

1699 Patrol Leader's Responsibilities

Being a Patrol Leader is more than an honor, it is also a responsibility. Leadership can be a lot of fun and your role as a patrol leader may prove to be one of the most memorable parts of your scouting career. It is the purpose of this guidebook to help you as a Patrol Leader to understand what to do. As time goes by you will enjoy the rewards of leadership which include the personal satisfaction of seeing your patrol operating well, gaining respect from your friends in the troop and the chance to advance through the higher ranks.

The Patrol Leader provides the guidance and direction for his patrol. It is his responsibility to assign tasks for his patrol on camp outs . For example, the Patrol Leader assigns who sets up the patrol's tent, who prepares the fire, who cooks and who cleans. The Patrol Leader reports directly to the Senior Patrol Leader and may look to him or his assistant for help..

The Assistant Patrol Leader has the task of helping the Patrol Leader to carry out his directions to the patrol. He also helps to supervise as well as participate in the various activities and jobs assigned by the Patrol Leader.

There are two major areas that we will cover in this guidebook where your skills as a Patrol Leader will be needed the most.

They are:

1. Troop Meeting
2. Camping

TROOP MEETING

One of the most important parts of a troop meeting is the opening ceremony. The opening ceremony sets the tone for the rest of the meeting. If it is taken seriously, you will have a better chance that your patrol will cooperate with you and the rest of the troop for the rest of the meeting. If the ceremony is done in an offhand or silly manner, the odds are that the rest of the meeting will follow the same pattern.

If the structure of the meeting is not maintained and chaos sets in, you will not only have a lousy meeting - you will have a boring meeting. You as a Patrol Leader are the first line for **maintaining order**. The SPL or Scoutmaster should not have to deal with your patrol members unless you are having a problem.

Once you have the attention of your patrol members and they are in formation for the opening ceremony, you will discover that the best form of leadership is **leadership by example**.

There will be occasions when your patrol will be asked to lead an opening or closing ceremony. It will be your job to assign various tasks to the patrol members such as color guards and speaker.

It is up to you to get and keep your patrol members interested and to keep them participating. You may find that a particular boy is reluctant to join in. Give him some encouragement.

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Camping

Scouting is to a large extent an outdoor activity. There is an old scout saying, " You can take the Scout out of camping, but you can't take the camping out of Scouting!". A large portion of the fun that we have takes place outdoors. All different types of camping can be fun if everyone is prepared. It is the job of the Patrol Leader to see that his patrol is ***properly organized*** and that the patrol campsite is set up in a proper and safe fashion. We will go over in some detail what you should be looking for in camp and how to assign various jobs such as camp setup, cooking, fire, cleanup, etc.

Pre camp-out Responsibilities

Whenever the Troop goes camping, there are certain procedures that are followed. Permission slips are collected two weeks in advance. Duty rosters and menus are set by each Patrol and should be completed one week before departure. Each camp-out one member of the Patrol is assigned to go out and buy the food. The Patrol Leader can accompany the Scout if he wishes to do so. Nonetheless, it is the responsibility of each Patrol Leader to ensure food items are to be brought Friday evening at departure time. (No individual items of food or drink in cans or bottles will be permitted on camping trips. Canned goods, snacks, cookies, and candy will be purchased only in Patrol size quantities when they are on the menu.) It is the troop's responsibility to provide tents and cooking equipment. The Scout is required to bring his own sleeping bag, change of clothes, personal toiletries, and unbreakable cup, dish, bowl, and silverware.

On Friday, Scouts are to be at the departure point forty five (45) minutes ahead of time. This is to insure that each patrol stows all their patrol equipment in the trailer.

Patrol Leaders Patrol Equipment Checklist

1. Patrol ACTION PACKER (Check for stove/hose)
2. Tents (Two scouts per tent) with plastic ground cover
3. Patrol dining fly with poles
4. Patrol box with Patrol box legs
5. White propane bottle (make sure its full)-

Camp-out Responsibilities

When the Troop arrives at the campsite, all Scouts are to line up by the Trailer and begin unloading the supplies. Arrival is an important time to keep the members of your patrol from wandering off. The natural tendency will be for them to goof off first and worry later. ***Don't let them***. Packs are to be put in a pack line, Troop supplies (i.e. tents) are put in one area, and patrol supplies are taken to the patrol areas. Whenever possible patrols shall camp as individual units and practice the patrol method. The intent is that each patrol will have:

- A separate campsite
- Its own cooking and campfire site
- Its own dining fly

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Setting up Camp

Setting up the dining Fly. The dining fly is actually the first thing that should be set up. In the event of rain you will need the fly to store the patrol's food and equipment so it doesn't get wet while you set up camp. Four people are needed to set up the poles and fly properly.

Setting up the tents. Assign two to three people to set up the tents. Tents which are set-up in a straight line and segregated by patrol. Patrols must bunk together, if there is an odd number of Scouts in a patrol, the Patrol Leader should volunteer to sleep by himself. **Remember the personal gear is stowed after dinning fly, tents and kitchen is set up.**

Setting up the kitchen. Assign two scout to set up the kitchen. If you are doing patrol style cooking be sure to have the various jobs worked out on paper before you arrive at camp. You should have everyone's job posted for each meal for all to see. The meal jobs should be rotated from meal to meal. If the jobs are not posted, you can be sure that the only thing any one will show up to do will be to eat - and then they will disappear! The jobs that are to be assigned for each meal are as follows:

- COOK - prepares meals and washes utensils used for preparation.
- ASSISTANT COOK - Helps cook as requested. Cares for and prepares equipment used to cook on and keeps fuel or firewood ready if needed.
- CLEANUP - Cleans up eating area at campsite and maintains latrine.
- WATER - Gets drinking water and washes dishes and pots.

