

LEADERS IN A BOY-LED TROOP

A Boy Scout troop is a small democracy. With the Scoutmaster's direction, the boys are formed into patrols, they plan the troop's program and make it reality.

In order for this to happen, a troop relies upon Scouts serving in positions of responsibility. The key boy leaders of the troop make up the **patrol leaders' council (TLC—troop leader council)**. They are the senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leaders and the troop guides of the new-Scout patrols.

SENIOR PATROL LEADER:

The junior leader with the most responsibility in the troop is the **senior patrol leader**. He is elected by all members of the troop. Each troop sets its own requirements and schedule of elections, though senior patrol leaders are usually chosen at six-to-twelve-month intervals and can be reelected. During the scout's tenure as a senior patrol leader, he is not a member of a patrol. The senior patrol leader is often selected from among experienced Scouts of certain age and rank. The senior patrol leader is in charge of troop meetings from the beginning to end. He chairs the meetings of the patrol leader's council as they plan troop activities and programs. In short, the senior patrol leader's job is to see that the troop runs in an orderly and timely manner.

ASSISTANT SENIOR PATROL LEADER:

With the approval of the Scoutmaster, the **assistant senior patrol leader** is appointed by the senior patrol leader. He serves as his assistant and is in charge if the senior patrol leader is not present. Among his specific responsibilities are: training and providing direction for the troop quartermaster, scribe, historian, librarian and instructors. During his tenure as assistant senior patrol leader, the Scout is not a member of a patrol. Large troops may have more than one assistant senior patrol leader.

PATROL LEADERS:

One **patrol leader** is elected by the members of each patrol. He takes responsibility for the patrol's activities and represents the patrol as a member of the Patrol Leader's Council. Each patrol leader appoints an assistant patrol leader to serve with him.

TROOP GUIDE:

The **troop guide** is both a leader and a mentor to the members of a new-Scout patrol. He is an older Scout, at least First Class in rank, who helps the patrol leader of a new-Scout patrol in much the same way that a Scoutmaster works with a senior patrol leader; providing direction, coaching and support as determined by the skill level and morale of the patrol leader and members of the new-Scout patrol. The troop guide is usually not a member of another patrol.