

The Boy-Led Troop

Leadership is a vital part of the Scouting program. Scouts in positions of leadership run their patrols and the troop. They take care of the many tasks necessary for troop meetings and activities to run smoothly and well. By accepting the responsibilities of troop and patrol leadership, they are preparing themselves to be leaders throughout their lives.



The Boy-Led Troop

Empowering boys to be leaders is the core of Scouting. Scouts learn by doing, and what they do is lead their patrols and their troop. The boys themselves develop a troop's program, then take responsibility for figuring out how they will achieve their goals.



Quotes from Robert Baden-Powell

- “Train Scouts to do a job, then let them do it.”
- “Never do anything a boy can do.”
- “The patrol method is not a way to operate a Boy Scout troop, it is the only way. Unless the patrol method is in operation you don't really have a Boy Scout troop.”
- “The object of the patrol method is not so much saving the Scoutmaster trouble as to give responsibility to the boy.”



Key Troop and Patrol Leaders

Members of the PLC

- Senior Patrol Leader
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- Patrol Leaders
- New Scout Patrol Leader
- Venture Patrol Leader
- Troop Guide



The Boy-Led Troop and Living the Scout Oath and Law

Other Troop Positions

- Quartermaster
- Scribe
- Order of the Arrow Troop Representative
- Historian
- Librarian
- Instructor
- Chaplain Aide
- Den Chief
- Webelos Den Chief
- Junior Assistant Scoutmaster



The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)

- Plans and runs the troop's program
- Long-range direction with annual program planning
- Lays out the troop's calendar for the year
- Meets each month to fine tune the plan
- May meet after each troop meeting to plan the next troop meeting
- Scoutmaster acts as a coach
- Scoutmaster and committee retain veto power



The Boy-Led Patrol

The Patrol

- Selects a name for itself
- Has a yell
- Designs a flag
- Takes pride in its own identity
- Has members who try to make theirs the best patrol
- Often cooperates with other patrols in the troop for games, adventures, skills



