

# Handbook

of the

## Canadian Fellowship of Baden-Powell Guilds



2005 Edition

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Revised edition

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# 1 - NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS

**Formal name:** The Canadian Fellowship of Baden-Powell Guilds

**Informal names:** The Canadian Fellowship; The B-P Guild; The Guild.

**Affiliations:** The Canadian Fellowship is an independent organization, and is a member body of The International Scout and Guide Fellowship (an organization for adults). The ISGF oversees national Former Scout and Guide associations (sometimes called Old Scouts and Guides) in the same way as WOSM and WAGGGS oversee national youth Scout and Guide associations.

The Canadian Fellowship of B-P Guilds is affiliated with, but not a member of Scouts Canada, due to the fact that most Canadian members were once or still are part of that association.

# 2 - WHAT IS THE B-P GUILD?

The Canadian Fellowship of Baden-Powell Guilds is an organization comprised of largely former, and some current members of recognized Scout and Guide associations, their spouses, and friends. All accept and make the Scout Promise as a condition of membership.

Members share a common bond of experience with the Scouting and Guiding Movement and wish to continue associating with like-minded people; and to lend assistance to the Movement when and as they are able.

The Canadian Fellowship has no program and each Guild operates independently under the limits of the constitution and other membership requirements. Each Guild is free to meet as often as they like and perform activities of their choosing; whether in service to Scouting or the community, or simply socialization amongst their members.

While the Canadian Fellowship supports the entire Scouting Movement its primary affiliation is with Scouts Canada.

Depending on the degree of involvement with Scouts Canada a B-P Guild member wishes to assume, he or she may:

- a) remain only a member of the Canadian Fellowship, which is independent from Scouts Canada;
- b) or additionally: register with Scouts Canada under the Special B-P Guild Membership and follow the same process as for all their adult membership registrations, including the Volunteer Screening Process for adult members. The fee for this Special B-P Guild Membership covers membership in Scouts Canada, a subscription to the *Canadian Leader* magazine, Scouts Canada insurance coverage and qualifies them to receive Scouting Honours and Awards. (See Section 3000 Membership of *B.P. & P.*) A Guild member so registered with Scouts Canada would be listed in the

Membership Management System (MMS). This would also allow them to volunteer at overnight youth Scouting activities.

- c) or additionally: take out a full Scouts Canada Membership, comply with the all the Scouts Canada membership requirements, and receive all benefits of full membership.

All fees and costs of membership in Scouts Canada are in addition to those of the Canadian Fellowship.

### 3 - AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

The Aims of The Canadian Fellowship of Baden-Powell Guilds are to help its members to:

- 1) keep alive the spirit of the Scout or Guide Promise and Law,
- 2) bring that spirit into the communities in which they live and work,
- 3) actively support Scouting and Guiding Programs in Canada and the world.

The Principles of the Canadian Fellowship imply that members will endeavour to:

- 1) respect human life and rights,
- 2) work for justice and peace in order to create a happier world,
- 3) contribute to understanding, especially through friendship, tolerance and respect for others.

This requires a commitment by everyone, in his or her personal development, towards a better understanding of the Canadian Fellowship and the Scout and Guide spirit and to the advancement of the above principles.

See Appendix 2 for the Objectives, Aims and Principles of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship (our parent body) from which the Canadian Aims and Principles are derived.

### 4 - MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Anyone accepting membership in the Canadian Fellowship of Baden-Powell Guilds should be of good character and agree to accept the Aims and Principles of the Guild, and to make or reaffirm the Scouting Promise as follows:

On my honour, I promise that I will do my best  
To do my duty to God, and the Queen;  
To help other people at all times; and  
To carry out the spirit of the Scout Law.

### 5 - THE B-P GUILD IN CANADA

B-P Guilds are organized on a local level and serve Scouting in the Group, Service Area or Council in which they are organized.

There also exists the Central Guild whose members operate like Lone Scouts. (See Section 6 for

details.)

