

The Unit Leaders' Roles

The Senior Patrol Leader's Role

Boy Scouting is a program, activity, a movement of boys, by boys for boys. Roles of leaders are defined by the program, but the power and responsibilities of leadership are conferred by the boys on their chosen senior patrol leader. In some troops, the senior patrol leader attends committee meetings, chairs the patrol leaders' council, and leads troop meetings. As troops plan for summer camp, their senior patrol leaders should be aware of the unique expectations of their role during camp. If the senior patrol leader does not plan to attend summer camp, the assistant senior patrol leader may be the one to prepare for leadership during the camp week, or the troop committee may ask the scouts to elect a summer camp senior patrol leader for this particular challenge.

Responsibilities of the senior patrol leader at camp are in two major categories.

- ◆ First, the senior patrol leader sets up the rotation of campsite responsibilities for scouts. Duty lists include individual scouts, in teams or by patrols, who clean the camp latrine, raise and lower the troop's flags, police the grounds for litter, serve as table waiters for meal times. The senior patrol leader will need to assign duties in light of fair distribution of labor, scout schedules for activities and merit badges, and the schedule of the camp. He will also need to make assignments in consultation with the scoutmaster or his/her designee. The senior patrol leader will also need to ensure that scouts are attending to their assigned responsibilities, and give them guidance in carrying them out.
- ◆ The second set of senior patrol leader responsibilities pertain to the troop's functioning within the camp. Daily, the camp Program Director will hold a senior patrol leaders' meeting. It is imperative that every troop's senior patrol leader attend, and communicate back to scouts and leaders updates on what is happening in camp. He will also communicate to the program director concerns of his troop about camp or their campsite, and concerns about particular needs of scouts. Another key responsibility for senior patrol leaders is to be thoroughly familiar with this leader guide. He should assist the scoutmaster and other scouters in making sure that the opportunities and safety guidelines/rules are fully implemented for the benefit of all scouts.

Adult Leaders'/Scouters' Roles

Responsibilities

The success of any camping experience for a unit or individual member depends upon the efforts of the uniformed leaders. For this reason, Scoutmasters and designated assistants must carry out assigned responsibilities in a professional manner. The first step to successful long term camping is adequate planning and program preparation before your arrival date. Part of this process requires adult leaders to review planned activities and responsibilities while at camp. Completion of this step will minimize surprises, confusion, disappointment, and potential problems. Successful camping results in a great deal of personal satisfaction for both Scouts and leaders. Specific assignments may be mutually shared or delegated to a single individual, as desired by the particular unit organization. In general, Unit leaders are:

- ◆ • Responsible for maintaining troop safety and discipline at all times. This includes safe travel to and from Camp.
- ◆ • Responsible for coordinating all troop and individual Scout activities to ensure maximum benefit to participants.
- ◆ • To be aware of each Scout's personal goals and objections in order to promote the advancement program.
- ◆ • To participate in camping activities on a daily basis. This should include program area visits, punctual attendance at designated meetings and conferences and collection of program progress reports on each Scout's activities.
- ◆ • To be prepared to help and assist others, specifically other camping units and staff personnel, as needed. Assistance should be given in a spirit of mutual cooperation but not at the expense of one's own unit.
- ◆ • Expected to interact with fellow leaders, staff personnel and Scouts on a daily basis to provide counseling, guidance, and encouragement.
- ◆ • To monitor and evaluate unit and individual progress in camp. To provide counseling, guidance and encouragement.
- ◆ • To review before departure for camp the daily schedule of unit activities with fellow leaders. This should include review by previously experienced leaders who may not be participating in the current trip. There are experienced Scouters in your district willing to assist you. Contact your District Camping Committee Chairman for assistance if desired.
- ◆ • To be sure to complete and turn in camp evaluations.
- ◆ • Conscientiously following these guidelines and proper preparation will ensure a unit's success while minimizing stress, frustration, and disappointment.

Eradication Of Child Abuse

Eradication of child abuse has been adopted as a national objective by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Guidelines for children and parents have been published in a booklet entitled "Child Abuse, Let's Talk About It," available both within Scouting and to the general public. Every adult leader going to camp with a unit should read it. The concerned assistance of every scouter is essential to success. The principles and guidelines below are intended to protect Scouts against abuse and Scouters against misinterpretation of their intentions.

Anyone who questions or sees difficulties in complying with these guidelines should consult his/her Unit Commissioner or District Executive. When faced with difficulties in complying and no advice is available, use common sense and the principles of the Scout Oath and Law.

- ◆ Definitions: "Scouters" is understood to mean all adult leaders (or any person age 18 or over). "Junior Leaders" is understood to mean youth leaders. "Scouts" are all youth members.
- ◆ Scouters must endeavor to protect Scouts from 1) physical abuse, which is understood to mean the sustaining of physical injury as a result of cruel or inhumane treatment or as a result of a malicious act; and 2) sexual abuse (i.e.,

any act involving sexual molestation or exploitation of a Scout by any person who has permanent or temporary care, custody or responsibility for supervision of Scouts or a Scout.

- ◆ Adults serving Scouts, especially at camp, whether registered Scouters, Merit Badge Counselors, parents or other qualified personnel, must understand their responsibilities and the limitations placed on their relationship with Scouts. Care in selecting, training, and supervising is critical.
- ◆ Scouters and Scouts shall sleep in separate tents except in extreme emergencies when the health or well-being of a Scout may be at risk.
- ◆ Scouters shall always shower separately from Scouts.
- ◆ Scouters, Junior Leaders, and other activity leaders must not permit activities involving group nudity, such as “skinny dipping.”
- ◆ Scouters shall avoid unnecessary physical contact with Scouts such as placing hands on legs and patting the backsides of Scouts.
- ◆ Scouts should always have at least one tent mate.
- ◆ In accordance with National BSA policy, a minimum of two Scouters should be present on camping trips and at other group activities.
- ◆ Scouters must never tell off-color stories to Scouts. Scouts and Scouters are clean in mind and body.
- ◆ Scouters should hold conferences with Scouts in open settings where they may be seen (but not heard if discussion is confidential). Avoid closed-door rooms, closed tents, and secluded locations.
- ◆ If a Scout complains or comments about an experience he or she has had with an adult or another youth that may suggest physical abuse or sexual molestation or an invitation to molestation, take him or her seriously. Remember that the Scout is not likely to articulate his or her complaint in an adult manner. It may take the form of declining to associate with a particular leader or another Scout for no apparent reason or abruptly leaving the unit.
- ◆ A scouter who observes another scouter or Junior Leader relate to a Scout in a manner that is not clearly objectionable, but which might be misconstrued as leading to child abuse, should warn the person so observed to avoid conduct that may be misunderstood.
- ◆ Under no circumstances shall a Scout be deprived of food or subjected to corporal punishment or abusive physical exercise as a means of punishment.

2-Deep Leadership

All troops in camp must have at least two (2) leaders with the troop 24 hours a day. One leader must be at least 21 years of age. The second leader must be at least 18 years of age. Leaders may rotate if necessary.

The two-leader rule is a national policy of the Boy Scouts of America. WE ARE REQUIRED TO ENFORCE IT STRICTLY

If your troop will be unable to have two leaders in camp at all times, please contact Camp Director Jim Eads at (319)469-7081. Arrangements will be made for your troop to share a campsite with another troop so that the 2-deep leadership requirement will be met.