

Screening/PRC Frequently Asked Questions

What are the changes In the Screening Policy?

- Any adult Volunteer must have completed all steps of the screening process before working with children, including possessing a clean police reference check (PRC) report.
- A Scouts Canada Council Field Executive must review all adult volunteer applications to ensure that all steps of the screening process have been completed before the adult begins working with children.
- All Current Adult Members will be required to produce a clean PRC effective September 1, 2002.
- All members must have their PRCs renewed every 3 years.

Why is Scouts Canada changing the Screening Process?

- At Scouts Canada safety of our youth has always been our number one priority. We are not implementing these changes to create more forms or work for already hard-working leaders. We only want to ensure that the best and most qualified adults will be looking after our children.

When do these changes take effect?

- Immediately, groups must start preparing now for fall 2002.

What does a "Clean" record mean?

- A "clean" PRC is defined as one that does not list any criminal record(s).
- no criminal record as defined by the Criminal Records Act
- no pardons for a sexual offence as set out in the recent amendments of the Criminal Records Act
- no outstanding criminal charge(s)
- no order(s) made in the interest of safety under the criminal code which would restrict the applicant's access to, weapons, firearms, explosives or other prohibitions
- no contact, access or behavior restriction(s) with any person, or
- no order(s) made under the child protection legislation which is intended to restrict the applicant/member access to children.

Is there a way to clean a record?

- There is only one way to apply to have your record "cleaned". The individual must contact the National Parole Board of Canada and apply for an official pardon. For more information you can call 1-800-874-26 or visit the web site at www.npb-cnrc.gc.ca.

What If I had a PRC done 1 or 2 years ago? Do I still need to have one done for September 2002?

- Only members who have had their PRC done more than 3 years ago as of September 2002, will be required to re w their PRC.

Will somebody notify me when my PRC expires? .

- Scouts Canada has mailed letters to all current members who will need to renew their PRC before September 2 ,2002.
- Their PRC applications are required before May 31st.

Who is covering the Costs of the PRCs?

- It has always been the responsibility of the group to cover the costs of the PRCs and It will remain the responsibility of your individual groups to cover the cost.

How long does a PRC take?

- Anywhere up to 12 weeks, but there are times when it can take longer.

Can members of the Group Committee fill in while the PRCs are being processed?

- Yes, as long as they themselves are properly screened and they have a clean PRC.

Can a parent/adult work with children as a leader before the screening process is complete?

- Absolutely not, there will be no exceptions made.

How will we know when the Screening process is completed?

- Individual Group Committees will be notified by Scouts Canada when all steps of the process are complete. Remember, a clean PRC record is only one step in the screening process. All steps must be completed fore a volunteer can be considered for a position in Scouts Canada. April 2002

Do parents who go to camp have to go through all this too?

- If the parent is simply going as a parent the answer is No. If the parent is going to serve in a leadership role and come into contact with youth members they must provide a clean PRC.

How does this apply to Group Committee members? They don't normally come contact with youth. Do they have to complete the same steps before they start their jobs?

- Yes. All adults who serve in Scouting must go through the process. The screening process is also designed to make sure we have the right people for all roles. It is a process to identify undesirable adults.

Do we have to screen first aid instructors and others who come to help us?

- No. They need an orientation to the group (basic information about the section they will be teaching) and a copy of the Duty of Care. However, if they are providing a service as a "First Aider" at a camp or a special event, they must provide a clean PRC.

Will this put an added burden on the administration of PRCs in Council offices?

- Providing a clean PRC is the responsibility of the volunteer and we should expect them to come to us with the process already complete. Council offices should not be responsible for sending the request etc. They should really just be administering the completed portion of the PRC process.