All Canadian B-P Guild members, through their annual registration with the Canadian Fellowship of B-P Guilds, automatically become members of the ISGF (the International Scout and Guide Fellowship).

In addition to membership in the Canadian Fellowship members may register with Scouts Canada. Members may pay the Special B-P Guild membership fee as agreed upon between Scouts Canada and the Canadian Fellowship; or they may pay for full membership. When registered as Special B-P Guild Members, or as full members of Scouts Canada, Guild members are entitled to Scouts Canada honours and awards by submitting the required forms to either the Group, Service Area or Council. (See Section 2 for further details on Scouts Canada membership.)

Where more than one Guild exists within a province, a Provincial Fellowship of Baden-Powell Guilds is formed, and serves as the coordinator of Guild activities within that province. Currently there are Provincial Fellowships in British Columbia and Ontario.

Each Guild appoints two voting members to their Provincial Fellowship, which meets at least once per year, or as required, to discuss Guild matters.

It is through the Provincial Fellowships that liaison is maintained with the Councils of Scouts Canada and they may appoint members to act for such purpose.

Where there is only one Guild in a province, that Guild is entitled to appoint a representative to the Canadian Fellowship of B-P Guilds.

The executive of the Provincial Fellowships of B-P Guilds changes according to the provincial Constitutions. Currently, in B.C. the executive is elected and serves a two-year term. In Ontario they rotate annually to the next highest numbered Guild in the province.

Each year a Duty Guild presents the annual meeting. In B.C. this rotates through the roster of Guilds independent of who the executive is. In Ontario it rotates likewise, but is combined with the executive functions.

Nationally, the Canadian Fellowship of Baden-Powell Guilds serves as the coordinating body for B-P Guilds in Canada and is in turn a member of the ISGF. The Canadian Fellowship meets every three years either in person or by means of a telephone conference. The executive are elected and serve three-year terms. Some executive positions are appointed and serve indefinite terms; e.g. Archivist, Newsletter Editor, Stamp Bank Manager and Webmaster.

The International Scout and Guide Fellowship meets every third year at varying locations throughout the world for a World Conference. Each member country is entitled to have four voting members. Canada's voting members are selected by the Executive Council from those members attending that particular Conference.

In 2002 Canada hosted the 23rd World Conference at the University of British Columbia.

## 6 - THE CENTRAL GUILD

A Central Guild was established by the Canadian Fellowship of B-P Guilds in November 1979, because of interest shown in the B-P Guilds by individuals located in areas where Guilds had not yet been formed.

Members of the Central Guild are registered with the Canadian Fellowship and the International Fellowship and are entitled to the full benefits of membership.

Central Guild members may also become members of Scouts Canada. (See Section 2 for more details.)

It is hoped that continuing contact with the Fellowship will help Central Guild members establish active Guilds in their areas.

The ISGF likewise has a Central Guild for interested people in countries where there is no national Fellowship. The first few Guilds organized in Canada were members of the ISGF Central Guild until a national association was formed here in 1977.

## 7 - HOW THE GUILD BENEFITS ITS MEMBERS AND SCOUTING

The fellowship of the Guild provides a means whereby members can socialize and share the common bond of experience in Scouting and Guiding. They are able to satisfy a curiosity as to how the Movement is faring today and to assist the Movement in a unique manner as and when they are able. Guild service to Scouting does not assume any of the responsibilities of the active Scouter or Guider, but assists, where possible, as and when requested, in such ways as suggested below.

Guilds perform many services to Scouting and the community; some are ongoing and some are periodic. Guilds are self-directing and they and individual members do not necessarily become involved in any or all of these projects but choose to become involved when and as they are able.

Some examples of past and present Guild assistance to Scouting are:

(Note: Certain levels of involvement with Scouts Canada require membership in that organization. See Section 2 for further details.)

