Rovering To Excess

Is a bi-monthly E-Zine by Rovers, for Rovers, about Rovers.

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So You’ve Decided to Start a Rover Crew.
Now What?

By Sherrie Gosche

Congratulations on making one of the best decisions of your life. It will provide you with happiness, sadness, anger, and some of the most rewarding adventures you could ever possibly imagine.

If you are reading this, you are likely in one of two scenarios. Either you are a go-getter in a brand-new Rover Crew, or you were once in that position, and you are looking for some fond memories of one of the second-most difficult phase of your official Rovering adventure. Ya, you read that right, the second-most difficult. What’s the most difficult, you ask? That would be a long way off for you. That’s your retirement. The transition between active young Rover, and “Retired Rover” is definitely the most trying and challenging period of a long-term Rover’s life.

Now, back to your troubles. You have mustered together a group of people. It may be just you and a friend, it may be your old Venturer company, or it may be some people that a scout group randomly threw together. Honestly it doesn’t matter. You have some people and a goal. That’s all you need.

The first step, you’ve likely already done. Everyone will happily tell you that you need to read “Rovering To Success”. Other popular references you will find recommended to you include (but are not limited to) “Scouting For Boys”, your Group By-Laws, “The Rover Handbook”, and if you are in Alberta “Through the Rapids” (which I’ve heard will be published through this magazine shortly, thanks to Kat. It really is a valuable read throughout your Rovering career). Great. You’ve done lots of reading. You either get it, or you don’t. But in starting an awesome Crew, it really DOESN’T matter! (Now before you panic that I’m about to lead you astray, I came from a traditional Crew, with Squires and Knights, in fact the Editor was one of my Squires). Remember that many of these documents are very dated.

So now that you’ve done all this reading, put your books away. No this isn’t a test. But the knowledge that you have gleaned from those books is the background of Rovering. The spirit that the program is founded on. Keep it in the back of your mind, but at this point, don’t dwell on it. Get all your members (or just you and your Advisor if you’re a lone Crew) together, and sit down for your first meeting. A note about your Advisor. This person is someone that you look up to. They don’t have to have experience in Rovering either, odds are when you asked them, they started into the same pile of reading that you did if they were new. Their job is to guide you, to help you over the hurdles, and to be the non-biased opinion to help you sound out your ideas on.

Don’t kill your Crew before it starts. At your first meeting, don’t spend all your time going over by-laws, rules, policy, organization and structure. This also isn’t likely the best time to have Crew elections for official positions. At this point, as the person who is the “organizer” (even though you may not feel you are best for the job) you should volunteer to oversee the running of things until a defined date. About 4-6 months in the future is ideal. That gives you all time to get set-up and established, and it gives you time to get to know each other. In most Crews, the job of secretary is one that nobody wants. A good suggestion for this phase is to get the remaining Crew members to rotate through the position, so all of them get a chance to take notes, and nobody is “Stuck” with the job. As for treasurer, as you won’t have any funds policy yet, if your group does give you funds, it may be an idea to ask your Advisor to watch them on your behalf at this
Now that you know what you aren’t doing at your first meeting, what are you doing? I would suggest getting a copy of the Venturer Interest Questionnaire for everyone to fill out. I know that it is still published in the Venturer handbook, but they used to make it on hand-outs that were nice and large and easy to read. The purpose in the questionnaire is to identify what all of your interests and goals are. Spend your first meeting talking about what your goals and interests are as individuals within the Crew, and what you hope to achieve as a Crew. This is a key step that most Crews that fail tend to miss. This meeting will help you all to find a common ground to build your Crew around. You may find that you all have career goals in some aspect of medicine, or you are all interested in medicinal plants or who knows what. You may find that you have a very diverse range of interests, and each of you has a strong passion in one thing, and a mild interest in a variety of others. A good place for this first meeting is somewhere relaxed and social feeling. Tim Hortons, Dennys, Boston Pizza... Somewhere you and your Crew would feel comfortable sitting and chatting for a few hours. It would be a good idea to have this meeting on a day and at a time when people won’t feel rushed or too terribly stressed. Don’t take this to mean it needs to be on the weekend, but Wednesday after the Scout meeting when someone has to work at 5am the next day would not be a good choice. Allow for this meeting to last several hours, but don’t be disappointed if you don’t finish your first coffee. At the end of this meeting, ask everyone to think about the ideas and goals you’ve all presented, and arrange to get together again about a week or so later.

