

TROOP 562 PATROL LEADER'S HANDBOOK



January 1, 2012

"The patrol system is not one method in which Scouting for boys can be carried on. It is the only method." – Lord Baden-Powell

What is a Patrol?

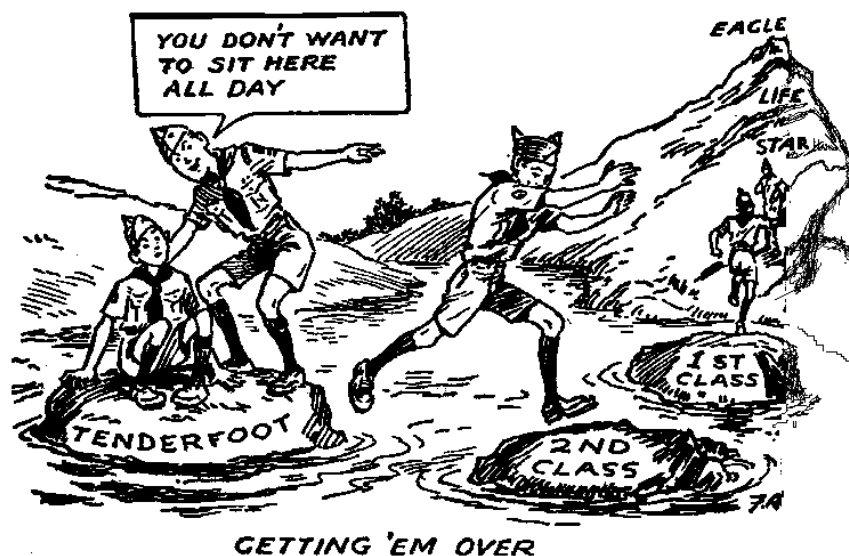
Each Boy Scout Troop has a Patrol. A Patrol is a group of Scouts who are all members of the same Troop that work together to complete goals assigned and put together by a Patrol Leader. Members of a Patrol should be proud to be members of their Patrol.

Patrol Leadership

Patrol Leader: [Elected by the members of his Patrol]

A Patrol Leader is expected to do the following:

- Plan and lead patrol meetings and activities
- Keep patrol members informed
- Assign each patrol member a specific duty
- Represent your patrol at all Patrol Leaders' Council Meetings
- Prepare the patrol to participate in all troop activities
- Work with other troop leaders to make the troop run well
- Know the abilities of each patrol member
- Set a good example
- Wear the Scout uniform correctly
- Live by the Scout Oath and Law
- Show and develop patrol spirit



Ten Tips for being a Good Patrol Leader:

- 1. Keep your Word.** Don't make promises you can't keep.
- 2. Be Fair to All.** A good leader shows no favorites. Don't allow friendships to keep you from being fair to all members of your patrol. Know who likes to do what, and assign duties to patrol members by what they like to do.
- 3. Be a Good Communicator.** You don't need a commanding voice to be a good leader, but you must be willing to step out front with an effective "Let's go." A good leader knows how to get and give information so that everyone understands what's going on.
- 4. Be Flexible.** Everything doesn't always go as planned. Be prepared to shift to "plan B" when "plan A" doesn't work.
- 5. Be Organized.** The time you spend planning will be repaid many times over. At patrol meetings, record who agrees to do each task, and fill out the duty roster before going camping.
- 6. Delegate.** Some leaders assume that the job will not get done unless they do it themselves. Most people like to be challenged with a task. Empower your patrol members to do things they have never tried.
- 7. Set an Example.** The most important thing you can do is lead by example. Whatever you do, your patrol members are likely to do the same. A cheerful attitude can keep everyone's spirits up.
- 8. Be Consistent.** Nothing is more confusing than a leader who is one way one moment and another way a short time later. If your patrol knows what to expect from you, they will more likely respond positively to your leadership.
- 9. Give Praise.** The best way to get credit is to give it away. Often a "Nice job" is all the praise necessary to make a Scout feel he is contributing to the efforts of the patrol.
- 10. Ask for Help.** Don't be embarrassed to ask for help. You have many resources at your disposal. When confronted with a situation you don't know how to handle, ask someone with more experience for some advice and direction.

PATROL MEETINGS

Patrol meetings may be held at any time and place. Many troops set aside a portion of each troop meeting for its patrols to gather. Others encourage patrols to meet on a different evening at the home of a patrol member. The frequency of patrol meetings is determined by upcoming events and activities that require planning and discussion.

Patrol meetings should be well-planned and businesslike. Typically, the patrol leader calls the meeting to order, the scribe writes down what happens at the meeting, and the assistant patrol leader reports on advancement. The patrol leader should report any information from the latest patrol leaders' council meeting. The bulk of the meeting should be devoted to planning upcoming activities, with specific assignments made to each patrol member.



The National Honor Patrol Award

The very best patrols exhibit enthusiasm, teamwork, and camaraderie - that special spark known as patrol spirit.

The National Honor Patrol Award is given to patrols whose members make an extra effort to have the best patrol possible. Your patrol can earn the award by doing the following over a period of three months.

Your patrol may earn multiple award patches by meeting the requirements in additional 3 month time periods.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Have a patrol name, flag, and yell. Put the patrol design on equipment and use the patrol yell. Keep patrol records up-to-date.
2. Hold two patrol meetings each month.
3. Take part in at least one hike, outdoor activity, or other Scouting event.
4. Complete two Good Turns or service projects approved by the patrol leaders' council.
5. Help two patrol members advance in rank.
6. Have at least 75 percent of members in full uniform at troop activities.
7. Have a representative attend at least three patrol leaders' council meetings.
8. Have eight members in the patrol or experience an increase in patrol membership.

Leadership in the Patrol

(These Positions are appointed by the Patrol Leader)

Assistant Patrol Leader: Fills in for the Patrol Leader when he isn't there.

Patrol Scribe: Fills out the Patrol Report for each Troop Meeting.

Patrol Activities

Patrols can plan and go on their own activities. There are only 3 Requirements.

1. At least 3 members of the Patrol Go on the event.
2. At least 2 Registered Adult Leaders are present, with one of them being an Assistant Scoutmaster
3. The event has to be approved by the Scoutmaster