Patrol Leader:

So, you have just been elected Patrol Leader and you need some ideas for patrol activities during Troop meetings and camping trips. Well, you've come to the right place. Here are Mr. Evans's gross ideas that you can use (gross as in 144 of them). If you don't see anything that strikes your fancy, use your imagination – there are millions of possibilities. Likewise, other scouts and leaders can have some great suggestions.

The 15-20 minute Patrol time during Troop meetings can be the best and most productive portion of the meeting. In many cases, you will need to use this time to prepare for upcoming trips and activities. This is the most important stuff and should come first (before play).

Preparation activities may include:

1. Review plans for upcoming meetings and trips.

2. Select and practice a new flag/opening ceremony for an upcoming Troop meeting.

3. Select and practice a new flag/opening ceremony for the next Court of Honor.

4. Do your Menu Plan for the next camping trip

5. Do your Duty Roster for the next camping trip

6. Select and practice a skit for the next campfire.

7. Have the Assistant Patrol Leader conduct a uniform inspection (its one of his duties).

You will probably have meetings where you do not have to take care of the important stuff. In that case, you should have some good ol' constructive fun. While the Troop meeting time allocated to Patrol activities will usually be 15-20 minutes, there is no reason you can't do a longer activity (just stretch it over a number of meeting nights). Also, on many camping trips, additional time (1-2 hours) will be allocated for Patrol activities – you can use these ideas for that time as well.

8. Practice your knots

9. Practice your lashings.

10. Invent and build a new camp gadget out of natural materials.

11. Have a Yo-Yo trick night.

12. Help someone with a difficult rank requirement.

13. Go through your Patrol equipment – clean, inspect and repair it.

14. Review Outdoor Cookbooks – look for something new to eat or a new way to cook on camping trips.

15. Make a 5-minute outdoor meal and eat it.

16. Build a no-match fire.

17. Practice your compass and map reading skills.

18. Exercise – have a push-up and sit-up contest.

19. Work on a Patrol Cheer.

20. Go on a Find-It Hike in the woods – see who can find the ugliest stick, the roundest rock, the biggest leaf, etc.

21. Create a Patrol cookbook
22. Come up with a list of a dozen trip ideas for the Troop to consider in the future.

23. Practice various ways of setting up flies and tarps
24. Learn a new scout song to sing for the Troop.

25. Do a pioneering project – lash a campsite gateway, chair, table, etc.

26. Work on a merit badge together.

27. Learn how to juggle.

28. Do one of the hundreds of Scoutmaster's Challenge games.

29. Build a shelter out of natural materials.

30. Make a Patrol first aid kit.

31. Make a Patrol survival kit.

32. Read Boys Life magazine.

33. Work on first aid wrappings and carries.

34. Make your own rope.

35. Have a Patrol portrait taken.

36. Build and fly kites.

37. Go on a stargaze – identify constellations.

38. Practice setting up a tent blindfolded
39. Fingerpaint.

40. Make sculptures with playdough.

41. Do soap carvings.

42. Sew patches on your uniforms.

43. Memorize the Gettysburg Address
44. Do a pressed leaf collection.

45. Put together a puppet show for the Troop.

46. Leather stamp a belt.

47. Write letters to military stationed overseas.

48. Learn how to change a tire on a car.

49. Sharpen an ax and/or knife.

50. Come up with a secret Patrol code and use it for messages.

51. Read and discuss with the Patrol Chapter 13, 14, or 15 of the Boy Scout Handbook

52. Listen to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech and discuss it with the Patrol
53. Whittle.

54. With the approval of the Patrol's parents, watch the BSA youth protection video appropriate for the Patrol's age group