So if you aren’t doing rules at your first meeting, when are you doing them? Welcome to the point of your second meeting. Getting the ball rolling. Now that you all have an idea of where you want to go and what you want to do, it’s time to start making it happen. First let’s look at those rules, then we’ll investigate everything else.

Bylaws are terribly boring to write and read. I’ve met very few people who would disagree with this statement. (I actually enjoy creating them, but I still hate reading them). What I would suggest to keep this from being the death of your Crew, is to get or appoint a volunteer (not your Advisor, and not someone who you know won’t do it) to get a copy of the bylaws from a Crew that you know is functioning well. This person would then take these bylaws and use them as a model to create what they think would be a good set of rules for your Crew to follow. If you don’t know of any Crews in your area, or if all of them are “secretive” about their bylaws (it does happen) then the internet is a wonderful resource. Many Crews have their bylaws on their websites. Don’t get overzealous and get more than one, then you’re making the job much more difficult. Get one, read it over, remove the stuff that’s irrelevant, add things that you think are missing. Give this person about two months to complete this task, but ask for a progress report at each meeting. About a month before you hope to have elections and adopt the bylaws for your Crew formally, ask this person to bring their revised version to the Crew. Each Crew member should then (on their own time, don’t make a long tedious meeting out of this) read over the rules. At a specified meeting (about two weeks before the proposed election night would be a good time, assuming weekly meetings) have everyone discuss the rules that were distributed. This would be everyone’s chance to discuss or argue any points that they are unsure of. With a full set of rules being offered, this step is likely to take a lot less time. This gives two full weeks for adjustments and things to be made, so that everyone is happy with the final product.

Now that the boring stuff is out of the way, when do you get to go do stuff? As soon as you want. At your second meeting, you have more to do than appoint the rules-monger. You also need to start planning stuff. How much planning you need to do different activities depends on how familiar with the activities and events you are. I can plan a backpacking trip in 15 mins (45 if we’re doing food as a Crew). But it would take me months to plan a canoe trip. The most pain-free method of planning is to do it outside of the meeting. Have each person leave with a project that they would like to have happen. (This also means that nobody can say the Crew never does their thing. If that’s true, it’s their own fault.) When they are ready, they come to a meeting with their proposed activity, agenda, and any other details that they have worked out. Crew members then discuss the proposal (maybe someone else has already hiked that trail, and found it quite dirty, but knows of another similar trail nearby that’s not full of litter yet, or maybe someone has a food allergy to something on the proposed menu), choose a date and then make it happen. It’s really that simple. No need to make it more complicated. Don’t forget to include a variety of service activities in your plan!

One other suggestion for jump-starting your Crew life, is to find another Crew in your area to mentor you. Again, if you don’t have any nearby Crews, the internet can be your friend. Many Crews have meeting minutes and such online, or through mailing lists and chat lines, you can discuss things with Rovers from all over. Even if you have a mentor Crew, this could help you too. When choosing a Crew to mentor you, look at what you know the Crews are doing, and consider what your Crew’s goals and such were identified to be after your first meeting. Find a member of the Crew that you are comfortable speaking with (remember that everyone was new once, and all Crews at one point or another did go through what you are going through, so don’t be intimidated by them), and ask them if their Crew would be interested in mentoring your new Crew. Realize that they likely cannot offer you an answer right away, as they will have to bring this up at their next Crew meeting. One method of mentoring (probably one of the most revealing) is for members of your Crew to go to their regular meetings for a certain period of time. You are not members of their Crew, therefore don’t expect to have any say or involvement in the goings on. You are there like a “fly on the wall” to see how their Crew works, and even things that don’t. This is a valuable learning experience, which will help your Crew sort itself out in terms of organisation.

The most important thing for your new Crew to do is to get out there and get doing stuff. The rules, investitures, Squireships and things can come later. If you are active and enjoying Crew life, you will develop the formal structure in good time. If you get caught up in structure at the beginning, you may quickly find yourself as a Crew of one, who really doesn’t see what the magic of Rovering is all about.
With a little effort, it is easy to raise the profile of your Crew, and Rovering in general, within Scouting and the community. Rovers ARE the senior section of Scouts Canada. Take a few moments to let others know what the Rovers are doing. You’d be surprised at how interested they are!

**Rovers to Rovers**

The Crew that doesn’t know that other Crews exist won’t know that there are others there to help them when they need it. This can make them feel alone and isolated, and can possibly cause the Crew to fold. The Crew that doesn’t know about Moots and other multi-group events miss out on a major aspect of Rovering.