- Assistance at Group, Service Area or Council camps and jamborees at every level.
- Fund raising by various activities to assist individual Scouts or Groups in many ways, including attendance at camps, jamborees and special trips.
- Service in many capacities with Groups, as Sponsors' Representatives, on Service Areas or Councils, camp committees, training committees, Gilwell reunions, hikeathons, Apple Days, Christmas tree sales, plant sales, etc.
- Operation and maintenance of the Area Scout House and shop.
- In conjunction with Groups or Service Areas in setting up and operating displays and information tables during celebrations, fairs, and especially during Scout-Guide Week.
- Special maintenance and support services to Service Area or Council camp sites.

- Assisting Beaver, Cub, Scout, and Venturer Sections as speakers, badge examiners, or special trainers.
- Supporting International Scouting by means of Stamp Committees who cut, sort and sell used postage stamps to raise money for the International Development Fund of the ISGF. (This fund pays for training for Scouters in the third world.)

## 8 - THE B-P GUILD BADGE AND DRESS

While there is no official B-P Guild uniform, certain forms of attire are commonly accepted.

Upon Investiture, each member is presented with the badge of the Canadian Fellowship of B-P Guilds. The badge incorporates the badge of the International Fellowship of Scouts and Guides (a red Scout Sign on a white Guide Trefoil) centred on a red Canadian maple leaf. This badge is commonly worn on the left breast pocket of a navy blazer.

On formal occasions attire is commonly as follows: a light blue shirt, Guild tie, navy blue blazer with the Canadian Fellowship badge on the left breast pocket, and grey slacks or skirt.

If a hat is desired, then a plain navy beret (with the official small Canadian Guild badge) may be worn.

On informal occasions individuals or Guilds may wear T-shirts, vests, or golf shirts printed or embroidered with a group logo. Neckerchiefs may also be worn; either the Gilwell scarf or one of your Guild's choice with the small Canadian Fellowship badge at the point. Otherwise clothing is as is appropriate for the activity.

Official badges, pins and other supplies are available only through Guild secretaries.

## 9 – HONOURS AND AWARDS

### **The Canadian Fellowship of Baden-Powell Guilds Recognition Award**

The Canadian Fellowship offers a Recognition Award medal for outstanding service to an individual Guild. The Guilds themselves decide which member deserves to be recognized. Applications and payment for purchase of a medal are submitted to the President of the Canadian Fellowship of B-P Guilds. The application should contain the name of the Guild member, a short history of the member's time with the Scouting movement and the B-P Guild. In addition, a short statement outlining why the member is being recognized by their fellow Guild members and where and when the award will be presented should be included.

### **Scouts Canada service pins**

All Guild members are eligible to receive years-of-service award pins from Scouts Canada for years of service both in Scouting **and** Guilding.

### **Scouts Canada Honours and Awards**

If a Guild member is also a member of Scouts Canada, whether under the Special B-P Guild Membership, or as a full member, they are eligible to receive all Scouts Canada Honours and Awards. (See chapter 2).

Applications for the latter two awards are submitted to the local Scout Council office.

## **10 - HISTORY OF THE GUILD IN CANADA**

The first mention of an organization of former Scouts in Canada was in 1948. At that time the Boy Scouts of Canada granted permission to its Provincial Councils to organize associations of former Scouts along the lines envisioned in the United Kingdom and as approved by the World Bureau.

This policy was further endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts of Canada in January 1958, permitting the establishment in Canada of branches of the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides (IFOFSAG) under the authority of the Provincial Councils.

There were several attempts around the country to form groups of Former Scouts but none survived very long.

In 1958, a meeting was held in Vancouver, B.C., to discuss the possibility of forming an old Scouts group there. As several of these Scouters were of Danish origin they followed in the steps of the Danish Old Scouts and formed a Guild of Saint George. At the first official meeting on September 27, 1960, the first thirteen members were invested. This group later changed its structure to follow IFOFSAG, and with the formation of other Canadian Guilds became known as the 1st Canadian Baden-Powell Scout Guild, Vancouver. The 2nd B-P Guild in Victoria, was organized in 1970 and the 3rd B-P Guild in Duncan, shortly after.

