

The Adult Role in a Scout Led Troop (Boy Run Troop)

Steve Roberts – Scoutmaster

1) Theme: Adults are Resources

- a) Goal of this talk is to give examples
- b) More description of what a “resource is” later

2) Let the Scouts do everything you would normally do

- a) Failure is acceptable in a safe environment
- b) Good counseling from the adults leads them to success
- c) We provide guidance, the Scouts do the work
- d) Baden Powell says:
An adult should never do anything the boys can do and the boys can do everything

3) Let the Scoutmasters be the liaison to the troops

- a) Campouts:
 - i) Scoutmasters walk-around Scout campsites
 - ii) Scoutmasters ask adults for help when it’s needed or requested
 - iii) Scoutmasters work with the SPL to ensure the camp-out is organized and run properly
- b) Meetings / Activities
 - i) Scoutmaster coordinates with SPL and lets SPL run meetings
 - ii) Scoutmaster whispers suggestions and directions to SPL, SPL carries them out
 - iii) Scouts do the openings and closings, including all announcements
- c) Discipline
 - i) Conducted first by the Scouts in a safe environment
 - ii) Teach the boys how to run a counseling session by showing them
 - (1) Discover
 - (2) Recover
 - (3) Consequences
- d) Scout Spirit Reviews
 - i) 2nd Class and above require Scout Spirit to be signed off
 - ii) Our troop let’s SPL’s and ASPL’s, Venturers, and/or older Scouts (Life and above) conduct a short review prior to the Scoutmaster conference to sign off Scout Spirit
 - iii) Only Scouts should sign off requirements
 - iv) Adults only sign Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review

4) Camp-outs

- a) Adults set-up and run their own campsite – there is lots to do
 - i) Cooking
 - ii) Setting up tents, dining fly, cooking station, cleaning station
 - iii) Adult fire ring
 - iv) Get water and transport Scouts to get their own water when needed

4) Camp-outs

- b) Stay in your campsite and let the Scouts come to you
- c) Permission
 - i) To enter adult campsite
 - ii) To enter Scout campsite
- d) Enjoy the camp-out as an adult activity!
 - i) Play games
 - ii) Chores of the camp-out
 - iii) Engage when the Scouts ask for your help
- e) Participate in campfire as a patrol with a song or skit

5) What do adults do during meetings?

- a) Adults don't supervise
 - i) We don't yell at Scouts
 - ii) We don't stand behind them and tell them how to do things or correct everything they do
 - iii) We don't act as task-masters – let them work at their own pace
 - iv) Let the SPL's be the disciplinarians, task-masters, and correctors
 - v) If an adult sees a problem, talk to Scoutmaster and let him engage the SPL's to correct
 - vi) If the Scoutmaster isn't available, seek out one of the SPL's and provide guidance and then let them act
 - vii) Scouts always take direction and correction better from their peers
- b) Support for Scouts (resources)
- c) Boards of Review
- d) Coordinate activities as requested by Scouts
- e) Adult presence – especially for rambunctious patrols
- f) Merit Badge session
- g) Plan the adult camp out
 - i) Menus
 - ii) Participation
 - iii) Drivers
 - iv) Extra supplies for activities as requested by Scouts
- h) Brainstorm on how to improve – the troop, the experience for the boys, recruiting

Dak Burnett – Committee Chair

6) Adults are resources

- a) 2-deep leadership during activities and camp-outs (youth protection needed)
 - i) Preferably four leaders
 - ii) If an accident occurs, 2 will need to go with injured scout
 - iii) 2 adults with each patrol activity: nature hike, trip to swimming hole, geocaching
- b) Merit badge counselors
 - i) Consider becoming qualified in difficult merit badges or actives:
 - (1) Shotgun
 - (2) Rifle
 - (3) BSA Lifeguard
 - (4) Wood Carving
 - (5) Leatherwork
 - (6) Backpacking
 - ii) Make sure your troop has the Eagle-required badges covered or you have a relationship with a troop that can help
- c) Buyers
 - i) Adult quartermaster to take scout quartermaster to the store
 - ii) Make purchases selected by scouts in catalogs or online
- d) Committee (see later notes)
- e) Counselors
 - i) Assist in discipline session when scouts ask for help
 - ii) Assist new-boy patrols as an adult presence
 - iii) Life-to-Eagle Coordinator
- f) Drivers
- g) Be a resource, coordinator, assistant; don't be a do-er when the Scouts can do it themselves

7) Seasoned adults help new parents

- a) Explain how the troop runs
- b) Explain that the Scouts run the troop, we are resources
- c) Pull over-involved parents out of Scout activities and get them involved in an adult activity
- d) Encourage training (see below)

8) Committee roles and responsibilities

- a) Every adult has a role in the troop
- b) Key positions:
 - i) Committee Chair
 - ii) Treasurer
 - iii) Advancement Chair
 - iv) Life-to-Eagle Coordinator
 - v) Chaplain
 - vi) Camp Scoutmasters
 - vii) New Boy Scoutmaster
- c) Create new positions as needed to give adults roles:
 - i) Adult Quartermasters

- ii) Secretary / Newsletter Coordinator
- iii) Court-of-Honor Coordinator
- iv) Safety Chair
- v) High Adventure Scoutmaster / Coordinator
- vi) Camping Chair
 - (1) Camp-out reservations
 - (2) Coordinate drivers
- vii) Adult Chef
- viii) Adult Grubmaster (can be combined with Chef)
- ix) Popcorn Chair
- x) Other fundraiser chair
- xi) Merit Badge Coordinator
- xii) Webelos recruiting chair / Pack liaison
- d) All positions in the troop match to a Scout who serves as the liaison to the PLC, SPL, the troop
 - i) Let the Scouts give the announcements, provided by the coordinators
 - ii) Let the Scouts do the planning and the actual work while the coordinator serves as a consultant

9) Training

- a) Adults should complete all the training they can
- b) Basic Scoutmaster course
- c) Committee Challenge
- d) Woodbadge
- e) Youth Protection
- f) Safety courses (Safety Afloat, etc.)
- g) Encourage adults to complete training and earn knots
- h) Committee Chair should appoint an adult training coordinator or take this job on themselves to ensure adults are as well trained as the Scouts

10) Adult's most important role

- a) Keep it fun
- b) Leadership and character development
- c) Develop participatory citizenship and patriotism
- d) Encourage values and courage
- e) Lead by example in all these areas
- f) *Deliver the Promise* of Scouting (see page 1 in "The Boy Scout Handbook")
- g) Remember that all of our efforts should be directed at a common goal of providing the best possible program for the SCOUTS:
 - i) Outdoor program-provide at least 25 quality days of camping including a long term residence camp yearly and high adventure programs (camp monthly)
 - ii) Advancement program-opportunity to earn advancement, excel and be recognized including honor camping programs
 - iii) Leadership development program- It is imperative in a BRT that the PLC and patrols lead. We train and may offer ideas through the SM and SPL, but the boys must be the leaders, make the decisions and solve problems as they arise.