Crews that are active and know each other form the bodies (such as the Calgary Rover Council) that make decisions regarding local policies and create responses to National requests (such as the New Motto). Crews that don’t participate don’t always get informed of the issues, and rarely get a say in the opinion sent by the Region.

**Why promote Rovering to other Rovers?**

- New contacts! A world of new experiences awaits… Rovers around the world are already friends, why not help make and keep this network going?!!!

- Advice and Support. Perhaps another Crew has already done what you are trying to do. They can offer you insight, advice, and sometimes can give you the answer to your problem.

- Fundraising potential. An event by and for Rovers can sometimes raise some much needed funds for the hosting Crew.

Where can you find other Rovers?

- At Rover Council and Round Table Meetings
- At inter-Crew activities
- At Rover Moos
- At Service Projects
- At other Scouting functions
  (Award ceremonies, Beaverees, Regional link events)
- On the internet (web pages, Can-Rovers E-List, newsgroups…)

**How do you Promote Rovering to other Rovers?**

- In mailouts. Send other Rovers a copy of what you are doing. Over the internet. Create an e-mail link with another Rover or Crew.

- At Regional and Provincial Meetings. Attend meetings and share your Crews experiences. Listen to what other Crews have done.

- Inter-Crew activities. Participate with other Crews on a social level.

- Moos. Spend a weekend or longer with several others Crews in a Jamboree style setting.

- Inter-provincial and International Pen Pals. Keep in touch with a Rover somewhere else.

- Exchange newsletters with another Crew or Council.

- Telephone. Call up a member of another crew and ask them how their Crew is doing.

- Mail and E-mail. Write a letter to another Rover sharing a recent Rovering experience.

- DON’T LOSE TOUCH!

**Rovers to Scouting**

Some leaders feel that Rovers are there for the exclusive use of their group as extra leaders and as manual labour to do any jobs that nobody else wants.

Some leaders feel that we are horrible (because of our age) and are just causing them trouble. To them we are of no use. Some leaders aren’t even aware that we exist. Or they aren’t aware that there are any Rovers in an area close to them.

**Why Promote Rovering within Scouting?**

Service opportunities. There are a lot of projects that can use our helping hands within Scouting (Jamborees, hikes, banquets…)

Create an interest for future Rovers. If you prove to your local youth that Rovers is worth joining, then you have done some recruiting for the future.

Create a support network. If your Crew has a problem, wouldn’t it be nice to have the rest of your group to lean on?

**How can you Promote Rovering Within Scouting?**

Be Active. Get involved in anything that interests you.

Work with the younger sections (either full or part time).

Take training.

Participate on Committees.

Make articles for Scouting Newsletters (Leader, Scoutlook, Redscarf, GroupWorks, etc).

Put Rover Newsletters into GroupWorks and RedScarf

Be POSITIVE!!!
Share your experiences. Be proud of what you’ve done. Tell a Scout or a Beaver, or a Leader.

Participate with your own Group (Bottle drives, Fundraisers, Banquets, Registrations).

Make a display of your Crew to share with your Group.

Volunteer at camps, Jamborees, Events, the Scout Shop.

Wear full dress uniform whenever you get the chance. It gives a professional, and Rover image.

Wear your Rover uniform when working with other sections. Get permission when required.

Approach Venturer companies to let them know about Rovering in their area. Make sure they know Scouting doesn’t end with them. Invite senior Venturers to participate on Rover activities. Create promotional materials for use by the Scout Office/Scout Shop. Keep your Group Committee and Service Team informed on your Crew activities. Invite Rover-aged leaders out with your Crew to activities and meetings.

Why Promote Rovering to the outside world?

We are the Active result of the complete Scouting program. What better way is there to promote the entire organization, than to show the world who we are?

Where do you come in contact with the world?

- EVERYWHERE!
- At work/school or other clubs
- Newspaper articles.
- TV and other media.
- Service Projects.
- At your meeting hall.
- On the internet.

How can you Promote Rovers out there?

Be Positive!! Share your experiences.

Write a newspaper article (for the community or the city).

Put up ads for your Crew in place where people with similar interests would be (Outdoor stores…).

Answer any questions you can. Even if you have to do some research.

Contact your Region and see if they have any promotional projects you can be a part of.

Contact other organizations in the community (St Johns Ambulance, Cadets, Outdoors Clubs, Guiding) see if they share any interests, and invite them to join you where applicable.

