



The Patrol Method



Agenda - The Patrol Method

- What is it?
- Why do we use it?
- How do we make it happen?
- Questions and sharing.



Quiz Time!!

- In each pair of statements, which one applies to you and your troop?
 - 1.A At troop meetings, do the patrol leaders have all the information and plans, or
B Do I keep a lot of the information to myself?
 - 2.A Before our camping trips, do the patrols usually plan their own menus and buy their own food, or
B Does someone usually do it for them?
 - 3.A Do patrols elect their own leaders, or
B Do I select them to make sure the right person is chosen.
 - 4.A Do our troop meetings do anything to make patrols stronger, or
B Do they have little effect on patrols one way or the other?
 - 5.A Do I spend time coaching my senior patrol leader, or
B Am I more likely just to marvel at his inability to do things?



Quiz Time!!

- 6.A Does the troop leaders' council do most of the program planning, or
B Do I do most of it myself?
- 7.A Do I have time for individual boys, or
B Am I usually too busy?
- 8.A Am I mostly in the background at troop meetings, or
B Do I run most of the meetings?
- 9.A Does Scouting in my troop consist of some troop and some patrol
activities and meetings, or
B Mostly troop activities and meetings?
- 10.A Do I get more kick out of watching boys lead activities, or
B Leading activities myself?



What is it?

- Quotes from Robert Baden-Powell, Scouting's founder:
 - "Scouting puts the boys into fraternity gangs which is their natural organization whether for games, mischief, or loafing."
 - "The Patrol system is the one essential feature in which Scout training differs from that of all other organizations."
 - "The object of the Patrol Method is not so much saving the Scoutmaster trouble as to give responsibility to the boy."



What is it?

- Quotes from Robert Baden-Powell, Scouting's founder:
 - “The Patrol Method is not a way to operate a troop, it is the only way. Unless the Patrol Method is in operation you don't really have a troop.”



What is it?

- A small group of boys (ideally about 6-8):
 - Similar in age, development, interests, geography
 - A Scout's "family circle"
 - A shared sense of belonging
 - Mutual caring and identification
 - Loyalty
 - A classroom, teaching
 - citizenship
 - leadership
 - co-dependency
 - teamwork
 - responsibility
 - Many more things...



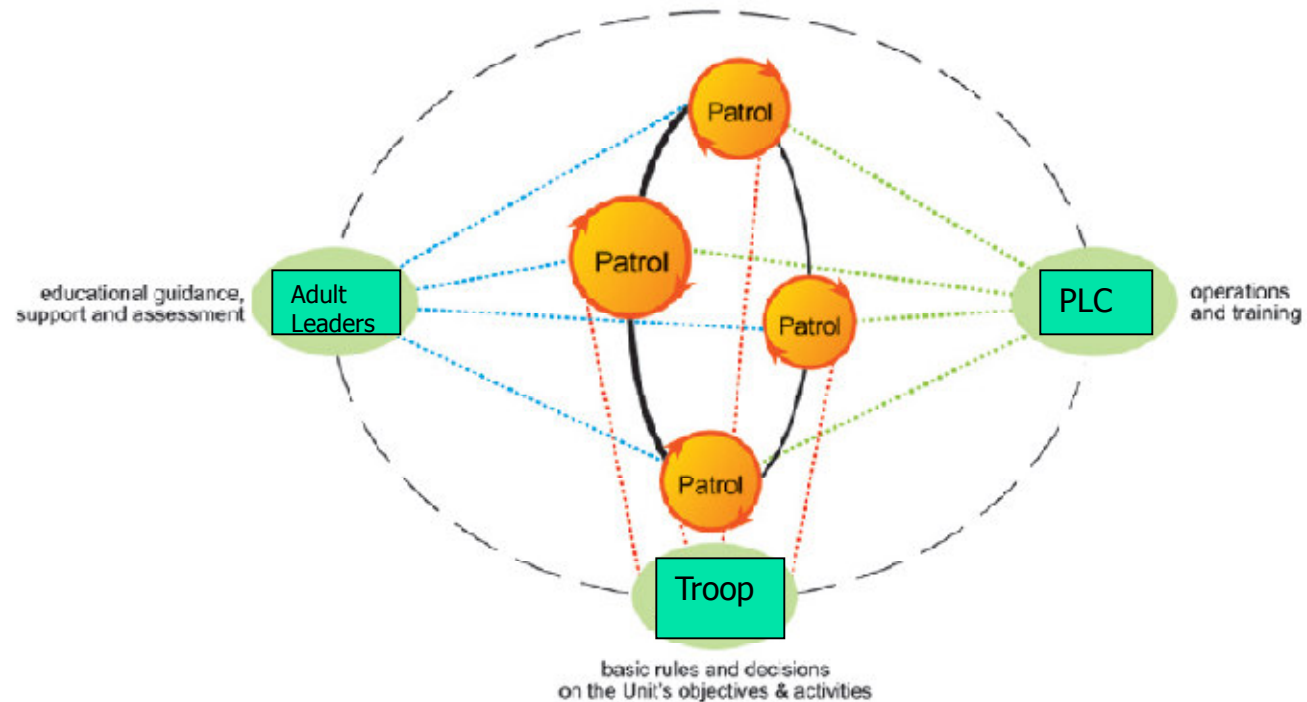
What is it?

