# Tips for New Scoutmasters from a Veteran


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Baden-Powell Council – 2018 University of Scouting

# What are we about?

I went though a wonderful training course
to help college students develop
into good leaders of college groups.

Much of the effort went into developing a

***vision***

of what the group or organization wanted to be,
and where they wanted to go.

# BSA Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

# Scouting Aims & Methods

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the

**"Aims of Scouting."**

They are

1. character development,
2. citizenship training, and
3. personal fitness.

# Eight Methods

The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below.

- Ideals
- Personal Growth
- Adult Association
- Uniform
- Patrols
- Boy Leadership
- Advancement
- Outdoor Programs

# Robert Baden-Powell on Patrol Method

"The patrol method is not a way to operate a Boy Scout troop, it is the *only* way.

Unless the patrol method is in operation you don't really have a Boy Scout troop."

# Every Scout Should Know

Scout Oath:

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times,
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

# Every Scout Understands

A Scout is ...

Trustworthy,

Loyal,

Helpful,

Friendly,

Courteous,

Kind,

Obedient,

Cheerful,

Thrifty,

Brave,

Clean,

Reverent.

# Scouts Should Remember

**Scout Motto:**

Be Prepared.

**Scout Slogan:**

Do a good turn daily.

# Outdoor Code

As a Citizen of the World,

I will do my best to

Be clean in my outdoor manners,

Be careful with fire,

Be considerate in the outdoors, and

Be conservation-minded.

*“As an American” edited to “As a Citizen of the World”*

# Critical Scoutmaster Activities?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

# Which is most important?

For scouts to have fun?

For scouts to show good scout spirit?

For activities to meet the mission of scouting by building character and personal values?

# “Scouting is a game with a purpose”

DELIVER the Promise.

INSTILL Scouting values in your scouts.

And the purpose of the game is to teach boys to be good citizens who are physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

# Scouting in Action

Scouting is outing.

Scouting teaches by doing.

We practice boy leadership.

Scouts learn by *SUCCESS* and *FAILURE*

*If you are not allowed to fail,*
*you do not have the opportunity to succeed.*

# Scoutmaster Challenge

Do you have the self control to let the scouts try to do it their way?

Do you need to be in control, or see that things are done the RIGHT way?

Can you tolerate *chaos* and **failure**?

# Seeking a Balance

SUCCESS and **failure**

Too much failure and scout never comes back, or goes winter camping again.

When does the program fall apart too much so the troop is discouraged?

# Scouting Experiences

*"Experience is what you get*
*when you wanted something else."*

The campouts most recounted are those when the challenge was greatest, and the scouts used their wits and survived.

*They learned that they could.*

# Scoutmaster's Vision

1st job is to ensure scouts are safe.

2nd job is to encourage scouts to reach

farther than they have before

to seek an adventure

to dare to be great

to risk failure

# Theodore Roosevelt

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena: whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood: who strives valiantly: who errs and comes short again and again: who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in worthy cause: who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievements: and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with the cold timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

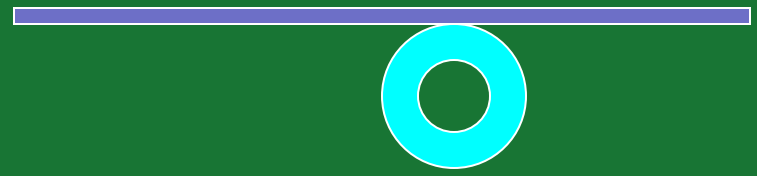
# The Balancing Act

**Investing in scouts and the troop**

**Delivering the program**

*INVEST*
*in people*

*Deliver today's*
*PROGRAM*



# Create Leadership Opportunities

Running an interpatrol competition

1. Scoutmaster explains rules to troop
2. PLC discusses game, then

   SPL explains rules to troop
3. PLC discusses game, then SPL explains rules to patrol leaders

   who then explain rules to patrols.

# Baden-Powell about Scoutmasters

“The Scoutmaster … must realize the needs, outlooks, and desires of the different ages of boy life.

He must deal with the individual boy, rather than with the mass.”

# Boy Leadership in Boy Scout Troops

- In scouting, leadership is about helping the Troop or a patrol to develop shared goals and then helping them achieve those goals.

- Leaders share leadership and responsibilities with other scouts so that everyone can help the troop succeed, their patrol succeed, and everyone grows.

- Leadership is not about being the big boss, or doing what you think is best.  It is about helping the whole troop get to where they want to go.

1990 BSA *Junior Leader Handbook.*

# Boy Leadership

***In Scouting,*** a good leader helps the group identify and achieve shared goals.

***Ask your scouts to think of great examples of leadership***.

Who can you think of who lead well?