Make a display for the Post Secondary Institutes. Most of them have a time when they encourage club displays.

Create your own Web Page for your Crew. Use works like Rover and Scouting to attract people.

Pair non-Rover people with Rovers so they can interact and learn about the Rover program.

Be active in the community. Help at parades, church services, special events. Enter a team in charity activities and sports events. Talk to people about your experiences. Share!!!

**Wanted: HELP**

I am a new Rover Advisor for the St Catharines Area Rover Crew. I am new and so is the Crew. I need help, suggestions, and recourses. Please contact Dave Wiebe at sctrdave@niagara.com (thanks)

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

There are many people in Dave's position. If you are willing, please share these resources with Rovering To Excess as well so that everyone can benefit from our shared experiences.
NZ Rover Scout Recruitment Checklist

Who & Why
Recruitment is done for a variety of reasons. Maybe the crew is too small to be viable. Maybe you have an imbalance of males to females (or vice versa). Maybe you have too many people at one end or the other of the Rover section age group.

It helps if you think about the following questions -

What age group?
What gender?
How many people do you need?
Do you know any people who fit this description already?
What events could they be invited to?

What
The following are some activities or items that would help with recruitment -

Posters/notices
Newspaper articles
Website
Entry in community group listings
Letter drop
Rover Explained sessions
Special events (eg Moot, Jamborees)
Word of mouth
Signage on dens
Radio Community notices
Door knocking
Billboard
Other…………………………….
World Vision Water Well Fundraiser

In Canada, we are blessed to have a relatively abundant supply of water. The average Canadian consumes over 250 L of water a day. Unfortunately, most people in the world do not have this luxury.

Worldwide sixty percent of infant deaths are due to water-related diseases and water related diseases kill more than five million people each year (10 times the number killed in wars).

In this trip, the seven of us will have the privilege to travel the length of Canada’s largest river. While water may seem abundant to us, worldwide approximately 2.1 billion people will be struggling to find as little as 25 L of water a day for drinking, bathing and cooking. Thus, we are trying to fundraise $15,000 to provide the gift of clean water to a village in need through World Vision’s Gift Giving Catalogue. A single deep-water well provides clean, disease-free water for an entire village. Your contribution will help provide the drilling equipment, well parts and drilling engineer necessary for the construction of this gift. Thank you for supporting the Water Well Initiative.

To make a donation mail a cheque to World Vision’s Winnipeg office at:

World Vision
34 62 Scurfield Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB
R3Y 1M5

Please include in the memo portion of the cheque:
"Canoe Trip Fundraiser"

Thanks to all our contributors to date we have fundraised a total of: $1,294.50.

Preparations

Though preparation for the trip began long before the week preceding the trip, it was really crunch time once everyone started to arrive in Calgary. We packed a total of 270 meals and it took 3 of us, 2 constant days to do it. The food for the trip has a total weight of about 650 kilograms or about 1500 pounds. All of that was crammed into the living room of Matt’s basement apartment and was portioned out during an extended oldies radio session. The food is split into two halves and we will get the second half in Hay River. One half of the food takes approximately 350 liters of space.

This posed for us our next Quandry; how to fit so much food in the canoe with all of us and our gear packs? Eventually we came up with a solution. Every seat in the canoe was filled with a foam flotation block. There's the Solution. We took out the foam and we are able to stash about 40 litres of food under the average seat. This gives us lots more storage space without losing the flotation of the foam because the food bags still displace water. But that's not all we did to "Pimp-Out" our canoe; we've got bungee cords on all the thwarts for the paddles and painter lines. We added bags to the thwarts for sunscreen and lip balm. Lastly, we had one more modification to make. We removed one of the seats. Initially this seems crazy, but to efficiently fit people, gear and food it really was the best option. It cleared up good space for gear, which cleared up good space for legs. At this point we were all a little leery about the buoyancy of our little craft. Trying to figure people and gear weight we were all a little iffny on our prospects. So, a test paddle was in order.

We went down to the Glenmore Reservoir in Calgary. As we loaded up the canoe we all felt much better. On our test paddle, the wind blew hard straight towards us and Scott was bounced up and down but we managed to hold our course and pulled 7 km/h. When we turned with the wind, we were doing about 13 km/h. More importantly though is that we had a solid 9 inches of reeboard and were very stable side to side as well. We were now ready to head out to Jasper.

