

SCOUTERS' TIP

BEAVER SCOUTS

CUB SCOUTS

SCOUTS

PLAN-DO-REVIEW

How do I Plan for a Program Cycle?

Scouter teams should meet to discuss each new program cycle (season). Just as a Scouter team will get together to brainstorm some ideas to put to the youth before the Scouting Year kicks off, Scouters should also take advantage of a new season to talk about the seasonal review the youth shared for the past program cycle. This is an opportunity for the Section Scouters to review all aspects of the program, including their own performance.

The Plan-Do-Review cycle is a practice that helps us to take the

lessons we've learned from a review and apply them to a new plan. While a Section's program is broadly planned at the beginning of the Scouting Year, the beginning of each new season is a time for Scouters to facilitate planning adventures in some more detail.



Remember that The Canadian Path is a youth-led program. Primarily, your role as a Scouter is that of coach and mentor, guiding youth members in their development and helping them engage effectively with the program. This means that it is up to the youth members to revisit the Section's plan for the Scouting Year and figure out further specifics, as appropriate to their age – though you and your fellow Scouters should facilitate the process with guiding questions and helpful advice.

As the youth invent their adventures for the season, Scouters should be present and monitoring the plan as its created. Scouters query and offer comments that help the youth to think about the decisions they make. When all is said and done, the plan the youth create needs to be realistic, and it should appeal to the Scouters as much as it does the youth themselves, though the youth ideas come first. It is important that youth members appreciate that there are limits to the demands they can place on their Scouters, but they should have the opportunity to plan every program cycle within reasonable boundaries. If necessary, remind the youth to consult their Program Maps so that they can come up with a balanced roster of adventures for the months ahead, with exciting opportunities for all six Program Areas.

At the beginning of the Scouting Year, the Section may have decided to share a winter camp on a weekend in January. While the camp has been marked on the calendar since September, the

beginning of the winter season is a good time for the youth to figure out some more details. The Section should take advantage of the Patrol (Team) System so that all youth have the opportunity to express their ideas, and the Section Leadership Team of youth should listen to what other youth in the Section want of their winter camp. Where will the camp take place? What games and activities will the youth do at the camp? What equipment is needed? What will be on the camp's menu? All of these decisions should be left to the youth members, though Scouters should weigh in with insights about logistics – especially regarding safety.

Scouters can also enhance the plan for the program cycle or a given adventure by suggesting ideas or asking questions that lead the youth to consider program possibilities that would involve other Program Areas or may foster greater growth in the SPICES. You and your fellow Scouters will have many great ideas, and you should not hesitate to present them when the Section is planning for the season, especially if it seems the youth are stumped creatively. However, you should not sell your ideas. If an idea comes from the youth and is skillfully shaped by Scouter guidance, the youth will effectively retain what they learn.

Taking the time to mentor youth in how to plan will make your job easier in the future. More importantly, supporting your youth and giving them opportunities to fail, to learn and to grow is the best possible way to foster their personal progression.

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It starts with Scouts.

