

How can I Facilitate a Scoutrees Campaign and Planting Event?

Each spring since 1972, thousands of Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts have planted trees through the Scoutrees program. Scoutrees gives all members the opportunity to demonstrate, through action, their concern for the environment. By planting trees, youth learn about the important role trees have in our lives, the critical need for conservation, the huge impact of climate

change and how we can do our part to create a better world.

How can you facilitate a Scoutrees campaign and planting event?



The Canadian Path is the way Scouting is done in Canada. It is a youth-led program. This means that both the decision of whether to take part in Scoutrees and the planning of a Scoutrees campaign should be up to the youth—in an age-appropriate way.

Ideally, youth from a senior Section in your Group will take the lead organizing the Scoutrees campaign. If this is the case for your Group, you and your fellow Scouters should be prepared to step back and let the Scouts, **Venturers** or Rovers figure out the details. Make sure the youth keep their Scouters in the loop, and Scouters should be prepared to offer guidance and lend a hand when they're asked for a little help.

Facilitating a Scoutrees campaign and planting event can be a bit daunting for those who don't have much experience with the event, but it doesn't have to be too complicated.

In most cases, some fundraising is required to make your event possible. Youth and Scouters are welcome to canvas in the name of Scoutrees to cover the expense of trees—usually saplings. Use the pledge form available on the **Scoutrees webpage**. You should anticipate some other expenses, such as refreshments and tools (like buckets and shovels). For many Groups, money raised in the name of Scoutrees does more than cover the expense of planting trees. Once the cost of a planting event is covered, a portion of funds raised should be committed to the Scout Brotherhood Fund, while the remainder can be used to support your own Scouting program.

Your Group will require a planting site. Most Groups like to plant Scoutrees where they will benefit the community. Contact your municipal government for help identifying a site where young trees can grow and contribute to a neighbourhood—like a local park. Municipal governments can also provide a great deal of assistance with purchasing trees and selecting species. They can even help you figure out how many trees can be planted on your site.

Scoutrees need not be planted on public land, however. Trees are beneficial to the environment almost anywhere they're planted, so it is perfectly fine to plant on private property if this is an arrangement your Group prefers.

The number of trees your Group buys and plants will depend on the number of participants and the capacity of the site. It is best if your Scoutrees site is more than enough land for the number of trees you aim to plant, so that your Group does not find itself with leftover trees.

Keep your event short in duration. Planting Scoutrees is a great way for youth to give back to their community and the planet, and it shouldn't be an onerous chore. Individual youth should only be asked to plant a dozen or two saplings, and Beavers and Cubs should get a helping hand from older youth and parents. Your event should be wrapped up within a couple of hours, while everyone is still smiling!