On our way, we stopped at the Sunwapta Glacier. The Sunwapta is the largest tributary of the Mackenzie watershed, so from there is the longest possible distance to the ocean via the Mackenzie. Nobody said we were smart, just adventurous. That night we spent at the whistlers campground just out of Jasper, poised to depart on our summer long odyssey. Oh, and Candace walked in some poison ivy.

Friday June 3rd- Group arrives in Hinton Alberta. All is well.

Monday June 6th- Group arrives in Whitecourt Alberta. A couple of days ahead of schedule, everyone is doing well and spirits are high.

Wednesday June 8th- Group arrives in Fort Assiniboine. Everyone is healthy, but are experiencing slight discomfort from sunburns and mild poison ivy (only Candace).

Friday June 10th- The group made a quick call from Smith Alberta, still good.

Sunday June 12th- Safe arrival in Athabasca, and a log entry was mailed. It will be posted soon. (as soon as we can get a handwriting specialist to decipher Matt's writing)
Rover Questing:
The Quest of World Scouting

© Kat Nielsen, R.S

The second clause of the Scout Law is "A Scout is loyal to his Queen, his Country, his Officers, his Parents, his Employers, and to those under him."

As we become adults, we realize more and more that Loyalty is one step in "playing the game" of life as well as of Rover Scouting. It is "playing the game together", cooperating just as gladly with those in lawful authority as with friends, and meeting cheerfully all obligations due to God and man. Trying day by day to give a Scouty lead "to those under him", and to help the whole Movement in some definite and regular way, even though a small one. Accepting citizenship as a privilege only to be won by faithful service, and as an opportunity for loyally assisting Scouting to spread throughout the world. Striving to be a Peacemaker in his Crew, home, and daily life, as a step towards the ideal of international peace.

No Rover can serve his Country loyally if he is not himself a channel for the spread of Scout ideals. In addition to his own personal life in the world he must do his best:

1. To extend and improve his own corner of the Scout Movement, so that the number of questing Rovers may be increased to form a more potent leaven in the community.

2. To fit himself by study and practical exploration, so far as he can, in order that he may understand the existing national and social conditions, and thereby fit himself to carry the ideals of Scouting into Parliament, municipal councils, philanthropic societies, and other public bodies.

3. To grasp the way in which national and international difficulties, and disputes (like those in a Group) can best be overcome by spreading the idea of working loyally together as a team for the common ideal, and by realizing the international importance of "playing the game of Scouting" in each other's gardens.

Preparatory Work

• Organize classes in Troop and Pack management, including the keeping of logs and registers, and secretarial business, in camp management, and in devising displays.

• Organize instruction for Rovers in teaching the subjects of the various Scout Badges.

• Explore the role of government, self-government, distinct societies, and the role of citizenship in each.

• Discuss the nature of international disagreements, trade disputes, religious controversies, etc. and how the ideals of Scouting applies in each case.

• Explore the place and outlook of the various national parties in your country.

• Discuss the cause, prevention and treatment of such social problems as slums, prostitution, drug addiction, unemployment, the state of health care and education, etc. and the role Rovers can play in alleviating these social ills.

• Discuss the importance and preservation of public spaces, historic buildings, and social identity.

• Explore the aims and methods of various national and philanthropic societies which relieve unhappiness, and promote unselfishness.

A great way to get started would be to create a "Roundtable" to help in the planning and administration of Scouting activities and for organizing opportunities for service, as well as for the promotion of Rovering within the Scouting community. Assist poorer Troops and Packs in getting camp equipment, leaders, meeting spaces. Organize a list of Rovers willing to fill leadership vacancies for Scouters, both temporarily and permanently. As well, create another list of Rovers able to act as instructors and examiners of Proficiency Badges.

Help to organize new Crews in your area. Provide training classes for Patrol Leaders. Publish Group or Troop magazines and reports. Co-operate in organizing visits of Scouts and Rovers to foreign countries, when the occasion arises, and in welcoming foreign visitors.

Help to build the community around you on a local and international scale.

ROVER PRAYER

By the spirits of the just
Made perfect in their suffering
Teach us in our turn, Oh Lord,
To serve Thee as we ought:
To give and not count the cost;
To fight and not to head the wounds;
To toil, and not to seek for rest
To labour and not to seek any reward
Save that of knowing that we do
Thy Will.
Amen.
Through The Rapids:

Letter # 2 Love Song

© Smoke Blacklock

Love makes the world go round, as they tell us in the song, and many of us think that it is our duty to remain in love at all times to prevent the world from stopping. This is a wonderful concept and I must admire the sacrifice of those people who are involved in constant love affairs, simply to prevent the world from stopping.