Over the next few years, this affiliation with the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides was as individual members in the Central Branch, as IFOFSAG/ISGF calls its Central Guild. (In some other countries, notably the UK, Australia and New Zealand, Guilds are called Branches.)

At the April 27, 1974, annual meeting of the British Columbia - Yukon Council of Scouts Canada, a resolution was passed formally recognizing the Canadian Branch of the B-P Guild as members of Scouts Canada in British Columbia. This arrangement was to slowly change in subsequent years as outlined further below.

On May 10, 1974, the B.C.-Yukon Provincial President gave notice of motion to the Scouts Canada National Council meeting in Ottawa for the formal recognition of the B-P Guilds nationally. This motion was adopted in November 1974.

Until 1976 all Guilds in Canada were in British Columbia, and it was not until then that Guilds were formed in Ontario and Alberta, thus giving the B-P Guilds a truly national structure. The 4th and 5th Guilds were in B.C., the 6th and 7th in Ontario, and the 8th in Alberta.

On May 13, 1977, the Scouts Canada National Council authorized the formation of a Canadian Council of B-P Guilds to act as a coordinating body for all B-P Guilds in Canada. On that day the council was formed in Calgary, Alberta, and was comprised of representatives from British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario.

A Constitution was drawn up based upon the Constitution of the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides. With this and the approval of the Scouts Canada National Council, application was made for the membership of Canada as a national member of IFOFSAG. Canada was granted membership on July 26, 1977, at the XII General Assembly of IFOFSAG held in Montreux, Switzerland.

During the years between then and now Canadian society and its laws have changed regarding youth groups, and the Guild and Scouts Canada have since become quite separate. Membership in the Canadian Fellowship now does not include automatic membership in Scouts Canada, and Guild members who wish to join that organization must apply separately and follow all their membership requirements. (See Section 2 for a fuller explanation.)

Despite this more formal separation than at our beginning, the Canadian Fellowship still remains closely affiliated with Scouts Canada. With their most recent reorganization a representative of the Canadian Fellowship now attends and has a vote at their Annual General Meeting.

In 1977 when Canada became a full member of IFOFSAG, the secretary of the Canadian Council began a national newsletter. After a few issues he gave it a name: *Mamook Papah*, which means "Write Message" in the old Chinook trading language. The paper is still published and all registered members receive it three times a year as part of their membership.

## 11 - HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCOUT AND GUIDE FELLOWSHIP (an organization for adults) - The ISGF

In Great Britain almost as soon as the first generation of Boy Scouts had passed through their training, branches of Old Scouts started to be formed with limited membership. It was not until 1930 that efforts were made to organize these former Scouts into a reserve from which to draw assistance. Denmark brought together former Scouts and Guides as the St. George's Guild in 1933.

The Scout Guild was formed in 1948, and the title Scout B-P Guild was given in 1955.

Informal international meetings were held from 1948 to 1950 and larger conferences in 1951 and 1952.

In October, 1953, at a meeting in Lucerne, Switzerland, the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides was inaugurated, and a provisional constitution was adopted. Eighteen countries became the founding members.

The Constitution laid down "where, in any one country there is more than one representative body of Former Scouts and/or Guides, then only one federation of such representative bodies can be accepted".

That is, the country is the unit of membership, and the form of federation is left to each country to decide.

In 1996 the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides (IFOFSAG) changed its name to the International Scout and Guide Fellowship (An Organization for Adults) - the ISGF.

The International Fellowship supports World Scouting and Guiding and has made grants to both the World Bureaus to assist Scouting and Guiding in third world countries.

The International Development Fund operates for this purpose and is mainly fed by contributions from the stamp banks of member countries where used stamps are collected and sold by Guilds all over the world. Many Canadian Guilds have active stamp collecting committees.

The ISGF is a worldwide organization with members now in over fifty countries. The Secretariat of the Fellowship is located in Brussels, Belgium.

The ISGF publishes the *World Gazette Mondiale* containing news of interest to world Guiding four times annually. Copies of this newsletter are provided by the Canadian Fellowship to every registered Guild for the information of their members.

