



## Ottawa MedVent FAQ

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### What sort of person is MedVent membership aimed at?

The MedVent program is aimed at youth who are considering a career as a Paramedic, or in other Emergency Services or Health Sciences, and would like to be exposed to aspects of that career option. The program is also aimed towards those youth wishing to provide first-aid services to their community at a level above the norm.

The ideal member is mature, eager to learn and participate, and ready to try new things.

### What sort of activities do the MedVents participate in?

MedVent activities can be broken down into two basic groups: **Meetings** and **Events**.

**Meetings** usually have a “business” component, and a training component, and we’ll often have specific “training-only” sessions.

**Events** are further broken down into three basic types: Camps, PR Events and Operational Events.

**Camps** are either our own camps, where we’ll normally focus on training (and fun!), or requests for service at camps where we will provide first aid services to the camp participants.

**PR Events** include hosting small groups (cubs, beavers, etc.) for tours of Ottawa Paramedic Headquarters, visits to small groups to talk about first aid, paramedics, etc., and other miscellaneous non-operational events.

**Operational Events** are usually larger events where we will partner with the Paramedic Service, or be specifically engaged by community organizations to either assist in paramedic operations, or provide first aid services to the public.

### What sort of time commitments should I expect?

**Meetings:** 2 per month, currently on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, plus some special training events through the year. **New recruits must attend 100% of the meetings for at least the first six months, due to the critical training. After that, they must maintain a minimum 60% meeting attendance.**

**Training weekend:** Early in the Fall, typically between late-August and early-October, there is a full-weekend training session conducted at Paramedic HQ. This is mandatory for all new recruits, since it allows us to bring everybody to the same certification levels, and provides additional training that will get the recruit up to speed quickly, and let them start participating in events. New applicants will be advised of the dates soon after they apply, so they can block off that time in their calendars.

**Training Camp:** Usually over the winter, we run a full training camp at a local campsite. This is a combination of team-building exercises, and also a lot of skills practice. It’s considered mandatory for all.

**Camps:** On average 3 weekend camps per year (Friday- Sunday), mostly in the summer and fall months, where we’ll be engaged to provide first-aid services.

**Public Relations Events:** On average, 1 or 2 events per month, mostly in the fall and early spring. All members are expected to participate in at least some of the PR events. In addition, between October and April the MedVent unit

coordinates tours of Paramedic HQ for scouting/guiding groups. **There is a mandatory minimum number of PR hours and HQ Tour participation required of all members.**

**Operational Events:** On average, 1.5 Event/Days per month. Busiest event months are February (Winterlude), and the summer months. **All members are required to perform a minimum of fifty hours of operational service per year.**

There are some events that are considered mandatory for all-member participation. This includes Canada Day, and at least a few shifts during Winterlude.

A good estimate for new members is to expect at least three to five days per month requiring attention to MedVent activities (including meetings). The MedVent Unit does not take a “summer break”, so meetings and events run year-round.

### **How old do I have to be to join the MedVents?**

The Medical Venturer program is aimed towards youth between the ages of 15 and 17. We usually will usually not accept new members younger than 15 or older than 17 because, historically, younger recruits may have problems with the operational standards we require, and the maturity level that entails; and older recruits often have problems with the time requirements once they start getting into jobs and/or higher education. We still encourage and accept applications from people slightly out of that age range, but they'll be at a disadvantage when it comes to selection time. We usually take in more applications than available seats.

Once you become a member though, there is no maximum age as long as you can maintain the commitments expected of you.

### **What are the requirements to join the MedVents?**

- Be between 15 & 17 years of age.
- Have a valid Standard First Aid certificate (2-day course).
- Have a solid understanding of the time & participation commitments.
- Have a personal e-mail account, and be ready to check it at least daily.
- Attend an interview session, in which your attitude will be judged, and a brief test of your basic first aid knowledge will be conducted. This allows the recruiting team to “score” applicants for potential membership.

