



What is SOAR?

The Spirit of Adventure Rendezvous, SOAR for short, is a week-long provincial 'back to basics' outdoor camp sponsored by the BC Council of Girl Guides of Canada, for girls between the ages of 11 and 18.

Québec Council will sponsor a half-patrol of a Guider and 4 Ranger-aged girls. The Guider cost for camp and travel will be subsidized 100% by Quebec Council

In 2017, the eighth SOAR was held in Smithers. They have been located around the province (Prince George, Sooke, Trail, Merritt, Parksville, Aggasiz, Enderby) in order to give girls an opportunity to see various parts of BC.

SOAR 2020 will be held in Sooke, in the Southern Vancouver Island area from July 24 – August 1, 2020

How many participants attend SOAR?

A total of 2,336 girls and leaders from BC, other provinces and other countries (Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Scotland, United Kingdom and the United States) attended in 2017. Most groups came as a complete patrol of eight girls and two leaders. There were 252 volunteer core staff who spent more than a year making preparations for this camp.

In 2020, as many as 2500 participants may attend.

What will a typical day at camp look like?

- **7:00-8:30 AM:** Breakfast at your patrol site; make your bagged lunch to take with you.
- **8:00-9:00 AM:** If your program is offsite, you will need to meet your bus. This includes day trip travel.
- **9:45-11:45 AM:** Morning program sessions.
- **11:45 AM -1:15 PM:** Lunch. Could be on the go between program activities. Often there is lunchtime entertainment (Karaoke) at a stage area. If your afternoon activity is offsite, you will need to meet your bus.
- **1:30-3:45 PM:** Afternoon program sessions.
- **4:30-6:30 PM:** Supper, prepared and eaten at your patrol site.
- **7:30 PM:** Evening activities typically begin. Campfire, international/interprovincial performances, dance night, etc. A schedule will be provided at camp.
- **11:00 PM:** Site curfew – lights out!

Are there special camp activity highlights?

Yes, every SOAR has Opening and Closing Ceremonies, an International/Interprovincial Night and other all-camp events. Further information will be posted as the plans are developed.

How do meals work at SOAR?

SOAR is a “back to basics” camp and patrols do their own cooking. Guiders “shop” for the food for their patrols. No, this does NOT mean that you need to bring money to pay for food! This means that you will take the food that your patrol needs from the “Quartermaster’s Store” but no more than you need.

How are Ranger Patrols different from Guide/Pathfinder Patrols?

Rangers will participate in a 3 day out trip program, not available to Guides or Pathfinders. Rangers will be physically separated into their own sub-camp area, away from Guides/Pathfinders on site.

What types of activities do the girls take part in?

The program consists of traditional camp-type activities such as cooking, campfire sing-alongs and crafts. The girls may sign up to try out activities in each of the program areas-Active Recreation, Crafts, Environment, Fine Arts, Service, Science and Technology and Waterfront – and go on day trips to tour the local area. See the Program Information page for the most up-to-date program information.

Typically, all girls will have the opportunity to choose several of these activities:

- **Active Recreation:** Amazing Race, Mountain Hiking, Lakeside Nature Walk, Roller Derby, Skateboarding, Fly Fishing, Horseback Riding, Hip Hop, Archery, Cycle Touring, Zumba/Yoga, Riflery
- **Crafts:** Wire, Stone & Beads, Gem Tree, Glass Etching, Mosaics, Leathercraft, Beach Bags
- **Environment:** You’re Never Powerless, Habitat: Where it’s at, Bee-lieve it or Not, Weather Wizards, Dairy Divas, Leave No Trace, Smoke in the Air, Ecosystem Celebrations
- **Fine Arts:** Painting, Shadow Theatre, Drumming, Belly Dancing, Drama, Photography, Puppets, Mural Painting, Face Painting, Culinary Arts
- **Service:** Comfort Bears, Dog Toys, WAGGGS/Education kits, Activity Aid for Seniors, Painting, Resource Centre, Shuswap Trail, Pruning, Okanagan Gleaners, Sanitary Kits/Skirts
- **Science:** Chemistry, Tree Talkers, Brain Boosters, Science Centre, Forensics, Waterways, Robotics
- **Water Activity:** Scuba, Paddleboard, Kayaking, Canoeing, Waterslide, Lake Swim/Raft Building, River Float, Snorkeling, Beach Break
- **Day trips:** Ranch, Ghost Town, City

Each girl’s personal program selection choice will be entered online, within each program area, by order of preference. A personalized camp schedule will be distributed to each girl upon arrival at camp. Patrols will all have the same program area at the same time, but each girl within a patrol could have a different program activity based on her program selection and assignment.

Is there programming available for adults at SOAR?

SOAR is a girl-focused camp and as such, adult program is not offered. Patrol Guiders assigned to help at program stations are expected to supervise and ensure the safety of the girls in the activity. In some instances, it may be possible or necessary for Guiders to try or participate in the activity, but Guiders should not be expecting to participate.