



Creating a Better World
Créer un monde meilleur



EMBARGOED UNTIL MAY 3, 2009

Scouts Take up the Challenge to “Be Prepared” for Any Emergency

OTTAWA, May 3, 2009 – It’s storming outside. Tree branches are bending. The power just went out, along with the lights. Do you know what to do?

Now, thousands of young people and their families across Canada do, thanks to Scouts Canada’s new Emergency Preparedness program.

The program -- which features a new badge for Cubs and Scouts, and supporting material developed by federal and provincial emergency preparedness experts -- offers youth and Scout leaders practical, hands-on knowledge to prepare themselves and their families for any emergency. The program is particularly relevant in today’s challenging environmental climate, where we read of unprecedented natural disasters every day.

Scouts Canada challenged its members to sample part of the Emergency Preparedness program as part of a national contest. Beaver colonies, Cub packs and Scout troops from across the country responded to our challenge by preparing at-home emergency survival kits, practicing first aid, and researching and presenting projects on natural disasters.

The grassroots response to this fun and exciting challenge has been significant. In the space of six weeks, when the contest was first launched, an amazing 10,000 leaders and youth took up the challenge to be prepared for any natural disaster. This was no surprise to Rob Stewart, Executive Commissioner and CEO of Scouts Canada. “Scouts have always known how important it is to “Be Prepared” – that’s our motto. This program allows us to reach out to our members, and by extension their families and communities, even pets, to assist them should an emergency occur.”

To read about the Emergency Preparedness program or the contest winners, visit www.scouts.ca/ep.

Scouts Canada, the country’s leading youth organization, offers fun and exciting programs and adventure for boys, girls and youth ages 5 to 26. Scouting teaches youth about the active role they can play in helping to create a better world. Close to 80,000 young people enjoy Scouts Canada’s programs, which are provided by more than 23,000 caring and dedicated volunteers. We are members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), which has grown to 28 million members in 217 countries and territories.

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