

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:RielScouts@mns.ca).

### 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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:RielScouts@mns.ca).