



104th Ottawa GC Update May 2026

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the 104th Ottawa GC Update. The GC Update will be published monthly to communicate news and updates that affects the 104th Ottawa from Scouts Canada, Voyageur Council, area groups. It will also communicate updates within our own group.

The 104th Ottawa Scout Group consists of a Beaver Colony, Cub Pack , Scout Troop, Venturer Company and Rover Crew. We have also been selected to pilot a Chipmunk Scurry starting in September 2026 (more on that later).

Our Scout Group is governed by a Group Committee consisting of a Group Commissioner, Registrar, Secretary, Quartermaster and a representative of each our sections. This is pretty standard of all Scout Groups in Canada. The 104th Ottawa Scout Group is fortunate to also have a Fundraising Coordinator and a team responsible for Group events, such as the All-Section Day and upcoming All-Sections Camp.

Group Committee meets once a month to discuss finances, fundraising, future events, previous events and any issues or best practices the sections might have. The Group Commissioner has final say in any decisions, but for the most part the sections have autonomy over their programs. All are welcome to attend a Group Committee meeting, however only Group Committee members have voting rights, where a vote is required.

In February we released a satisfaction survey. Attached you will find a summary of the survey I presented to Group Committee in March. We are still working through the findings of the survey and coming up with an action plan. I am committed to ensuring everything is reviewed, addressed and communicated in a timely fashion. In fact, the idea of sending out a monthly newsletter was on my priority list when I became Group Commissioner, but it was moved up due to the survey submissions highlighting communications as an issue.

Another way of improving communication is through Scoutstracker. For those who are unfamiliar, Scoutstracker is a database we use to track accomplishments, attendance to meetings and events, community service, etc. We also use it to schedule and communicate events, among other things. Scoutstracker is linked to MyScouts so that when someone registers to be a youth member or Scouter through MyScouts, the information is imported into Scoutstracker.

When your youth's account has been created in Scoutstracker, you will receive an email giving you, parents and/or youth members, access to your youth's account. This way you can input your child's achievement, such as when your youth is ready to be tested for a badge or if your youth has participated in an event outside of Scouts which might contribute to their requirement for community service hours.



Scoutstracker can be challenging at times, so we are working on a training material, such as videos and a more helpful user guide. Scoutstracker is a big part of program, so we need to ensure everyone is able to use it. If you are having difficulties with Scoutstracker, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of the Scouters, who can either help you along or direct you to the appropriate resources.

I mentioned previously that the 104th Ottawa Scout Group has been selected to be one of 12 pilot groups across Canada to introduce a new section, Chipmunks. What we know about Chipmunks is that they are open to youth ages 4 and 5. The section is called a Skurry and will require 1 Scouter for every 4 youth, with a maximum of 16 Chipmunks per group. If you feel you can help out with Chipmunks or are interested in signing up your youth, please let me know. Registration will open on June 1 along with registration for all sections. As more information is sent to us on the Chipmunk program, I will convey the information to you.

With the addition of the Chipmunks, Beavers will now be limited to youth aged 6 and 7. A comment in the survey was that the size of the colony is too large, and I agree. As such, we will be reducing the size of our colony. Currently we have 24 Beavers which is too many in the size of our gym. We haven't decided what we feel will be the maximum number, but I am thinking in the neighbourhood of 18 to 20 youth. Cubs, Scouts and Company maximum sizes will also be reviewed.

Finally, there is a change in the registration year and the fees are going up. In September 2026, the registration year will align with the Scouting year, September 1 to August 31. Also in September, the base fee for Scouts Canada will be going up to \$295 a year. Since you are all registered under the previous registration year, your registration fees have been paid up to December 31, 2026. To align with the second half of the 2026-27 scouting year, a pro-rated amount of \$197 is being offered for those who re-register their youth before May 31, 2026.

Also, if you re-register by May 31, you will be guaranteed a spot in the section to which you are applying. As of June 1st registration opens to the general public. If your youth wants to re-register after May 31 and the sections are full, they will be placed on a waiting list.

Well, that's it in a nutshell (see what I did there..Chipmunks?) . If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at gc@104thOttawa.ca. As always, if you feel you would like to contribute your time somehow, please reach out, there always something you can do.

Bill

Bill Baggs
Group Commissioner
104th Ottawa Scout Group