55. Learn to sew patches and buttons on a shirt
56. Make a scout recruiting poster.

57. Practice magic tricks – give a magic show for the Troop.

58. Weave a basket.

59. Learn the Scout Law in sign language.

60. Make a nice walking stick – debark, sand, carve, stain, polyurethane.

61. Have a marbles tournament.

62. Learn proper methods for purifying water on the trail
63. Learn Morse code – practice it using flashlights.

64. Learn how to say ‘hello’ in 12 languages.

65. Learn and practice semaphore.

66. Make candles.

67. Learn how to iron a pair of pants
68. Research and play Native American games.

69. Practice using ropes and pulleys to lift heavy objects
70. Make a fuzz-stick – use it to start a fire.

71. Make ice cream
72. Build a friction lock bridge

73. Check each member's progress toward his next rank
74. Design and play a round of Frisbee golf

75. Grow a plant from seeds – bring it in each week over a year.

76. Make a fishing rod out of natural materials – use it on the next trip.

77. Make a knot board for the troop
78. Vacuum the Scoutmaster's car.

79. Have an adult help your patrol complete the Totin' Chip requirements
80. Pack the perfect Pack for a backpacking trip.

81. Learn how to check tire pressure, oil, transmission fluid, washer fluid and air filter on a car.

82. Write to a foreign Scout patrol.

83. Make commando ropes (an eye splice at one end, a toggle or monkey's fist at the other)
84. Make and practice hanging a bear bag.

85. Lash together a ladder.

86. Design an orienteering course for the Troop to use.

87. Learn how to dance the 'Electric Slide'.

88. Go sledding (with or without snow).

89. Learn and play a new card game.

90. Design and build a ceremony prop for the Troop.

91. Practice leaf identification with leaves or flash cards
92. Meet with a scout visiting the Troop.

93. Investigate a merit badge using the pamphlet and requirements
94. Do some tin punch art.

95. Build personal camp stools.
96. Have a checkers tournament.

97. Make a Patrol hammock out of rope.

98. Pitch pennies.

99. Do some fast and easy (and nonexplosive) science experiments.

100. Create an obstacle course for the Troop to try.

101. Make up a brand new original game for the whole Troop to play.

102. Carve and paint a Patrol totem pole from a log.

103. Build a model.

104. Make trail mix for next troop hike or campout

105. Have a birthday cake and party for a Patrol member.

106. Brainstorm ideas for campouts in upcoming program year
107. Start a book club, read and discuss the book

108. Scrub the Patrol cookware – again and again and again.

109. Start a movie club, watch an discuss the movie

110. Pick a merit badge for the patrol to work on.

111. Do rank advancement work.

112. Make a sit & reach box for a Personal Fitness merit badge counselor.

113. Create string artwork.

114. Study the Leave No Trace principles.

115. Burn the Scout Promise into wood.

116. Carve and decorate Patrol neckerchief slides.

117. Wash an adult leaders car.

118. Practice building different fire lays – chimney, teepee, a-frame, friendship

119. Have a guest speaker on some topic of interest.

120. Make and walk on stilts.

121. Practice throwing a rescue line to a victim.

122. Plan and carry out a service project

123. Learn how to play a tune on a harmonica.

124. Perform a safety inspection of our meeting place.

125. Make hot air balloons out of trash bags, string and candles.

126. Practice using various common hand tools
127. Build a birdhouse

128. Make and bury a time capsule.

129. Find some poison ivy, sumac and oak.

130. Refresh your CPR skills.

131. Hold an athletic meet – try to qualify for the events of the Athletics merit badge.

132. Read and discuss the meaning of the Declaration of Independence.

133. Have a show & tell of the Patrol member's collection.

134. inspect packs for upcoming campouts
135. Have patrol members take turns being blind at a Troop meeting.

136. Have a show-and-tell of useful camping great

137. Make a patrol rank-advancement chart

138. Play a game
139. Study and take the PA written driver's test.

140. Learn how to find the current weather conditions and the weather forecast for a location outside your local area
141. Work with an Eagle scout candidate on his project.

142. Make a craft for Mother's day.

143. Play charades.

144. Learn and discuss with your Patrol what to do if you are involved in a car crash or if your car has a flat tire or mechanical problems on the road