



Riel Scouts Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

General Program Questions

What is the Riel Scouts program?

Riel Scouts is a Métis youth program developed by Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. It provides children and youth with opportunities to learn about Métis culture, language, history, values, and community through hands-on, land-based, and group activities.

Who is the program for?

Riel Scouts is designed for Métis youth ages 5 to 16. Youth ages 17 to 18 may participate in leadership roles as Junior Captains, supporting younger Scouts and building leadership skills.

Is this a school program?

No. Riel Scouts is a community-based program. Sessions typically take place after school, on evenings, or on weekends depending on the Local.

Eligibility and Participation

Does my child need to be a Métis Nation–Saskatchewan citizen?

Yes. Participants must be registered citizens of Métis Nation–Saskatchewan or actively in the process of applying for citizenship.

Does my child need to belong to a specific Local?

No. Your child does not need to be a member of the Local offering the program. If space is available, they may participate in another Local's program.

What if there is no program in my community?

Riel Scouts is currently being introduced in phases. If your Local is not yet offering the program, families can contact RielScouts@mns.ca for updates on future opportunities.

What if the program is full?

Each Scout Party has limited capacity. If a program is full, families may be placed on a waitlist or referred to another nearby Local where possible. For additional support, contact RielScouts@mns.ca.

How are participants selected?

Participants will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Métis youth citizens who are members of the Local piloting the program.
2. Métis youth whose parents are members of the Local piloting the program
3. Métis youth citizens who are not members of the Local piloting the program

There may be more than one scout party per age group if there are sufficient Captains to provide that service. Not all locations will run all age groups (this is registrant and captain dependent)

Program Structure and Experience

What do Scouts actually do?

Scouts take part in activities connected to:

- Culture and history
- Language exposure
- Land-based learning
- Outdoor skills
- Arts and music
- Community service
- Teamwork and leadership

Activities are hands-on and focused on participation rather than classroom learning.

Does my child need to speak Michif?

No. The program introduces Michif languages in a beginner-friendly way. No prior knowledge is required.

Will every program look the same?

No. While all Riel Scouts programs follow the same overall structure, activities may look different depending on the Local, the season, and the community.

Scheduling and Commitment

How often do Scouts meet?

Most Scout Parties meet once or twice per month between September and May. Exact schedules are determined by the Local.

How long are sessions?

Sessions are typically 1.5 to 2 hours.

Is attendance required every time?

Regular attendance is encouraged to support group learning and connection. If a Scout will be absent, families should inform their Captain/Local.

Cost and Supplies

Is there a cost to participate?

No. There is no cost for families to participate in Riel Scouts.

Do families need to provide equipment or supplies?

Most materials are provided. Families may be asked to send weather-appropriate clothing or basic personal items depending on the activity.

Safety and Supervision

Who supervises the Scouts?

Scouts are supervised by trained Captains and Local volunteers.

Are Captains screened?

Yes. All Captains complete:

- Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening
- Reference checks
- Code of Conduct agreement
- Orientation and training

Are activities safe?

Activities are planned to be age-appropriate and follow safety guidelines. As a land-based program, some activities take place outdoors where conditions are not controlled.

What happens in case of injury or emergency?

Captains follow established safety protocols and will contact parents or emergency services as required.

Transportation and Responsibility

Do parents need to stay during sessions?

This depends on the Local and age group. Expectations will be shared at registration.

Is transportation provided?

No. Families are responsible for transportation to and from program sessions.

Inclusion and Environment

Is Riel Scouts inclusive?

Yes. The program is designed to be welcoming, respectful, and supportive of all participants.

What kind of behaviour is expected?

Scouts are expected to:

- Show respect to others
- Participate positively
- Follow instructions
- Contribute to a safe environment

Program Availability and Expansion

Why isn't the program available everywhere yet?

Riel Scouts is currently in a pilot phase. This allows Métis Nation–Saskatchewan to gather feedback and refine the program before expanding. Pilot locations were selected based on an expression of interest that was completed by Local leadership in December 2025.

When will more Locals be included?

Additional Locals will be included in future program cycles if they are interested in running Riel Scouts. Target date for full provincial launch is September 2027.

Registration and Privacy

How do I register my child?

Registration is completed through Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. Required information is shared with the Local for program delivery.

How is my information protected?

Personal information is handled in accordance with applicable privacy legislation. Only necessary information is shared with Locals.

Questions, Concerns, and Support

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Families can contact:

- Their Local delivering the program, or
- RielScouts@mns.ca for general program support

What if I have a concern or issue?

Families are encouraged to speak with their Local first. If further support is needed, they can contact RielScouts@mns.ca.