

Writing Meaningful Commendations

As much as we love to get Commendations thanking Rusty for taking a Youth camping, it's hard to tell how big a deal this is with just that one line. Commendations through the Thank You System are also used to flag Volunteers and Youth for other higher-level awards. It's important we have enough details on how the person being thanked is helping our Youth thrive in their programs. Group Commissioners are essential as they provide context and scope and impact statements with each commendation they write.

The essential questions to answer are:

Who...

attended the event or activity? Numbers help give a sense of how big this is – was it 7 Beavers, 3 sections, 150 Cubs and Scouters at the Kub Kar Rally or 500 Youth at a Council Camp?

What...

are they being thanked for, and what **impact** did that have on the Youth? Did they take their Section to an activity as a participant, or did they help run an event, or did they take on a leadership or mentoring role?

When...

did the activity take place and how long did it run? A couple of hours, a weekend, a week-long trip or something that lasted every week for 5 months?

Where...

did this take place? At a park down the road, campsite 45 minutes away or did they need to travel a considerable distance to get there?

Why/How...

did their contribution help Scouts Canada Youth have great adventures, help them grow and have fun?



Examples

"Ulla was an invaluable assistant in the Kitchen and Serving Hall at Blue Springs Scout Reserve this weekend. From early Friday evening to Sunday afternoon she worked tirelessly to help cook, clean and serve meals to over 140 Beavers, Parents and Scouters. The Winter Beaveriee would not have been successful without her support in keeping the participants fed with healthy and timely meals. "

"Shelley helped and was on-site for the 2017 Spring Things and Flap Jacks at Blue Springs Scout Reserve. The event attracted over 100 youth. There were many activities including a hayride, environmental projects, crafts, first aid lessons and pancake lunch."

"Thank you so much for all your help at the Annual Scout Truck, Kub Kar and Beaver Buggy races which saw over 150 vehicles compete. The comments I received from parents and grandparents were that they were excited to see their youth having so much fun. Thank you so much for launching vehicles, refereeing the Kub Kars and for helping out as much as you did."

"Over the past year, I have watched Mike grow leaps and bounds as a Scouter. Not only is he a troop Scouter but he is also our Area Popcorn Rep. He has come to the table with fantastic fundraising ideas and experiences that the youth can try. As a result, Mike was part of our team of Scouters that took our 8 local Scouts to PJ this year."

Remember...

Use only the member's registered names

Avoid using Hawkeye, Baloo, Akela, etc. as these are NOT listed in myscouts.ca



Enter only ONE person per commendation rather than "All the Scouters for 1st Rubber Duck Colony

Add how often the member has repeated volunteered in a specific area... i.e. "OOS for the last 5 years"

Don't use "scouter" before the person's name as the search engine looks for "scouter" as a first name

National Recognition Network Mission

To celebrate the significant achievements of our members and their resulting impact on the Scouting Movement. Visit scouts.ca/thanks to tell us about your outstanding members; We'll do the rest!