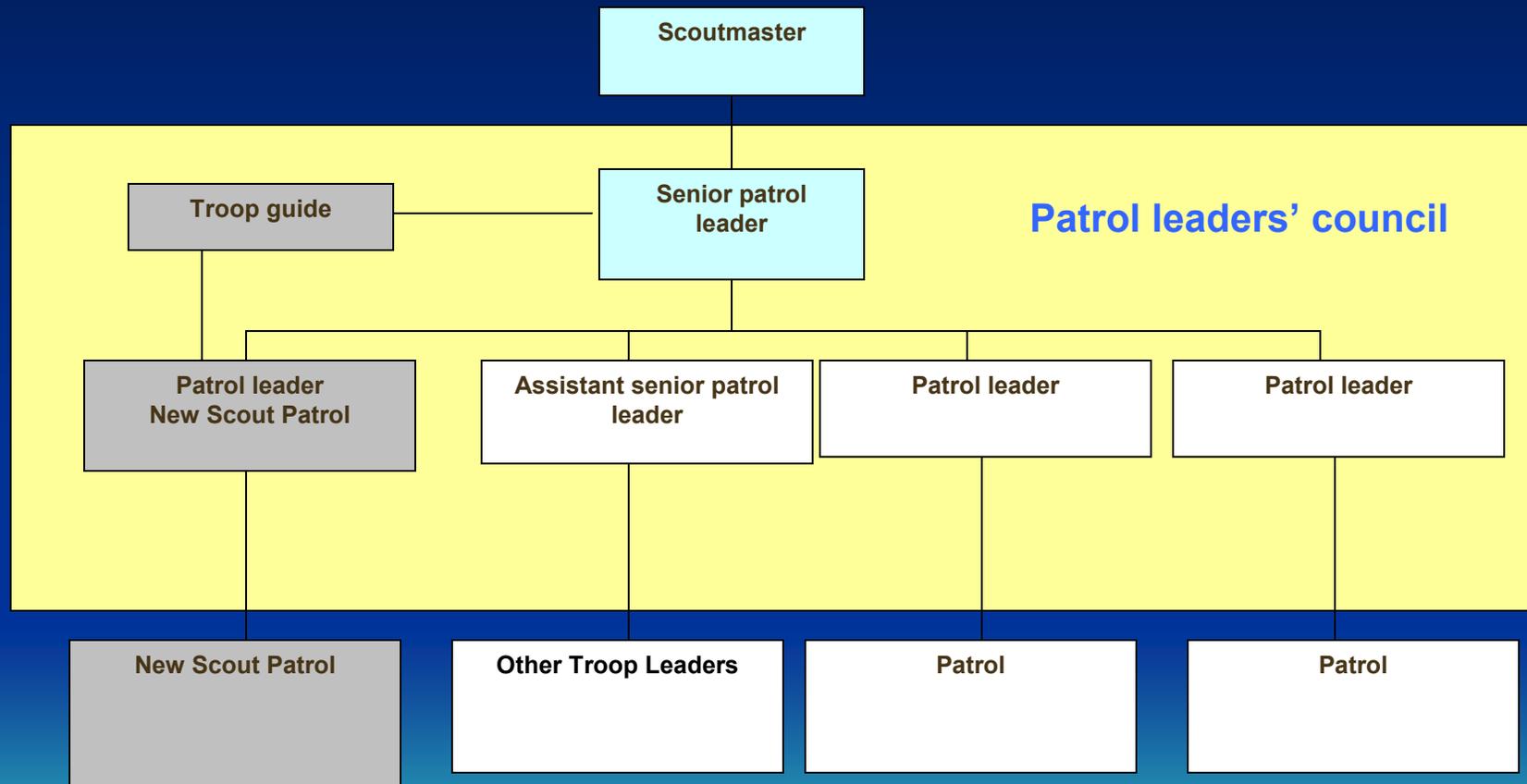
The Boy-Led Patrol

Patrol Key Positions

- Patrol Leader
- Assistant Patrol Leader
- Patrol Scribe
- Patrol Quartermaster
- Patrol Grubmaster
- Patrol Cheermaster



Small Troop Organizational Chart



Troop Leadership Positions

Senior Patrol Leader



The Senior Patrol Leader is the leader of the Troop (the Scoutmaster serves an advisory/guidance role). The SPL is responsible for the Troop's overall operation. He is in charge of Troop meetings, heads the Patrol Leaders' Council, and is in charge of all Troop activities. He does everything he can to help each patrol be successful. He is responsible for annual program planning conferences and assists the Scoutmaster in conducting the Troop Junior Leader Training. The SPL presides over the Patrol Leaders' Council and works closely with each Patrol Leader to plan Troop meetings and make arrangements for troop activities. All members of a troop vote by secret ballot to choose their senior patrol leader. Rank and age requirements to be a senior patrol leader are determined by each troop, as is the schedule of elections. During a Scout's time as senior patrol leader, he is not a member of any patrol but may participate with a Venture patrol in high-adventure activities.

The relationship of the senior patrol leader and the Scoutmaster should be one of mutual friendship and admiration. You'll see this displayed before every meeting of the troop as the senior patrol leader and the Scoutmaster review the agenda. You can expect to see them together again at the conclusion of the meeting, discussing how everything went and what adjustments or assignments should be made before the troop's next activity.

Troop Leadership Positions

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader



The Senior Patrol Leader appoints the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster. Among the assistant senior patrol leader's specific duties are providing training and guidance for the troop's quartermaster, scribe, Order of the Arrow representative, historian, librarian, and instructors. He serves in place of the senior patrol leader at meetings and events when the senior patrol leader must be absent. The assistant senior patrol leader is not a member of a patrol but may take part in the activities of a Venture patrol. Large troops may have more than one assistant senior patrol leader.

Troop Leadership Positions

Troop Guide



Each new-Scout patrol-in a troop should have its own troop guide. A troop guide is an older Scout who holds the rank of First Class or higher, has strong teaching skills, and possesses the patience to work with new Scouts. As a mentor to the patrol leader of the new-Scout patrol, he provides direction for the patrol leader and helps him with his patrol leader responsibilities. The troop guide accompanies the new-Scout patrol on troop campouts and makes himself available to assist the new Scouts as they learn fundamental Scouting skills. He usually is not a member of another patrol, but he may participate in the high-adventure activities of a Venture patrol. Along with the patrol leader of the new-Scout patrol, he is a member of the patrol leaders' council.

Troop Leadership Positions

Patrol Leader



The Patrol Leader represents his Patrol at all Patrol Leaders' Council meetings and the Bi-Annual Program Planning Conference. He solicits ideas and concerns from members of his Patrol and keeps members of his Patrol informed of decisions made by the Patrol Leaders' Council. He plays a key role in planning, leading, and evaluating Patrol meetings and activities. He helps the patrol prepare to participate in all Troop activities. He learns about the abilities of other Patrol members and fully involves them in Patrol and Troop activities by assigning them specific tasks and responsibilities.

