

For further information on Scouts Canada and Girl Guides, please visit their websites at www.scouts.ca and www.girlguides.ca.



February 20-27, 2011

As Christians we all strive to reach out to our communities with the love of God. One of the ways that I have been called to do this, for the past twenty-seven years, is as a leader in Scouting. Only for the past three years have I had the joy of working with my own children in Beaver Scouts.

Too often we want to know what's in it for us as we volunteer. As a leader, I have had the joy of watching children grow in confidence and then into leaders. I have watched as they cooked their first meal and learned about the love of God. Many of these things they learned by doing and not in any abstract way. What I gain as a leader cannot be measured except through the smiles on the youth that I serve.

This past year Scouts Canada changed the names of most of its sections. Now we have Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts. New and old names, but the same programmes. Scouting and Guiding are constantly evolving to meet the needs of our youth. Programmes and uniform changes, but the basics remain unchanged as does the desire to reach out to the youth of our communities in positive ways.

Lutheran churches across Canada have reached out to the youth of Canada, with the love of God, using the programmes of Guides Canada and Scouts Canada for many years. We have provided for the Christian instruction of our youth through the Religion in Life Award. Youth may also be awarded the Pro Deo et Patria award and adults, the Lamb Award. These are available to members of both Guiding and Scouting and are awarded by the church.

So what's in it for us? Yes, the church might be a little messy, but a pristine church is one that is not being used. Yes, there might be noise, but youth are having fun in a safe environment. We may never truly know what's in it for us. Yet in working with the youth of our communities we never know when they will come to truly understand their promise to be true to themselves and their beliefs or to do their duty to God, but we surely will see the effects of Scouting and Guiding in the future.

Rev. Michael Diegel

*Scout/Guide Relationships Lutheran Council in Canada
Lamb Award 1998*

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