



104th Ottawa GC Update September 2026

Well kids, it's time for another GC Update, so grab a coffee, kick your feet up and relax.

Our 104th Ottawa Scout Group

This is an exciting year. A typical Scout Group has Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, a few have Venturers, and even fewer have Rovers. Then there are the Chipmunks, for which there are only about 30 Scurries in the country. The 104th Ottawa has all six sections, we're very fortunate. As a result, we have about 108 youth members, and close to 30 section Scouters.

And a huge thank you to our Scouters who do such a great job.

2-Deep Scouter Rule

I know I must sound like a broken record, but Scouts Canada has a 2-Deep Scouter rule. This is for our protection and your youths. At no time can a Scouter be alone with any Scouter, it's that simple.

You can do your part by ensuring there is more than one scouter at the meeting place when you drop your youth off but before you head back out. For the senior sections that don't necessarily need a drive, please remind the youth to wait outside if they get to their meeting or event and only one scouter is there.

At the meetings the Scouters know that they need to be within eyesight of another Scouter.

Also, Scouters cannot be involved in car-pooling. It's wonderful to see the emails fly back and forth when the Scouts go on an adventure, because within minutes of the email announcing the event is sent out, then the carpooling emails come out. This is acceptable because the parents themselves are arranging it without scouter intervention. It always amazes me how quickly those emails start popping up.

Fundraising

Another one of those topics that keeps rearing its ugly head, especially these days when we're in the midst of Apple Day.

Our group relies on fundraising. We have a couple of big ticket items that we have to pay for, such as the school rental, which is about \$1,500 a year, and our unit at Dymon Storage (we're trying to find a new solution for storage) which is about \$3,500 a year. For every youth who registers we get 10% of registration fees back from Scouts Canada. At 108 youth, that means we are automatically running into a deficit.



Then we have our operational costs, insurance, equipment maintenance and purchasing, etc. A new scouter costs over \$100 dollars for a uniform, neckers, badges and training. This year we welcomed 13 new scouters. So, I think we can all agree it's not cheap to run a Scout Group, which is why fundraising is so important, and we need everyone to do their part.

Purdy's Chocolates

In addition to Apple Day, other fundraisers include Purdy's chocolates, which runs for a couple of weeks in November for delivery in time for Christmas. This is another big fundraiser but is really a fundraiser which has more parent involvement than youth. The way I handle Purdy's Chocolates is that I send an email to my friends and family with the link to the campaign website, and a reminder a few days before the deadline. It's very effective, and people love to contribute to my grandson's Scout Group. I have a friend who doesn't eat chocolate...I know right??? He contributes every for gifts.

Mabels Labels

An easy fundraiser is labels. We have an ongoing fundraiser with Mabel's Labels.

The 104th Ottawa gets a 20% commission on every sale. As you know, especially for camp, labels are very important. To order from Mabels Labels:

- Go to <https://mabelslabels.ca/en-CA/fundraising/support>
- Start typing and select 104th Ottawa
- Shop

Leaf bags

Melissa is also looking into selling leaf bags, which apparently is more hands on for the youth and a good fundraiser.

Assistance

I recognize that being in Scouting can at times be expensive and overwhelming, with registration fees being \$330 and camps costing upwards of \$100. If you are finding things difficult but still want your youth to participate, please do not hesitate to reach out. I don't want someone to miss out for financial reasons, and there are many ways in which we can be of assistance. For instance, we could offer to spread the cost of the event over a number of weeks or see if perhaps we can reduce the cost by paying part of it out of the Group's coffers.

And perhaps it's not a financial need, but that you don't have something on the packing list. If this is the case, we might have an extra in our storage unit or know where we can what you need to borrow.

Whether financial or otherwise, please know that if you're having difficulty with certain events, you can always reach out to a scouter to see how we can help out as a Group. If you're not comfortable discussing it with a scouter, feel free to reach out to myself and I will see what we can do.



Again, I don't want someone to miss out on an event if we can help make it happen.

Look at our website grow

Our fundraising coordinator Melissa has done an amazing job with our website, www.104thottawa.ca. While Melissa continues to make improvements, the website is open for business. Feel free to have a look and if there is anything we can do to make it better, please let us know.

It's been a busy September

Despite being the first month of the Scouting season, our Beavers have gone camping, the Cubs had a camp this past weekend as did the Venturers/Rovers, and the Scouts were camping the weekend before, that's a busy Group. Thanks to all who made it happen and to the youth for being so awesome.

October

In October we have Apple Day, the Scouts are going camping...again and the Chipmunks are going to a Chipmunkoree-Beaveree-Cuboree, just to name just a couple of events. As the mean magician says in Frosty the Snowman "Busy busy busy"...am I dating myself?

Giving Thanks

Our busy September could not have been possible without our leaders and volunteers. I encourage you to say thanks personally by going into MyScouts and pressing the 'Thanks' button. From there you can say thanks to someone who has done something special.

I want to give my personal thanks to the spouses and partners of our Scouters and volunteers. I know it's a lot for you to give up your time with your loved ones and I appreciate you sharing your time with them to give to our youth. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Shoutouts

Finally, some shoutouts

- To the Cubs who attended the Beaver camp in September; Elijah Lopes, Callum Hall, Calvin Hurley and Seamus Harbic. When they heard I needed acorns for the Chipmunk Program, they delivered, and boy did they deliver. I have half a plastic shopping bag full of Acorns, thank you so much guys. What a great group of kids.
- To our new Chipmunk Scouters. Thanks so much for putting in the time and effort to get screened in and for the energy you are putting into the program. I am 100% this is going to be a great program because of you, and I appreciate it.



I can tell we are in for a great year, and the youth are in for some fun.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Scouters, or myself. Have a great Scouting year everyone.

Yours in Scouting

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Bill'.

Scouter Bill

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