- One of the 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



What is it?

- Where it fits in Scouting?
 - As the foundation and core!





Why do we use it?

- Organize the mechanisms of the informal peer group into a learning community
- Learn by doing
- To foster spirit and comradery
- Teach citizenship and leadership
- NOT as a simple system of small group operation



Why do we use it?

- Robert Baden-Powell:

“The Patrol system has great character-training value if it is used right. It leads each boy to see that he has some individual responsibility for the good of the Patrol. It leads each Patrol to see that it has definite responsibility for the good of the Troop... Through it the Scouts themselves gradually learn that they have considerable say in what their Troop does. It is the Patrol system that makes the Troop, and all Scouting for that matter, a real co-operative effort.”

“In a sense, we offer a simulation or a microcosm of life in larger communities or societies and of what is meant by being an active and responsible citizen.”



How do we make it happen?

- **Form Patrols** (ideally about 6-8 Scouts)
- Types of Patrols:
 - New Scout Patrols - 11 year olds who recently joined
 - Regular Patrols - Scouts having completed First Class (usually after first year in the Troop)
 - Venture Patrols - Optional Patrol of 13+ year old Scouts with maturity and experience for more high-adventure outings



How do we make it happen?

- Form Patrols (ideally about 6-8 Scouts)
- Elect a Patrol Leader (recommended 2X a year)
- “Celebrate” their election



Patrol Leader's Promise Ceremony

When the proper time comes, the new Patrol Leader's election to office should be announced before the Troop with an appropriate ceremony, along the following general lines:

- 1. The Troop is formed in a circle with the members of the Troop Leaders' Council [Patrol Leader's Council] in the center.
- 2. The Scoutmaster tells the Troop in a few words of the importance of good Patrol Leadership and announces the appointment of Scout _____ as the the new Patrol Leader of So-and-So Patrol.
- 3. Scout _____ is called forward. He places his left hand on the pole of the Troop flag, above that of the Scoutmaster, salutes, and recites the *Patrol Leader's Promise*: "I promise to do my best to be worthy of my office as Patrol Leader, for the sake of my fellow Scouts, my Patrol and my Troop."
- 4. The Scoutmaster pins the Patrol Leader's Badge on the boy's left sleeve, presents to him a *Patrol Leader Handbook*, and the youngest member of the Patrol presents him with the Patrol flag.
- 5. A Junior Leader leads the Troop in a cheer for the new Patrol Leader, who thereupon steps back into his Patrol, where he is greeted by another cheer from his own Scouts.



Patrol Leader's Promise

As the Leader of My Patrol:

- I WILL **lead** my Patrol by my **initiative** and my personal **example**, in Scoutcraft knowledge as well as in Scout Spirit.
- I WILL **plan**, with my Scouts, the Patrol's **activities**--meetings, hikes, Good Turns, special projects--and will **carry them out** to the best of my ability.
- I WILL **train** my Assistant Patrol Leader **to lead** the Patrol in my absence, and **give** each of the **other Scouts a chance** to do some leading in the Patrol.
- I WILL **keep well ahead** of my Patrol in **advancement**, and will **help my Scouts to advance** by training them and examining them in Scout Requirements.
- I WILL **set an example** for my Patrol by wearing my Scout **Uniform** at all Scout activities, and will urge my Scouts to do the same.
- I WILL **be responsible for the routine business** of the Patrol attendance, dues, and the like--but will get some other Patrol member to keep the records.
- I WILL make a special effort to **be a friend** to each Scout of my Patrol, and to know his home, his parents, his school or work, so that I may truly be able **to help** him.