However, for the rest of us, who are willing to do our fair share it becomes necessary to tell when we are in love, lust, or simply infatuated. You love your parents, brothers and some teachers but when you are IN LOVE the whole world is different. Unfortunately infatuation, puppy love, lust and hormones can all cause the world to be different, so we must know the difference.

As any computer guru will tell you, it is essential that you be compatible. Compatibility has been defined as the ability to do boring things together, without being bored. Interest in the same activities will tend to make life less boring for one or the other partner. As an old curmudgeon, I sometimes feel that a lot of relationships start off so suddenly that they never have time to go on a date before being into the heavy passion scene. This creates a hazard where you could be involved in a significant relationship with a person that you don't like. Before getting into a heavy relationship take time to find out those little things about your partner, like his/her name, interests, marital status, age, religion, and so on. At least in that way you will be able to find out if you can stand the other person out of bed.

If you are able to control yourselves long enough to find out if you are compatible, you are likely to also find out if you are falling in love or had fallen in lust. Don't knock it if this really well built turns you on. That is lust, and the human race depends on it for continuation, as do the birds and the bees and all those other critters. If you have an eye for a comely member of the opposite sex that is only natural. If you pursue this attraction as the sole aspect of the relationship, like his/her name, interests, marital status, age, religion, and so on. At least in that way you will be able to find out if you can stand the other person out of bed.

If both of you are committed to this purely sexual relationship, you may mutually decide to carry it on for no other reason than scratching an itch. If on the other hand one of you is interested in another warm body while the other is in love and looking for a lifetime commitment, then it is unfair to take advantage. It is a pretty poor sort of person who uses someone else for personal gratification without consideration of that persons needs. If lust is the motivation for both of you, (or all of you) then it is your business as long as you don't litter or block traffic. But be sure you have a clear understanding of what is going on before you start. With mutual lust within an acquaintanceship, it is your business. With mutual lust within a mutual love, it can be wonderful. A relationship with list on one side and infatuation on the other side leads to pain, and unhappiness for at least one of you.

Love is something that grows out of a liking for another person. Friends first and lovers after. If the need is for immediate gratification, that can't wait, it is probably not love. Trust, acceptance of faults, willingness to have patience until everything is right, and friendship are signs of love. If you need to check on him/her, think they are perfect, have to make the move now for the fear of losing him/her, and can't stand the other out of bed, it is probably just lust or perhaps one sided infatuation.

If it is the real thing, it will wait until the time is right for both of you. Whether a few weeks or a few years. If this love rates a relationship, then a few weeks waiting in a lifetime of sharing is not much. If the speed reaching intimacy sets new records, then it is about as meaningful as trying on shoes at the mall.

If it is necessary to be at all times in full dress and make up mentally and physically in order to fool your partner about the real you, you are probably fooling yourself more. We love people in spite of their faults and they love us in spite of ours. That is love and it will stand the test of time.

I see marriages breaking up over minor problems (something you would forgive if she was a used car) and find myself wondering if their's was a marriage made in heaven or only in the bedroom. When you look across the room and see an old t-shirt with holes and a belly that is starting to stretch way beyond the "love handles" level, a lover will accept all the sags and rags. If you can't accept it you aren't a lover but only a bedmate. Wait long enough to see and accept the sags and rags of your partners body and soul, and you can share a lifetime as lovers and friends.
In some earlier generations the rules of courtship were tightly defined, with chaperones, traditions, and many old wives's tales defining how a young couple could arrive at the altar. The ceremony itself was sometimes elaborate and sometimes as simple as jumping over a broom handle but the rules and the peer pressure controlled actions both before and after the ceremony.

Today you have more freedom, than any generation before you, to establish your own rules and standards. With this freedom you have acquired a responsibility to others which is also unprecedented. As Rovers you made your personal decisions as a squire and later by thinking of what you were doing and how it would affect you and others. Sometimes you used a formal Vigil, and sometimes a less formal way of looking at all aspects of the question. Here is a suggested set of Vigil questions which might help you in deciding questions of relationship. The relationship might be marriage, common-law or perhaps some other relationship that is more than a one night stand.

I would suggest that you should each take time to go over the questions by yourself and then the two of you sit down together, perhaps with a couple of trusted friends, to talk about what you are contemplating.

A VIGIL FOR TWO

As adults, contemplating a relationship, we realize that each thing we do will affect the other.

