

Group E-Learning Course Evaluation

The original idea for a group e-learning session came from a WB1 training session that I assisted with last fall. A short discussion about the merits of on-line training vs. the traditional in-person group training approach was underway. As the discussion was winding down, Debbie Dorherty (course coordinator) suggested that there was nothing stopping a group of people from getting together and working as a team to get through the WB1 on-line questions.

From there it was a natural leap to recognize the benefits of merging the convenience of the e-learning format with the knowledge and information sharing of in-person training. Add to that the sharing of experience from ***your*** section leadership team and you have an opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of e-training significantly.

As a pilot program, I arrange to host a group e-learning session in my home for anyone interested in satisfying the Troop specific WB1 e-learning modules.

Goals

1. Have existing members of the troop leadership team complete WB1.
2. Recruit future leaders to our leadership team.
3. Satisfy the training/leadership requirement outlined in: Scout Program Quality Standards
4. Upon completion of WB1, the leader will be in a position to choose to enroll in an upcoming WB2 course.

Planning & Setup

- Invitation to existing leadership team, leaders in other sections, prospective leaders, and group commissioner
- Everyone must bring a laptop
- Location must have wireless access
- Projector is beneficial
- Should have at least one person to act as technical support
- Allow 15-30 min to get everyone situated, connected to the wireless, registered, and logged-in
- To get the full benefit of the group environment, go step-by-step, module-by-module as a group. If everyone works independently at various speeds you might as well do it on your own at home.
- Have refreshments on hand to keep it social

Outcome

Apples:

- Provides a reason to get it done, rather than continuing to put it off and never getting around to completing WB1 on your own.
- Reduces stress and apprehension that a volunteer prospect may otherwise feel when *taking a test*.
- Provides an opportunity to have an active discussion regarding topics of specific interest to your section.
- Allows questions to be discussed immediately, rather than forgotten and never addressed.
- Allows a section leadership team to tailor discussion to the actual traditions and expectations of a section, and provide a clear understanding of relationships with other sections and the group committee within your scout group.
- Provides a forum for mentoring within the section
- Provides website technical support, to help navigate the steps to access the e-learning site and the transition between modules
- Provides a social networking opportunity for leaders old and new
- Provides an opportunity for existing section leaders to review what they already are aware of, remember something that they may have forgotten, or to learn something that they did not pick-up on the last time they did the WB1 training.
- Gets the entire leadership team *on the same page*.

Onions:

- Navigating the current version of the www.scouts.ca E-Learning registration process and modules can be a bit confusing.
- Narration is slow.
- We hoped to be able to complete all section modules in 3-hour group session and send everyone home with WB1 section specific completed. Unfortunately this did not happen. We were able to finish 3 of 5 modules in the 3-hour time allotted.

What I would do differently next time:

- Pick three modules that would most benefit from group mentoring, and send the WB1 candidates home to complete the remaining modules on their own.

Conclusion

The feedback from the pilot program was very positive. Everyone that attended agreed that there is an added benefit to group e-learning vs. e-learning on it's own. The e-learning material that Scouts Canada has developed is great. With the investment of just a few hours by your section leadership team, you can realize the following benefits: training completed in the timeframe required by Scouts Canada,

create and maintain a team atmosphere within the section leadership team, and improve leader retention preserving leadership experience for years to come.

But the most important reason for any WB1 training is to provide better programming for the youth within our section. It goes without saying, the better the programming, the more FUN the youth will have. The more fun the youth have, the more fun the leadership team will have. If the youth and the leaders are having fun the word will get out and your section will grow.

Good Scouting,

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