How do we make it happen?

- Form Patrols (ideally about 6-8 Scouts)
- Elect a Patrol Leader (recommended 2X a year)
- Celebrate their election
- Train your leaders
- Provide Resources/support



Patrol Leader Duties

- **Plan and lead patrol meetings and activities.**
- **Keep patrol members informed.**
- **Assign each patrol member a specific duty.**
- **Represent your patrol at all patrol leaders' council meetings and the annual program planning conference.**
- **Prepare the patrol to participate in all troop activities.**
- **Work with other troop leaders to make the troop run well.**
- **Know the abilities of each patrol member.**
- **Set a good example.**
- **Wear the Scout uniform correctly.**
- **Live by the Scout Oath and Law.**
- **Show and develop patrol spirit.**



Ten Tips for Being a Good Patrol Leader

- **Keep Your Word.** Don't make promises you can't keep.
- **Be Fair to All.** A good leader shows no favorites. Don't allow friendships to keep you from being fair to all members of your patrol. Know who likes to do what, and assign duties to patrol members by what they like to do.
- **Be a Good Communicator.** You don't need a commanding voice to be a good leader, but you must be willing to step out front with an effective "Let's go." A good leader knows how to get and give information so that everyone understands what's going on.
- **Be Flexible.** Everything doesn't always go as planned. Be prepared to shift to "plan B" when "plan A" doesn't work.
- **Be Organized.** The time you spend planning will be repaid many times over. At patrol meetings, record who agrees to do each task, and fill out the duty roster before going camping.



Ten Tips for Being a Good Patrol Leader

- **Delegate.** Some leaders assume that the job will not get done unless they do it themselves. Most people like to be challenged with a task. Empower your patrol members to do things they have never tried.
- **Set an Example.** The most important thing you can do is lead by example. Whatever you do, your patrol members are likely to do the same. A cheerful attitude can keep everyone's spirits up.
- **Be Consistent.** Nothing is more confusing than a leader who is one way one moment and another way a short time later. If your patrol knows what to expect from you, they will more likely respond positively to your leadership.
- **Give Praise.** The best way to get credit is to give it away. Often a "Nice job" is all the praise necessary to make a Scout feel he is contributing to the efforts of the patrol.
- **Ask for Help.** Don't be embarrassed to ask for help. You have many resources at your disposal. When confronted with a situation you don't know how to handle, ask someone with more experience for some advice and direction.



How do we make it happen?

- Form Patrols (ideally about 6-8 Scouts)
- Elect a Patrol Leader (recommended 2X a year)
- Celebrate their election
- Train your leaders
- Provide Resources/support
- **Implement the Patrol Method**



How do we make it happen?

- Implement the Patrol Method
 - Patrol Meetings—any time and any place
 - Patrol Outings—Independent of the Troop with
 - Scoutmaster approval;
 - no interference with Troop function
 - Patrol Spirit—Name, Flag, Yell, Logo on gear, etc.
 - PLC—Represent the voice of Patrol members; take on the responsibility of running the Troop
 - National Honor Patrol Award



National Honor Patrol Award

- Fulfill the following over a three month period:
 - **HAVE A PATROL NAME, FLAG, AND YELL.**
 - **HOLD TWO PATROL MEETINGS EVERY MONTH.**
 - **TAKE PART IN AT LEAST ONE HIKE, OUTDOOR ACTIVITY, OR OTHER SCOUTING EVENT.**
 - **COMPLETE TWO GOOD TURNS OR SERVICE PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL.**
 - **HELP TWO PATROL MEMBERS ADVANCE ONE RANK.**
 - **WEAR THE FULL UNIFORM CORRECTLY**
(at least 75 percent of the patrol's membership).
 - **HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE ATTEND AT LEAST THREE PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL MEETINGS.**
 - **HAVE EIGHT MEMBERS IN THE PATROL OR INCREASE PATROL MEMBERSHIPS OVER THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS.**





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Questions and Sharing

- Can we better use the Patrol Method in our Troop?
- Questions and Sharing
- Share Examples of your Troop's Practices