## APPENDIX 1

### INVESTITURE OF MEMBERS

Within individual Guilds investitures are generally conducted by the Guild Master or someone appointed by him or her.

At the front of the room there should be a covered table beside which is placed a Canadian B-P Guild Flag. If so desired, three candle holders containing pale blue candles may be placed on the table to be lit when each promise is made. (Alternatively, two candles may be lit and placed on either side of the table and the lights in the room dimmed).

Begin with the singing of *O Canada*.

The Guild Master will ask the new member(s) to come forward to the front of the room, close to the table, and then turn to face the audience.

The Guild Master starts the Investiture Ceremony by saying the opening prayer, or calling upon a Chaplain to do so (if one is present):

*Let us Pray: Let us today give thanks for the lives of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, and for the worldwide brotherhood of Scouts and the sisterhood of Guides, and for the fun and adventures we have had in Scouting and Guiding.*

*We give thanks dear Lord, for the companionship of our B-P Guild friends and the fellowship we enjoy with them in the International Scout and Guide Fellowship, which binds us together as a worldwide family.*

*Thank you Lord. Amen.*

The Guild Master says:

*Fellow Guild Members, we are gathered here today to invest these new member(s). Please give a warm welcome to: (read names of prospective members).*

An attendant takes the Guild flag and holds it horizontally in front of the new members upon which they place their left hand.

The Guild Master says:

*We now ask you to renew your acceptance of the Aims of the B-P Guilds, namely:  
To keep alive amongst its members the spirit of the Scout and Guide Promise and Law.  
To carry that spirit into the communities in which we live and work.  
Whilst remembering other responsibilities, to actively support Scouting and Guiding in our communities.*

The new member(s) say(s) *I do* and with left hand still on the flag, they and all others present, make the Scout Sign.

The Guild Master says:

*We also ask that you now repeat the Scout Promise which we all accept as our guiding principle:  
On my honour, I promise that I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and the Queen,  
To help other people at all times, and  
To carry out the spirit of the Scout Law.*

The Guild Master then hands each of the new member(s) a Guild Membership Badge and says:

*I welcome you as (a) new member(s) of our (number of the Guild) Canadian B-P Guild (location) and I wish you success in all your endeavours on behalf of our Guild.*

Then a closing prayer is to be said by the Guild Master or Chaplain:

*We ask your blessing, Lord, on all who are assembled here to foster and help with the work of the B-P Guilds. Guide those who administer the Guild in all their deliberations. Grant them wisdom and understanding in all their decisions and actions. Give them courage and loyalty that they may act according to your will in all things. Amen.*

End of the ceremony.

## APPENDIX 2

Extracted from the Constitution of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship

### CHAPTER II OBJECTIVES, AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

#### Article II

##### Objectives of the International Fellowship

1. The OBJECTIVES of the International Fellowship are:
  - a) to establish liaison and cooperation between national organizations of former Scouts and Guides.
  - b) to encourage the founding of such organizations in any country where no such organization exists.
  - c) to promote friendship amongst former Scouts and Guides throughout the world.

##### Aims of the International Fellowship

2. The AIMS of the International Fellowship are to help former Scouts and Guides:
  - a) to keep alive the spirit of the Scout or Guide Promise and Law in their own lives.
  - b) to bring that spirit into the communities in which they live and work.
  - c) whilst remembering their other responsibilities, actively to support Scouting and Guiding in their communities.

##### Principles of the International Fellowship

3. The PRINCIPLES of the International Fellowship imply that as an adult anyone belonging to any one of the Member Organizations of the International Fellowship will endeavour to:
  - a) respect human life and rights.
  - b) work for justice and peace in order to create a happier world.
  - c) contribute to international understanding, especially through friendship, tolerance and respect for others.

This requires a commitment by everyone, in his or her personal development, towards a better understanding of the International Fellowship and the Scout and Guide spirit and to the advancement of the above principles.