

# SCOUTS YLT

## Competitive Debating

## RED COAT TRAIL

### Leadership: Problem Solving



#### The Adventure:

Competitive debating is an intellectual activity that can expand your skills of persuasion. Pick a format for your debate (whether it's one Scout against another, or a competition between small teams) and a topic. Find a way to designate who will be for or against the topic of the debate.

Take time to develop a strategy for the topic at hand. Decide what you will say on the topic that will prove whatever side of the issue you have been given (you do not necessarily have to agree with the point you will be making). Argue your side of the issue and debate against your opponent.



#### Plan:

- How will you choose your topic and designate sides of the topic to each of the teams?
- Where will you go on this adventure?
- What format of debate will you choose?
- Who will decide who won? A judge (or judges), or the audience?
- What are the rules of debating? What research will you have to do?

#### Do:

- Debate a topic for whatever side you were assigned with conviction to win the debate.

#### Review:

- What do you know now that you did not know before?
- What strategy did you use? How effective was it?
- How did you feel before, during and after debating your opponent(s)?
- How do you really feel about the issue you were debating? How did your feelings affect your performance? If you were arguing a viewpoint you did not agree with, what did you learn about the issue?
- If you held another debate, what would you do differently?

#### Safety Note:

How can you make sure that everyone respects one another while debating?

#### Online Resources:

Conducting a Debate

Canadianpath.ca



It starts with Scouts.