What was the issue?

What did they do?

# Adult Leadership

Shared leadership applies to adults too.

Applies to entire troop

(scouts, committee and parents):

In Scouting, a good leader helps a group identify and achieve shared goals.

The TROOP belongs to all of you.

# Critical SM Skills?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

# Answer #1

Skill #2  asking for help.

If you cannot do it well,

no problem.

Find someone who can!

# Critical SM Skills?

Some say it is Scout Spirit and Attitude. Some say it is Planning. But at my Woodbadge, the first skill of leadership was *communication*.

Whether it is making sure that Scouts and their family know what is happening, or getting adults to work together, a successful scout troop needs to have good communication. A Scoutmaster is often the glue that holds the troop together.

# Conflict & Communication

A scout left the meeting in a huff.

An adult was upset about something that happened on the trip?

A committee member was angry about a decision, or their inability to be heard.

Someone was snubbed because of a communication breakdown, or an oversight.

# Conflict

Scout leadership handbooks teach:

empathy

invention

selection.

# Conflict

Lets start with

empathy

And empathy starts with an

immediate phone call.

Don’t let it fester or spread.

Face the problem.

# Staying out of trouble

A scout is getting into trouble,and you may need to take disciplinary actions:

*Communicate: let ASMs, Committee know.*

An adult is unhappy with a troop policy or some activity that happened.

*Communicate: let ASMs, Committee know.*

*Then face the problem:  Communicate.*

# Staying out of trouble

If someone is getting upset,

or something is going wrong,

tell key ASMs & committee members.

You do not want them to be surprised.

You do not want them to hear it first from another source.

Can they be part of the solution?

# Conflict Resolution

Scout leadership handbooks teach:

empathy

invention

selection.

Keep talking.

Go slowly & keep people informed.

Work with parents of scouts in trouble.

Face the problem. *Communicate.*

# Troop Communications

1. How does my troop communicate with Scouts and their families?

2. How do we ensure that we have good communication among troop leaders (scoutmaster, asst. scoutmasters, committee members, parents)?

3. Where do we need to do better?

**Activities+welcome**
**Lists of officers, scoutmasters, new members …**

### Troop Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| Peter Mehravari | Senior Patrol Leader |
| Greg Tauer | Asst. Senior Patrol Leader |
| Brandon Sforzo and Andrew Melkonian | Quartermasters |
| Pat Anguish | Chaplin's Aide |
| Andrew Byrnes | Venture Crew Chief |
| Eric Smith and Steven Hedge | Troop Guides -- Wolverines |

### Adult Leaders

| | |
|---|---|
| Jery Stedinger (257-8016) | Scoutmaster (SM) |
| Ben Brown (347-4922) | Asst. SM - Advancement |
| | Asst. SM |
| 8) | Lead Asst. SM -- First year scouts |
| Dan Mincer (253-2620) | Asst. SM -- First year scouts |
| ) | Asst. SM - Venture crew |
| -8653) | Records and leadership |
| 3) | Asst. SM - Equipment |
| ables (257-2057) | Asst. SM - Public service |
| 4), Eric Shuler, Chuck Kreisl (266-6411), Silas Dodgen (272-1147), | |
| 467), Robin Stedinger (257-8016) | Asst. Scoutmasters |
| ) | Troop Committee Chair |
| 57) | Chartered Organization Representative |
| | Publications |

## TROOP 4
# THUNDERCLOUD

September 26, 1990

### Upcoming activities

| | |
|---|---|
| October: | |
| 3 | Boards of review |
| 7 | Boards of review |
| 10 | Court of Honor |
| 12-14 | Campout |
| 28 | Popcorn sales start |
| 31 | Halloween party |
| November: | |
| 9-11 | Campout |
| 11 | Place popcorn order |
| 19 | Receive popcorn order |

### New Scouts

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members of Troop 4:

Otto Krusius
Rann Lach
Jeremy Lenz
Sean Ochihiro
Jason Tavelli
Gupta Vibhor

and their families. We'll be introducing them to the other families in our troop at our Court of Honor on October 10. These boys make up the newly formed Flaming Arrow patrol.

### Dues

*Matthew - pd*

As most people will recall, we collect dues on a semi-annual basis. Each September and February we collect 5 months of dues; we do not charge dues for July and August. The September payment of $20 is now overdue. If your son has not yet paid his dues, please take care of this matter as soon as possible.

### Medical Histories

Each September, we ask troop members to submit an up-to-date health history form. This form also doubles as a permission slip for many of our activities. Several weeks ago blank forms (on gray card stock) were sent home with the Scouts. Fewer than half have been returned. Any Scout who fails to return the form within the next two weeks will not be allowed on the October camping trip. Replacement copies are available from Scoutmaster Fran Morrow.