Unless a Scout has any serious medical problems to food items he will have to eat what is on the menu. The Patrol Leader will **post the duty roster** for all to see.

Kitchen Patrol Rules

KP is a challenge, but cleaning up is a part of life that scouts need to take responsibility for. No one wants to do it, especially in the dark. Patrol leaders need to give KP special attention so that the job gets done and the troop can get on to other activities.

Patrol Leaders Patrol Kitchen Checklist

1. Patrol leaders are responsible to see that supplies are provided. This includes: liquid soap (also used to soap the bottom of pots) scouring pads (reusable pads are best, or Brillo which wears out) a plastic sheet (or plastic bag) on which to place clean dishes and optional items such as towels for drying hands (paper towels are acceptable and easy) plastic gloves (to make job more pleasant)
2. Patrol leaders need to make and post a fair duty roster so every scout knows his assignments. Every scout should do every job at least once during a camp out. Patrol leaders need to see the KP crew is organized, and the crew knows how to do the job.
3. For a patrol, 3 scouts can be assigned to KP, with one designated as leader. Initially one can scrape, one wash, and one rinse. When scraping is finished, the first person can start washing pots. Others can help too. Tired and demoralized scouts shouldn't be left to finish KP with water that has become cold and dirty.
4. It is the responsibility of the patrol leader to see that KP is completed successfully. Otherwise scouts could become sick. It is the responsibility of all those assigned to KP to see that the job is finished; all of the KP crew should stay at the job until it is completed, and should not leave one individual to complete his "share" by himself.

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Camp site Inspection

The following is a list of things to look for in you patrol campsite. Some things are for safety and some are for convenience. All are important and will help you and your patrol members to have a better time.

Patrol Leaders Camp site Checklist

1. Is the patrol duty roster posted?
2. Are all tents set up properly?
3. Are the insides of the tent neatly arranged?
4. Does each tent have a ground cloth or adequate protection?
5. Are sleeping bags stored neatly or airing out?

6. Are all fires at least 15 feet from any tent?
7. Is the ground cleared at least 10 feet from each fire?
8. Is there water to put out a fire in the case of an emergency?
9. Is the firewood protected?

Troop Camp Site Rules

1. Axes and saws are to be used by those Scouts who have earned the BSA Tot-n-Chit Card and then only for a task that requires the use of an ax or saw. The Troop will provide any qualified Scout the use of the Troop ax or saw. In any case, saws and axes will only be used in a defined ax yard and under adult supervision.
2. Bare feet are never allowed except in water - front areas, or for swimming. Sandal type shoes will be allowed for aquatic activities. At no time are open toe shoes to be worn in the ax yard or during meal preparation.
3. Radios, tape players, and video games are not allowed on any weekend camping trips and in summer camp.
4. Fireworks or pyrotechnics are strictly forbidden.
5. Scouts are not allowed in other Patrol sites or adult areas except when permission is obtained, or to see the Scoutmaster in an emergency.
6. Scouts will not leave a camp site without the permission of the scoutmaster. The buddy system will be used on all camping trips; any Scout leaving the camp site will be accompanied by a buddy.

Breaking Camp

Sunday, tear down day, will vary depending on the departure time. In any case, it is a Troop effort, if a Scout is finished all his jobs he is to help another Scout finish.

Patrol Leaders Patrol Tear Down Checklist

1. Have all tents been stowed properly with no parts missing?
2. Has all garbage been properly disposed of?
3. Is the campsite as pristine or more than when you arrived?

Once we return, we will unload all personal gear, Patrol gear and Troop gear. The Patrol Leader will be responsible for assigning to different Scouts equipment that needs to be carried home for cleaning or drying. All cooking equipment must be clean and all Patrol equipment must be maintained in proper condition. The Patrol Leader will keep a written list of equipment assignments and turn a copy in to the Quartermaster whenever

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he requests it. If any damage to Troop equipment is done in a negligent manner, the Scout will be expected to replace such equipment or pay for repair. It is the patrol leader responsibility to notify the Troop quartermaster which equipment is damage and need repair. Also which supplies that needs to be replaced.

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Patrol Leaders Pre Camping Checklist

- Permission slips are collected two weeks in advance.
- Duty rosters complete
- Menus are set one week before departure.
- Patrol member is assigned to buy the food

Patrol Leaders Scout Equipment Checklist

- Sleeping bag,
- Change of clothes,
- Personal toiletries,
- Unbreakable cup, Dish, Bowl, Silverware.

Patrol Leaders Patrol Equipment Checklist

- Patrol ACTION PACKER (Check for stove/hose)
- Tents (Two scouts per tent) with plastic ground cover
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- White propane bottle (make sure its full)-

Patrol Kitchen Checklist

- Liquid soap
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Patrol Leaders Patrol Tear Down Checklist

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