1. In entering a relationship, am I motivated by selfish thoughts, or am I looking to share as a partner?

2. What are my expectations regarding sharing of finances and expenses of our shared home? What do I expect to contribute and what do I expect my partner to contribute?

3. What are my expectations regarding sharing of the duties and responsibilities of our home? Cooking, cleaning, washing, and repairing etc.?

4. What are my expectations about sexual activity? Am I willing to be monogamous in this relationship? Am I willing to adjust my needs and desires to those of my partner?

5. My partner is a person who has family and friends outside of my own group. What do I expect will be my relationship with them? How will my partner fit with my family and friends?

Whether you are together for life or only for a short period there are decisions about time, money, and material possessions which must be made.

1. How much time should we spend, together or separately, in pursuit of education? How long will this go on?

2. How much time should we spend together or separately in pursuit of employment or career targets? How long will this go on? What will my partner do when I am spending this time?

3. How much time should we spend, together or separately, in pursuit of hobbies and recreation, such as Scouting or sports? What will my partner do in this time?

4. What are our needs with regards to transportation? A new car, an old car, two cars, no cars? How much will it cost us to meet this need? Insurance, finance charges, maintenance?

5. What do we need in the way of household goods and toys? How important is the basic furniture? The TV, VCR, CD, PC and all the other electronic initials? How much of the budget goes for each?

6. How much money is needed for education, or to equip us for our careers? Where is it to come from?

A twosome has a tendency to expand into a threesome, foursome, or even a quarrel-some, without much planning. What kind of expansion could happen to you and how do you deal with it?

1. Do you have any pets such as dogs, cats, birds, snakes or fully grown gorillas which you intend to include in your home? Would you like to? Are either of you phobic or allergic to critters?

2. Do either of you have children? Where do they live? Do you need to support them or provide a home? What circumstances could change to make you support them and/or provide a home?

3. Do either of you have brothers, sisters, parents, friends or exes who could suddenly become star boarders? How could it happen? What would you do?

4. What happens if one of you becomes pregnant? Who is responsible for ensuring it only happens when you want it to? What are you prepared to give up to make room in your lives for another?

Principles are what define us as individuals. What do you consider important in your life? What does your partner consider important?

1. What are our religious and spiritual beliefs and how can we find common ground? How much time or money should this take?

2. How important is Scouting, Guiding, Greenpeace or recycling in your life? How much time and money should this take?

May your God bless you in this relationship.
How does the rally work? Teams will “transport” their couch through downtown Ottawa in search of points of interest described by the rally clues. Once at the required location, teams will take a snapshot of themselves, their couch, and any passersby willing to pose with them. Points will be awarded for the correct location, photographic composition, and bonus points will be given for each additional person in the photo that is not a member of the team. Along the prescribed route, teams will come across challenge stations – challenge points will be awarded based on how a team finishes compared to the other teams who complete the same challenge. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each challenge as well as to the winners of the overall rally.

What do we need? Teams need to provide their own couch and a digital camera (Compact Flash) for taking snapshots along the rally route. If a team cannot source a digital camera, they should bring a 35mm camera and notify the event coordinator in writing at the time of registration.

What kind of couch? There are no weight restrictions on the couch, and alterations can be made to make transportation easier. Alterations cannot affect the structural integrity of the couch – all couches must be able to support four team members while positioned on the ground, and all couches must be able to support 1 team member when lifted. A full set of couch specifications will be available on the event website as of August 1, 2005.
MORE DETAILS:

- Registration is open to all Venturers & Rovers in Central Canada – registration by team (maximum 6 team members) to be completed prior to Friday, September 9, 2005. If you have a large Venturer Company or Rover Crew, why not split into two teams of 4 or 5?!

- Registration fee: $30/team including event crest per person

- To register: Each team should complete the registration form below and send with a cheque payable to the “Nepean Area Rover Crew” to Brenda McCormack, Couch Rally Registrar, 2686 Marble Crescent, Ottawa, ON, K1V 8L8

- For any further details, please contact the event coordinator Andrew Price via e-mail andrew@andrewprice.ca or visit the event website: www.andrewprice.ca/couch

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### Registration Form

Council: __________________________ Area: __________________________

Group: __________________________

Team Name: __________________________

Team Member 1: __________________________

Team Member 2: __________________________

Team Member 3: __________________________

Team Member 4: __________________________

Team Member 5: __________________________

Team Member 6: __________________________

Team Contact Name: __________________________

Phone: __________________________ E-mail: __________________________
www.MOOTMOOT.ca

September 23-25, 2005
Snake Island - Toronto

$16 on or before August 5th
$18 on or before September 2nd
$20 at the Gate
(Maximum 400 participants)

Visit Our Website To Download A Registration Package
Mardi Gras
2005
September 23rd-25th

Who?
The camp is open to all registered Rovers, Venturers, Senior Branches of Guiding (Rangers, etc), Link Members, and Group Advisors. We are a certified and registered camp with both the Scouting and Guiding movements.

