

Dear Parent of Patrol Leader,

Congratulations on your son's appointment to the office of Patrol Leader. His advancement in rank, his experiences in the troop, and his enthusiasm for Scouting certainly qualify him for that office.

The responsibilities of a Patrol Leader are many and in Troop 14 it is our belief that the boy can do a better job with the advice and guidance of an adult. Because the Patrol Leader's parent is usually immediately available to the young man we believe that person should serve as Patrol Parent.

THE PATROL LEADER (your son)

1. Plans and conducts Tuesday evening patrol meetings. These are scheduled typically on the second or third Tuesday of the month. Check your Clarion for up-to-date schedule.
2. Organizes his patrol by giving each member a patrol job for each outing:

Assistant Patrol Leader*
Scribe
Grubmaster
Quartermaster

Cheerleader
Treasurer
Cook

Not all jobs are required; the patrol leader should try to fit the job to the boy.

**The Assistant Patrol Leader should, under most circumstances, be the Scout with the highest rank; he has earned this office.*

3. Attends meetings of the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC). It usually meets at 232 Maple Street, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM, the Thursday before Patrol meetings. Check your Clarion for up-to-date schedule.

If it is impossible for the Patrol Leader to attend, he must make every effort to have another patrol member represent the patrol at the meeting and bring the PL Red Binder.

4. Helps patrol members advance to Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class ranks. The Patrol Leader is authorized to teach, approve, and sign these advancement requirements.
5. Plans, with his patrol members, a patrol activity (outing). An activity can be a bike ride, hike through the Presidio, picnic, overnight camp out, bowling, or other activity that brings the patrol together. The activity should be fun and should provide opportunities for advancement if possible.

THE PATROL PARENT (you)

1. Available at patrol meetings and patrol outings. You are the de-facto Scoutmaster.
2. Present at monthly meetings of the Troop Committee. The Troop Committee looks to the Patrol Parent for purposes of communication with parents of patrol members.
3. Helps arrange patrol activities and projects.
4. Backs up the Patrol Leader by:
 - a. Strengthening the PL's hand if he is young or inexperienced.
 - b. Serving as his parent contact.
 - c. Acting as advisor on hikes and camps. (Although it is fun to do so, the Patrol Parent is not expected to participate in hikes and camps provided other adults share in that responsibility.)
 - d. Stressing individual advancement and providing the "Scoutmaster Conference" for boys ready to appear before the Board of Review. This conference reviews and discusses Scouting ideals (Oath and Law, Good Turn, etc.); Scouting experiences (what do you like best about the troop [or patrol]?); Scouting participation (attendance). It may touch on skills but is primarily a conversation about the Scout's practice of Scouting and his reactions to his Scouting experiences.
 - e. Using adult experience and background to assist the PL in better administration.
5. Helps the Patrol Leader build patrol morale by:
 - a. Assisting in solving patrol problems.
 - b. Counseling and coaching his PL in leadership skills.
 - c. Guiding the PL in planning the program and activities of the patrol.

Try showing the PL how to lead activities and conduct meetings and then remain in the background. PL parents have confidence that boys can take responsibility, remembering that the best of them may need occasional prodding.

THE PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL

Attendance by Patrol Leaders is mandatory as several important things happen at a PLC:

1. Leadership training. The Scoutmaster and older Scouts share their leadership experiences and advice with the Patrol leaders.
2. Planning. Themes for coming troop meetings, including demonstrations of skills needed by patrol members, are determined. Information about approaching troop activities is given.
3. Personnel difficulties are discussed, including slow advancers, discipline problems, and poor attendance.
4. The patrol meeting agenda is provided.

PATROL OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Patrol esprit de corps is built when the group goes out on its own under the PL's leadership. Any activity requires my permission (Application for a Patrol Outing from available in the Troop Room and linked in the PL Red Binder).

SUMMARY

Experience has shown that the support given by the Patrol Parent who knows and understands patrol administration contributes greatly to a successful patrol while the Patrol Parent who is unfamiliar with patrol management might not recognize potential patrol problems and so prevent them.

Therefore, you are urged to purchase and become familiar with the **Patrol Leader Handbook**, attend troop committee meetings, participate in Scouter (adult) training, and ask questions of other Patrol Parents, the Scoutmaster, and adults associated with Troop 14 at any time you wish information about the patrol method and the troop's program.

Thank you for working with your son to give the best Scout experience we can provide the members of Troop 14.

Sincerely yours,

Beck Diefenbach
Scoutmaster