



November 28, 2012

Dear Scouts and Scouting families,

As we have been mentioning for more than a year now, next summer is the 2013 Canadian Scout Jamboree, in Sylvan Lake, Alberta.  
(near Red Deer, mid-point between Calgary and Edmonton)



The official website is: <http://www.scouts.ca/cj13/> Official dates; July 6-13, 2013. (July 3-13, including a desired pre-program at the site)

It's an awesome week of adventures, with Scouts from across the country, plus usually attracting international visitors as well. My own experiences from CJ 81, 85, and 93, are still fully, clearly, and visually etched into my own memory, even today.

Fundraising to get us there, began last spring, and continues today, with good success. Our goal, is to cover all costs, as a group, if we can. This is a large undertaking, and we will ask Scouts to provide assistance. We work together, we play together, we adventure together.

*"Work hard, play hard, and travel the world."*

Popcorn fundraising was successful again this year, and thank you to everyone for your support. A portion of this goes to this trip, but much of that still needs to stay with the group, for annual operations of the group, and the other well deserving youth sections. (Beavers, Cubs, etc)

Through popcorn sales, 5 of the Scouts specifically, have earned additional funds for personal gear. They will have the option (and I invite them to decide now) to direct a portion of those funds back into the kitty, to apply towards their costs of attending.

Obviously, the Scouts would be challenged if they were asked to raise all of these funds on their own. Similarly, few parents can simply write such a cheque.

A small committee has been formed, and is pursuing additional corporate funding to support our efforts.

Our goal, simply put, is to try and cover it all.

### **Questions:**

#### **How are we getting to Alberta?**

Originally, the default method was by airplane.

However cost, timing, and the fact that the money spent is simply "gone", with little to show for it other than the quick travel, has allowed us to consider another option. That is to travel by a Scout Bus of our own. A longer journey to be sure, but a unique adventure.

The actual travel plan would be to depart on the 28th of June, taking the Canadian route to Alberta, arriving in Alberta in time for the pre-program start on the 3rd. Return trip would be the shorter route, through the USA, arriving home on Tuesday the 16th. (exact logistics TBD)

#### **Budget**

Our design budget is \$1800 per person, all inclusive.

#### **What do you need from parents now?**

We're asking for a \$50 per person deposit, before December 15th.

This will be wholly refundable if you change your mind, before January 30th.

By then, we should have updated numbers and major fundraising under our belt, and be aware of final costs.

Scouting in Canada, carries a message that no one should be left behind, for financial reasons. We will strive to support that message.

That being clearly said, we are using a "point system" to track support of program and fundraising this year. Our hope is that this recognizes that everyone who helps and participates, whether Scout or family member(s) assisting, and keeps things fair.

Similarly, as previously mentioned, Scouts who earned "personal gear credit" through popcorn, may apply this to group efforts for use against their own costs.

### **More Questions?**

Please ask...

### **Can parents come along?**

Certainly. We would ask that you identify your interest up front, as we will have to register you as leaders, get you a police check done, etc. This would not entail a commitment beyond the trip, but would involve some training, and attendance at some of the camps ahead of it. (the patrol needs to get to know you, and vice versa)

### **How much will this really cost us?**

Our goal, is that together we can raise it all.

However, it's incredibly hard to get people to commit support to us, when we can't show them who wants to go, and how we plan to raise funds ourselves.

Popcorn is done, so we have something to show people there.

So, thus, now we're asking you now to commit, and we will do our best to fundraise it all.

Bottom line - **if you think you want to go, say so now**. Then we'll run together towards to the goal.

### **What about Haliburton?**

Haliburton Scout Reserve week is still booked for the 1st week of August, as it is every year.

It's a recurring part of our program that is a completely different type of adventure.

After CJ, it should be a great week for the Scouts, new and old, and still a worthy adventure to partake in.

Cost-wise, if we're really successful with CJ fundraising, much of that could be covered as well.

### **What other requirements will there be for the Scouts?**

There will be some standards set for minimum attendance at Spring camps, and badge/program training requirements.

Our Scouts will need to function as a well-oiled machine for this sort of adventure to work. They need to have settled into patrol life and responsibility, and can't be simply "along for a social vacation". ☺ They will be expected to do their part, as we pull together. Just like we all do together at camp.

They can't be "on it", they need to be "in it", before we undertake such a journey... And by doing so, the adventure will be of that much higher quality.

### **What fundraising is already planned?**

We are not limited to this, but here are some of the ideas so far... please let us know if you think of others.

Current Fundraising Events (already executed, or already planned)

- Dishwashing for Lions Dinner x 2, Food & Bottle Drive (May), Popcorn Sale (done)

New/potential events suggested:

- Car wash, Charity Dinner at the BAS Hall, "Hire a patrol" projects aka Bob-a-Job, Gardening duty, Church yard sale

It promises to be the adventure of a lifetime... wan'na come along? ☺

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