Where?
Mardi Gras is being held at the beautiful and spacious Camp Byng, on the sunshine coast, for our 6th straight year.

Why?
I’m glad you asked. Come to the camp and find out.

Registration
You have three options for registration; you can register using our online registration (coming soon!), or you can download a forms from our registration page (available soon!). The form can be printed and mailed or brought with you to camp.

Our mailing address can be found below under “Contacts” or on the registration page.

The cost for camp is…
$14 per person for early-bird registration before June 14th.
$16 per person for regular registration before September 1st.
$18 per person for late registration - any time after September 1st, including “at the door”.
…and the camp fees include more fun than a kick in the groin, plus a cool camp badge.

LEADERS: Please make sure that all members planning on attending have ALL required forms, including the new Scouts Canada Physical Fitness form or Girl Guides Canada Health form (H.1), and anyone under the age of 18 must have a completed Scouts Canada or Girl Guides Canada (OA.1) Parent/Guardian Consent Form with them, or they will not be permitted on site. This is a Scouts Canada rule!

Awards & Prizes
As per usual, we have awards for:

- Site decoration
- Farthest Traveled
- Dirty Band-Aid Award
- Events
- Spirit Award
- The MG Challenge Award

We also have a TON of prizes being donated to us courtesy of various sponsors!

Rules
This is an official Scouting event - all rules, bylaws, policies and procedures are in effect and will be enforced. Please respect the rules and the staff - it will make the weekend more enjoyable for everyone.

You are required to bring:
- A personal health form (current) for each member!
- An advisor or leader
- Food, shelter, clothing, etc… water is available onsite
- Decorations, costumes, and and lots of energy!

You will not be permitted to bring:
- Ghettoblasters (Who are we kidding? Just keep the tunes pleasant for those around you.
- Illegal drugs / alcohol (0.5% is still alcohol, plus we’ll laugh at you before kicking you out.)
- Fireworks / firecrackers / bear bangers / guns / etc.
- Generators

If you are caught breaking ANY camp rules, your ENTIRE GROUP will be subject to disciplinary action by the Mardi Gras committee, and you will ALL be sent home! This is a non-negotiable issue.

Contact Info
15th Maquinna Rovers - Mardi Gras
c/o Highlands United Church
3255 Edgemont Blvd.
North Vancouver, BC V7R 2P1
Email - 15throvers@northshorescouts.ca
Phone - 604.762.6924 (Camp Chief - Christian Behnke)
**Upcoming Events**

### Central Canada

**Camp Discovery 2005**
- **When:** August 13-21, 2005
- **Where:** Mountsberg Conservation Area in Flamborough, ON.
- **Who:** 3rd year Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, and Rovers!

**Couch Rally 2005**
- **When:** September 17th 2005
- **Where:** Downtown Ottawa
- **More Info:** andrew@andrewprice.ca

**Moot Moot 2005**
- **Where:** Snake Island, Toronto Ontario
- **When:** Sept 23rd-25th 2005
- **More Info:** Http://www.mootmoot.ca

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### Eastern Canada

Mark it off on your planning calendar, RAVE is back again and with some brand new sessions!

This year we are planning to offer:

- SIT Training Course
- WB I Company
- Ceremonies/ Traditions
- Communication
- Dutch Oven Cooking
- Duct Tape
- Fire Building Skills

- Knife Care
- Geocaching
- Goal Setting
- Group Dynamics
- Event Planning
- Knots
- Situational Leadership
- Stave Making
- Time Management

The RAVE planning committee is looking for Venturers, Rovers and Advisors to lead sessions and to help out as staff. If you are interested please contact Kevin Croft 450-0192 / 476-3847 kevin.croft@ns.sympatico.ca

**Expression of Interest For A Rover Reunion Gathering**
Any Nova Scotia Rovers or Rover Crews that are interested in planning and coordinating an event like this please contact Kevin Croft (kevin.croft@ns.sympatico.ca) for further details.

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**We need your event listings.**
Please send event info to kdunn@softhome.net