

YOUR PATROL

Your Boy Scout troop is made up of patrols, with each patrol's members sharing responsibility for the patrol's success. You will learn together, make plans, and turn your ideas into action. Together, your patrol will achieve much more than each of you would on your own.

A patrol of eight Scouts is the right size for many outdoor adventures. A few tents will shelter everyone on camping trips, and a couple of backpacking stoves are enough for cooking patrol meals.

Placing Scouts in small groups—Scouting's patrol method—is so important that most troop meetings include time for each patrol to meet by itself. Other patrol meetings might take place at a special patrol site or in the home of one of the patrol members.

Everyone in your patrol will have skills and knowledge to share. You can teach one another what you know and learn new skills together. As friends, you can look out for one another. Hikes and campouts give your patrol a chance to put its knowledge into practice and to enjoy friendship, fun, and adventure together.



Patrol members can create a muster point around the patrol camp box.

KINDS OF PATROLS

A Scout troop can have three kinds of patrols:

New-Scout Patrols. The new-Scout patrol is made up of boys who have just become Scouts. An experienced Scout, called a **troop guide**, helps show the way. An assistant Scoutmaster assigned to the patrol gives it added support.



Members of a new-Scout patrol choose their patrol leader and plan what they want to do. They take part in troop meetings and activities. As they learn hiking and camping skills, they also will start completing requirements for the Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks.

Regular Patrols. Scouts who hold the rank of First Class or higher can be members of regular patrols. Older Scouts who have not yet reached the First Class rank also may join a troop's regular patrols and continue to work on the First Class requirements.

Older-Scout Patrols. Many troops have an older-Scout patrol for seasoned Scouts who are eager to set out on rugged, high-adventure activities. Being part of such a patrol gives older Scouts the opportunity to stay active in their troops. They also may use their knowledge to enrich the Scouting experience for themselves and for other troop members.

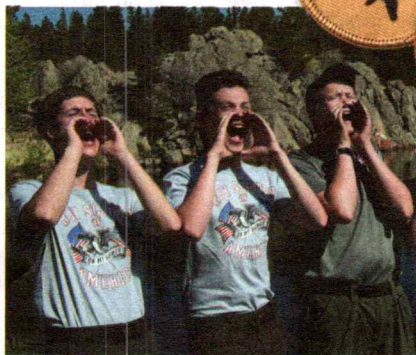
YOUR PATROL'S NAME, EMBLEM, FLAG, AND YELL

Your patrol will choose a name that says something about its members. Nature lovers might become the Flying Eagles, the Crafty Foxes, or the Pine Tree Patrol. Some patrols name themselves after people; you could become the Daniel Boone Patrol, the Frontiersmen, or the Vikings. Other patrols come up with fun names like the Superstars, the Brainiacs, or even the Space Aliens. The choice is yours.

Each patrol can make a flag to carry at troop meetings and on campouts. A patrol also has an emblem that members wear on the right sleeves of their uniform shirts; the design on the patch reflects the patrol name.



Patrol emblems



A unique patrol yell can give your patrol some character.

give the patrol yell whenever they do well in a troop competition or reach an important goal, and even when they're ready to chow down on a camp meal.

Patrols have yells, too. If your patrol is named for an animal, you can use that animal's sound—the howl of a wolf, for example, or the hoot of an owl. Or your patrol might decide on some other shout that identifies it. Members can

give the patrol yell whenever they do well in a troop competition or reach an important goal, and even when they're ready to chow down on a camp meal.

Patrol Leaders' Council

Your patrol will elect a leader to help the patrol reach its goals. The senior patrol leader, the chief youth leader of the troop, gives guidance, too. The patrol leaders will meet with the senior patrol leader and his assistants at a patrol leaders' council to plan the troop's programs and activities. Your patrol leader will represent the wishes of your patrol as decisions are being made.