Troop Leadership Positions

Assistant Patrol Leader



Each Patrol Leader appoints an Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) to serve concurrently with the Patrol Leader's six month term of office. The APL helps in leading the Patrol and substitutes for the Patrol Leader whenever the Patrol Leader is absent. The Assistant Patrol Leader should attend Troop Junior Leader Training and Patrol Leader's Council meeting whenever possible.

Troop Leadership Positions

Quartermaster



The Troop Quartermaster is the Troop's supply boss. He keeps an inventory of Troop equipment and sees that the gear is in good condition. He works with Patrol Quartermasters as they check out equipment and return it, and at meetings of the Patrol Leader's Council reports on the status of equipment in need of replacement and repair. In carrying out his responsibilities he may have the guidance of the Troop Committee's Equipment Chair.

Troop Leadership Positions



Chaplain Aide

The chaplain Aide assists the Troop Chaplain (an adult from the troop committee or the chartered organization) in conducting the Troop's religious observances. He sees that religious holidays are considered during program planning, and he promotes the religious emblems program. He encourages Troop members to strengthen their own relationship with God through personal prayer and devotions and participation in religious activities. He serves as the youth coordinator for the observance of the annual [Scout Sunday](#) each February. He is sensitive to the various theological and religious positions embraced by the faiths represented in the Troop, and acts accordingly.

Troop Leadership Positions

Historian



The troop historian collects and preserves troop photographs, news stories, trophies, flags, scrapbooks, awards, and other memorabilia. He may also gather and organize information about the troop's former members and leaders, and make those materials available for Scouting activities, media contacts, and troop history projects. Troop displays prepared by the historian can be used during courts of honor, troop open houses, and other special Scouting occasions.

Troop Leadership Positions

Librarian



The troop librarian oversees the care and use of troop books, merit badge pamphlets, magazines, audiovisuals, diskettes, and lists of merit badge counselors. He checks out these materials to Scouts and leaders and maintains records to ensure that all items are returned. He may also suggest the purchase of new literature and report the need to repair or replace any current items.

Troop Leadership Positions

Order of the Arrow Representative



An Order of the Arrow representative can be appointed by the senior patrol leader to be a link between the troop and the local Order of the Arrow lodge. By enhancing the image of the Order as a service arm to the troop, the representative promotes the OA, urges troop members to take part in resident camping, and encourages older Scouts to seek out opportunities for high adventure. The OA representative assists with leadership skills training in the troop and supports fellow Arrowmen undertaking unit leadership roles: He reports to the assistant senior patrol leader.

Troop Leadership Positions

Scribe



The scribe is the Troop's secretary. He keeps the minutes of the patrol leaders' council meetings but is not a voting member of the council (no green bar). The scribe may also keep attendance records of other troop activities, such as campouts and service projects. During troop meetings, he works with patrol scribes to ensure the accurate recording of attendance and payment of dues, and to keep advancement records up-to-date. The scribe may also be responsible for maintaining a troop Web site with information that is current and correct. An adult who is a member of the troop committee may be assigned to help the troop scribe carry out his responsibilities.

Troop Leadership Positions



Den Chief

A Den Chief works with a den of Cub Scouts and with their adult leader. He assists with den meetings, encourages Cub Scout advancement, and serves as a role model for younger boys. Being a den chief can be a great first leadership experience for a Scout. Depending on the number of dens in the Cub Scout packs of its community, a troop may have several members serving as den chiefs. Den chiefs can be a great asset to den leaders and are deeply appreciated and admired by Cub Scouts and Cub Scout leaders alike.

Troop Leadership Positions

Webelos Den Chief



A Webelos den chief meets each week with a Webelos den and helps its adult leader guide the Webelos Scouts to make the most of their program. He can assist with den meetings and activities, lead songs and games, and encourage Webelos Scouts to look forward to the adventure of Boy Scouting that awaits them when they are old enough to join the troop.

Troop Leadership Positions

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster



A Scout at least 16 years of age who has shown outstanding leadership skills may be appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader, with the consent of the Scoutmaster, to serve as a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. A Junior Assistant Scoutmaster follows the guidance of the Scoutmaster in providing support and supervision to the troop's other boy leaders. He can be a valuable resource for teaching Scouting skills to younger Scouts and in providing leadership to the troop. Upon turning 18, a junior assistant Scoutmaster is eligible to become an assistant Scoutmaster. A troop may have more than one Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

Troop Leadership Positions



Bugler

Learn camp bugle calls from the music books and audio tape
Play appropriate bugle calls at each camp
Earn the Bugling merit badge