### **What are the requirements to remain with MedVents if accepted?**

- Attend 100% of all meetings for at least the first six months, and then no less than 60% of meetings after that.
- Participate in a minimum of 50 event operational hours per year, including participation in any events deemed mandatory.
- Participate in a minimum of 10 Public Relations (PR) hours per year, including a minimum of 3 Paramedic HQ Tours in the first year (when HQ tours are possible).
- Regularly attend extra Training sessions offered from time to time in order to maintain & improve skills.
- Clearly understand and abide by the Ottawa MedVent Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs).
- Maintain the supplied uniform & equipment to MedVent standards, and return all promptly on demand.
- Maintain a respectful and helpful attitude at all times.
- Once you turn 18, maintain a clear Police Records Check.

### **What is the process for becoming a MedVent?**

First, you are required to have a valid Standard First Aid with CPR-B or CPR-C certification from a WSIB-compliant source (Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, etc.). We will not accept recruits without this certification.

Monitor Ottawa MedVent on social media. In early summer, an application form will go online on our site at

<http://www.ottawamedvent.ca>, which you'll complete and submit. If time allows, we may invite you to attend one of our regular meetings, where you will get to see some of the business we take care of, and possibly participate in a training session. Plus, you'll get to talk to some of the current members to ask questions and get their personal views on MedVent participation.

Once your application is submitted, carefully watch your e-mail. All formal communications with the unit will be via e-mail, and you are totally responsible for ensuring that you're receiving, reading and acting upon all e-mail received from the Unit.

We'll schedule an interview with several senior members and possibly an advisor. We may ask you to provide a brief resume and/or provide some references from people in your community attesting to your character and ability to meet our standards. There is usually a short testing component to verify some of your first aid skills & knowledge.

The annual recruiting drive typically begins in June of each year, with the interviews taking place during July/August. New recruits start attending meetings in September.

If you make it past the interview, you'll become a "recruit". You will need to register with Scouts Canada as a Youth Member, and pay the Scouts Canada annual fee (see: [How much does membership in Ottawa MedVent cost](#)). This fee covers a scouting year from January to December, with the first year overlapping. Youth members 18 years of age or older ("Rovers") will be required to get a Police Records Check (PRC) done, but we will provide the forms to accomplish this. In addition, Rovers will need to submit five references, who will be contacted, submit to a short interview with Scouts Canada representatives, and complete a few Scouts Canada online courses. More details on this will be provided when your application is received.

At this point you'll usually be issued some uniform gear, and be able to participate in some events and meetings (certain events have higher requirements and are not open to recruits). Once you've attended a few meetings and events and maintained the standards we require, you'll become a "basic member", and be eligible to participate in most events.

### **What is the MedVent uniform? How much of the uniform is provided?**

The basic MedVent uniform is a dark blue shirt, dark blue paramedic-style pants, black CSA-approved safety boots, a yellow reflective jacket and a yellow reflective vest. The only part each member is required to purchase is the safety boots; all other uniform parts are provided by the unit. Over time, members will be provided other uniform parts (belts, etc.) and equipment. All provided uniform parts must be returned to the unit on demand, and will be required to sign (and have their parents/guardians sign) a contract acknowledging you will receive an invoice for unreturned material. Upon joining, new members will get a copy of the Standard Operating Guidelines document which will explain the uniform requirements in detail, which are quite strict.

### **How much does membership in Ottawa MedVent cost?**

There is an annual fee for Scouts Canada, payable each September, currently set at \$245 (2022). This typically covers most or all of the annual "Camp Fee" to offset the costs of the Fall/Winter Training Camp. In addition, each member is required to purchase their own pair of black CSA-approved safety boots. In general, all other Unit operational costs are covered via fundraising and income from certain events.

Most training is provided free of charge, but certain advanced certification courses require payment of a course fee. Normally, the Unit is able to provide some subsidization based on member participation above the minimum requirements.

### **What is the nature of the partnership with the Ottawa Paramedic Service?**

The MedVent Unit is under the direct supervision of the Special Operations Branch of the Ottawa Paramedic Service. This branch oversees several specialty units including the Tactical Paramedics, Marine Unit, etc. In addition, special events are coordinated through this branch. This arrangement allows the MedVents to be invited to participate in a



variety of special events, including Canada Day, Remembrance Day, etc. Normally this participation would involve partnering with paramedics to assist them in their duties, or in some cases taking on specific assignments of our own. In addition, selected MedVent members may be invited to participate in paramedic training events or similar. Normally these are open to the more senior members, and some activities may be restricted to members 18 years of age or older.

