, our youth comes together at World Jamborees, to participate in activities with scouts from other parts of the world, and experience a common sense of purpose, heritage and scouting traditions.

WHO CAN BELONG?

Participation in the Polish Scouting Association is voluntary. Anyone from the age of 4 and over, who wishes to participate in our programs and to make a commitment to a scouting way of life may join.

There are 5 age levels in Scouting:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| • Sparks/Beavers | 4 - 7 years |
| • Brownies/Cubs | 7 - 11 years |
| • Girl and Boy Scouts | 11 - 15 years |
| • Pathfinders/Venturers | 15 - 18 years |
| • Scouting Instructors | 18+ years |
| • Senior Scouts | 18+ years |

Any adult who wishes to support and promote our Mission and Goals and participate in activities that support our programs for youth, is encouraged to join a local Parents' Auxiliary.



For further information please contact us at:

www.zhpkanada.ca

the ultimate Adventure

The Polish Scouting Association in Canada



the ultimate Adventure

Our Mission

To enable girls, boys and young adults to develop to their fullest potential, as responsible citizens of Canada who serve God, help others, contribute to their communities and are proud of their Polish heritage.

Our Goals

- To support our youth in developing life skills and attitudes based on the values and ideals expressed in the Scout Law and Promise
- To provide high quality, dynamic and values-based programs that promote scouting as a way of life, with emphasis on service to God, others, Canada and the Polish ethnic community
- To build character and skills for future success in adulthood, by creating an environment within which youth can develop its unique talents, initiative, leadership, self-reliance, resourcefulness, self-discipline, and cooperation with others
- To promote a deep appreciation for our shared heritage, the Polish culture, history and traditions. To support the knowledge of the Polish language and a life-long identification with the Polish ethnic community in Canada



How We Achieve Our Mission

The Scouting Method

... to educate; not to instruct, mind you, but to educate, that is, to draw out the boy to learn for himself, of his own desire, the things that tend to build up character in him. ...The principles are the same for both [girls and boys].

(Lord Baden-Powell, "Aids to Scoutmastership" 1909)

The scouting method is a specific approach towards working with children and youth that has certain key elements:

- Experiential learning. Young people learn by doing, by participating in age-specific group activities, which promote learning from each other
- Education from within, rather than formal instruction
- Leadership by example. Leaders model their commitment to the scouting way of life, by demonstrating behaviour that is consistent with the Scout Law and Promise
- Teamwork through the patrol system
- Training for responsible leadership and cooperation with others
- Healthy competition which promotes teamwork, and sportsman-like behaviour



Our Programs

Our Mission and Goals are also achieved through non-formal, activity based, hands-on educational programs, by which the scouting life-style and traditions, and the Polish culture are fostered.

Our programs are delivered in Polish, within a same gender environment, and in a variety of formats:

- Weekly group meetings
- Field trips, overnight summer and winter camps
- Outdoor activities such as day hikes, back-packing, survival training, orienteering, nature-lore, star gazing, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, alpine and cross-country skiing, skating and many others
- Service in the community
- Active participation in Polish national anniversaries organized by the Polish community in Canada
- Active participation in religious celebrations in our local Parishes
- Active participation in World Scouting Jamborees of the Polish Scouting Association

The Polish Scouting Association in Canada Incorporated is a registered non-profit organization. Our camping facilities are well maintained. Camper safety is our priority. We maintain a high level of safety and security as outlined in the provincial Health and Safety Standards manual. Our policies and procedures require appropriate adult to child supervision ratios. We maintain group health, property and liability insurance coverage.

