



Patrol Method Refresher

*Neal Robison
Thunderbird Roundtable
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Methods of Scouting

1. The Ideals
2. The Patrol Method
3. The Outdoors
4. Advancement
5. Association with Adults
6. Personal Growth
7. Leadership Development
8. The Uniform



Patrol Method – What Is It?



What do *you* think it is?



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Patrol Method

- Patrols & their boy leaders run the program in their Patrols & the Troop
- Adults stand aside & let Scouts do it
- Scoutmaster (*and ASMs*) is leadership trainer, mentor, safety officer, & guide



Patrol Method - Aims

- Primary aim is to teach leadership
- Scouts learn leadership by leading
- Scoutmaster provides them with tools & encouragement to do their jobs



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Patrols Teach Youth Leadership

- Organizing patrols
- Using duty rosters
- Planning menus & figuring food costs
- Encouraging advancement
- Guiding a patrol's involvement in problem solving
- Teaching outdoor skills
- Helping other Scouts make the most of their own leadership opportunities



Patrol Leader

- Each patrol in a troop elects a patrol leader *(usually every 6 months)*
- Patrol leader takes leading role in planning & conducting patrol meetings & activities, represents patrol at meetings of the Patrol Leaders' Council
- Each PL can appoint an asst. patrol leader to serve with him



Senior Patrol Leader

- In charge of all Troop Meetings & Troop Activities
- SPL doesn't belong to a patrol
- Appoints assistants
- SPL & Patrol Leaders (*PLC*) plan all troop calendars, troop activities & troop meetings



SPL and Scoutmaster

SPL is the troop member with whom the Scoutmaster works most directly



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PLC

- **Primary leadership body of the troop**
- **SPL + PLs + Assistant SPL**
- **Plan troop's overall program**
- **Lead prep for troop meetings & campouts**
- **Ensure all troop events are efficient, interesting, and well run**



Maintaining Patrols

- Every patrol must be given responsibility
- Patrols need to compete, responsibly
- Responsibility of SPL & troop PLC to conduct inter-patrol competitions
- Keep patrols active



Scout Leader's Goal

You can sit & placidly watch as your Scouts execute their planned troop meeting



You probably won't get there overnight...



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Typical Boy-Led Problems

- Troop Meetings are boring
- Troop Meetings are chaotic
- Low attendance at troop meetings



Potential Solutions

- Full agenda for every meeting
- SPL brings agenda to every meeting & follows it
- Pre-meeting meetings with SPL to confirm agenda
- Post-meeting meetings w/SPL & PLs to review



Signs of Adult-Led Troop

- All scouts are dressed perfectly
- Meeting agenda is complete and posted weeks in advance of troop meetings
- Adults making lots of announcements
- Adults stand w/Scouts or in front of scouts during activities
- Troop focuses on advancement





***“Train 'em, trust 'em,
and let 'em lead!”***

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The signature is written over a rectangular background with horizontal green and white stripes.



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Training

- **Best adult training to learn patrol method?**
- **SM's job to train all junior leaders ASAP after Scout is elected/appointed**



Training

- Train SPL first
- He becomes your co-teacher, and starts him on path to leadership
- Use informal teaching opportunities
- NYLT
- *Training never stops...*