### **What is the nature of the partnership with Scouts Canada?**

The Medical Venturer program is one of several “Vocational Venturing” programs operated by Scouts Canada across the country. As a Scouting unit, we are obligated to fulfill the basic requirements of any Scouting member. Ottawa MedVent is under the direct oversight of the Voyageur Council Service Alliance, which encompasses several “service” units in the Ottawa area. All members are required to be registered Scouts Canada members, and this membership provides members with liability insurance coverage, and access to Scouts Canada programming.

Operationally, The Ottawa MedVent Unit assists with Scouting PR events, such as visiting groups (cubs, beavers, etc.) or providing tours of Paramedic Headquarters. In addition, the unit is asked to provide first aid services at several large camps each year.

### **What is the organizational structure of the MedVent Unit?**

The MedVent Unit is youth-driven. This means that there is an executive committee comprised of youth members, and any youth member in good standing is eligible to become an executive member. Each year in the fall an election process is performed to select a new youth executive committee. All primary functions of the Unit are performed by youth members, and all major decisions undertaken through agreement of the youth members. There are several adult Advisors, who oversee Unit operations, ensure that all operations are performed within the standards dictated by the Unit itself and the Partners (Ottawa Paramedic Service and Scouts Canada), and provide guidance and assistance where required.

### **Does time spent in MedVent activities count towards my High School community service hours?**

Time spent working on events, including public relations, does count towards the community service hours. Time spent at meetings does not. How quickly you achieve these hours depends on event participation. We do not encourage youth to use MedVent participation as their sole means of accomplishing their community service commitments, and encourage those thinking of MedVent membership primarily as a means to achieve that commitment to rethink their intent.

### **What sort of things will I learn through the MedVents?**

You will receive the following training over the course of several years (some optional):

- Recertification in Standard First Aid (SFA) and CPR-C as required, including upgrading to the “Professional Rescuer” (formerly “Health Care Provider”) level.
- Additional post-certification first aid skills, over and above those required for SFA certification, including team-based first aid provision, oxygen administration and airway management.
- Certification to First Responder (discounted rate with provider partner)
- Certification to Emergency Medical Responder (discounted rate with provider partner)
- Training in Personal Protection Devices and prevention of disease transmission
- Radio communications, focusing on paramedic radio operations
- Familiarity with basic Incident Management concepts
- Familiarity with most equipment routinely used by Paramedics
- Familiarity with basic Paramedic Service operations, and special operations

- And much more...

### **What other benefits may MedVent membership give me?**

MedVent participation will give you knowledge and experience in aspects of the paramedic career that is unprecedented.

Many members will enroll in college paramedic programs, and in many cases MedVent membership may have made a difference towards acceptance into the program. In addition, MedVent members typically start their formal education ahead of their classmates due to prior exposure to much of the equipment and procedures they will be learning.

The MedVent Unit is highly respected in the community, amongst the organizations that regularly interact with us, within Scouts Canada, and within the Ottawa Paramedic Service.

You will make close friends within the unit, and be able to participate in a variety of fun events not open to many other people.

You will be providing valuable to your community, to the Scouting community, and possibly even save lives in the process.

### **New! What are the Ottawa MedVent policies & practices with respect to COVID-19?**

The actual policies and practices are still being worked out as of the latest update to this FAQ. However, all members should expect elements similar to these:

- There is a mandatory vaccination policy, in line with the policy of the Ottawa Paramedic Service and City of Ottawa volunteer agencies, with allowances for approved medical exemptions. Proof of two or more vaccinations will need to be submitted.
- For as long as the Ottawa Paramedic Service requires, there will be a mandatory self-screening checkin on every entry to Ottawa Paramedic HQ, and elsewhere as dictated by the Service and City.
- For as long as the Ottawa Paramedic Service requires, there will be a PPE (personal protective equipment) policy at all facilities. This may include face masks and any other PPE as determined by the Service or MedVent advisors. There will be no exceptions.
- There may be “social-distancing” requirements based on the current recommendations and policies of the Ottawa Paramedic Service and City of Ottawa.
- For as long as the Ottawa Paramedic Service dictates, there will be very limited visitors permitted inside Paramedic HQ, and access by our members will be restricted as required.