

TROOP 128 PATROL LEADER GUIDE

PATROL NAME: _____
PATROL LEADER: _____

Your Duties as Patrol Leader

When you accepted the position of patrol leader, you agreed to provide service and leadership to your patrol and troop. No doubt you will take this responsibility seriously, but you will also find it fun and rewarding. As a patrol leader, you are 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 and the annual program planning conference.
- 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 collects dues, 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.



Patrol Activities

Most patrol activities take place within the framework of the troop. However, patrols may also conduct day hikes and service projects independent of the troop, as long as they follow two rules:

- The Scoutmaster approves the activity.
- The patrol activity does not interfere with any troop function.



Organize Your Patrol

One of a Patrol Leader's responsibilities is to organize his patrol, which includes assigning responsibilities to every member. Here are some positions to assign. You can think of others that you need (flagman, fireman, uniform inspector, etc.).

Position:	Scout:
Assistant Patrol Leader. Fills in for the PL when he is unavailable.	
Patrol Scribe. Keeps records of patrol attendance at troop meetings. Collects forms as needed. Assists Troop Scribe.	
Quartermaster: Keeps patrol equipment complete and in good condition. Assists Troop Quartermaster as needed.	
Grubmaster: Organizes patrol cooking for campouts.	
Cheerleader: Leads patrol cheers and patrol skits.	

Acknowledgment:

I have read and understand this Guide. I promise to have a patrol meeting within a month to assign patrol positions. I promise to do my best as a Patrol Leader, regularly attend meetings, and participate in outdoor events.

Sign: _____