### Troop Committee

We'd like to welcome the following new members to the Troop Committee. Fran Stiles will be

### Welcome from the SPL

i, and I am the senior patrol leader for Troop 2 this fall. As
lanned, with the help of the scoutmaster, a very interesting
ould like to accomplish are to have more organized campo
ach scout to do during each troop meeting. I hope that my
a lot for each scout. ------Peter

### Upcoming Events

***Canoeing Trip Postponed until 1999***
ing earlier.

# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## COME JOIN US!

Make new friends & play new games. Go Hiking, biking & canoeing. Camp in the woods, cook over an open fire and smell the wood smoke.

## BLAZE NEW TRAILS! BECOME A LEADER!

The Boy Scouts of America, founded in 1910, is the realization in the United States of the international Boy Scout movement begun by Sir Robert Baden-Powell in England in 1906. In the US, 2.5 million people participate in scouting units. Scouting worldwide is a 30 million strong youth movement dedicated to development of character, self-reliance, responsibility, physical fitness and the skills of citizenship in young men and women. It is also a lot of adventure and great fun!

Of every 100 boys that join a Scout troop it is estimated that eighteen will develop hobbies that will last through their adult life, one will use his Boy Scout skills to save a life, one will use his Boy Scout skills to save his own life, and two will become Eagle Scouts - the highest rank attainable.

Fun and adventure in outdoor activities are central to the Scouting philosophy. Cub Scouts is for younger boys and Boy Scouts is for older boys. The aims of the Scouting movement worldwide are summarized by the Scout Oath and Law.

**SCOUT OATH:** On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law. To help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

**SCOUT LAW:** A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverend

## INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL SCOUTING UNITS

www.badenpowellcouncil.org
www.tompkinscortlandscouts.org
www.scouting.org

***For information about Ithaca Cub Scout Pack 4 (boys ages 7-10) contact:***
Greg Menzenski, 257-2862; Holly Kazarinoff, 257-4026
Meeting location: First Congregational Church, 309 Highland Rd.

***For information about Ithaca Boy Scout Troop 2 (boys ages 11 - 17) contact:***
Jery Stedinger, Scoutmaster, 257-8016 e-mail jrs5@cornell.edu
WEBSITE www.troop2ithaca.org

Monday nights 7:30–9 pm at the First Congregational Church, 309 Highland Rd, Ithaca

## JOIN US FOR ADVENTURE!

# Effective Email

Here are some tips for email announcements:

1. Get to the main point first
2. Use an informative subject line
3. Include W-W-W-W: who, what, where, when, date/time, and contact information
4. Separate explanations from announcements
5. Remember: not everyone reads carefully

# Communication Matrix

| Message | Scouts | Parents | Leaders | Public |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| W-W-W-W | Scouts need to know the schedule | Get the information home. | Need agenda for events | Invitations, Announce-ments |
| Scouting Spirit is … | A goal of scouting is to instill scout spirit in youth | Parents need to understand the goal. | Leadership perspective | Who we are. What we do. |
| We Care About You. | To teach scouts to care for others we must care about them. | We all need support. | Leaders are people too | Helpful, Friendly |

# Share your gift

**What special interest or skill do you have to share?**

History
Photography
Carpentry
Fishing
Astronomy

Forestry/Botany
Wildlife/Entomology
Bird Watching
Geology/Earth Science
Business

# Thoughts for Adult Leaders

***Scoutmasters Goal:***

Don't do anything a scout can do.

***Sir Robert Baden-Powell:***

What a scoutmaster does, his boys will do.

***KISMIF:*** Keep it simple, make it fun.

# Web Information Sources

www.bsa.scouts.org

www.badenpowellcouncil.org

www.macscouter.com

www.scoutorama.com

http://usscouts.org/

Get *Guide to Safe Scouting:*

http://www.scouting.org/pubs/gss/toc.html

You start here

# and so the journey begins...

Leadership/team challenge: Philmont 2000.

Troop 2 - Mt. Phillips - Philmont 2000.

Senior Patrol, Troop 2 @ Camp Barton, January 2005.
Boy Scout

Troop 2 @ Camp Barton, Winter Camporee; Jan. 05.
Winners of 5th and 1st places.

Troop 2 on Mt. Baldy, Philmont, 2004.

From 1998 to 2004.

Proud of our Eagles.

Carter Hirtle Eagle COH, Nov. 2004.

Five seniors off to college.

Four eagle scouts.

# No man stands so tall as when he stoops to help a boy.

Applies to women too!

# Thanks for Coming