



# The Patrol Method and an Introduction to Teaching Youth Leadership

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## The Patrol Method



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## The Methods of Boy Scouting

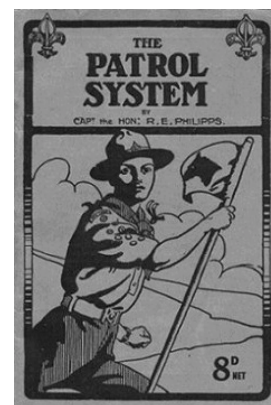
1. The Ideals
2. The Patrol Method
3. The Outdoors
4. Advancement
5. Association with Adults
6. Personal Growth
7. Leadership Development
8. The Uniform



## How Important is the Patrol Method?

*It is necessary to point out at the start that the Patrol System is not one method in which Scouting for boys can be carried out, but that it is the only method.*

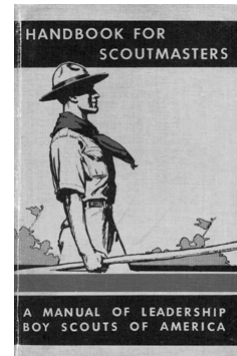
*-Roland Philipps, Commissioner for East London, The Patrol System, 1914*



The Patrol System by Roland Philipps, 1914

## Then and Now

- William “Green Bar” Bill Hillcourt introduced the Patrol Method
- The Patrol Method makes for stronger troops
- The Scouts like it and they stay.



## What is the Patrol Method?

What do you think the Patrol Method is?



## Take Any 30 Boys

TAKE any thirty boys, turn them loose in a closed street, a playground, or in a sports field-and you know what happens?



## What is a Patrol?

A patrol is that small group of boys and friends under their own leadership who plan and carry out troop and patrol meetings and activities.

It is the basic organizational unit of a Scout troop.

- Scoutmaster Handbook, Chapter 4,  
The Boy-Led Patrol

## **Aspects of a Patrol**

- **Friends and Responsibility**
- **Small Size - Up to 8 Boys**
- **Should the Patrol be able to function without the troop?**

## **What is the Patrol Method?**

- Patrols and their boy leaders run the program in their Patrols and the Troop.
- The adults stand aside and let the Scouts do it all.
- Patrols teach youth leadership

## **The Aims of the Patrol Method**

- The primary aim of the Patrol Method is to teach leadership.
- Scouts learn leadership by leading.
- The Scoutmaster provides them with the tools and encouragement to do their jobs.



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## **Setting Up and Maintaining Patrols**

There are three kinds of patrols:

1. New-Scout patrols (for youth just joining the troop)
2. Regular patrols (usually for boys who have earned at least the First Class rank)
3. Venture patrols (made up of older Scouts)

- The Scoutmaster Handbook, Chapter 4, "The Boy-Led Patrol"



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## Patrol Leaders

- Patrol elects a patrol leader. (usually every 6 months)
- The patrol leader takes the leading role
- Each patrol leader can appoint an assistant

- Scoutmaster Handbook, Chapter 4 – The Boy Led Patrol



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## Boy-Led Patrol

### The Patrol

Patrol is the building block of the Troop.

Work together as a TEAM.

Optimum size is eight.

Each Patrol selects a name, creates a flag and a yell. A patrol takes pride in itself.

### Patrol Leaders

Lead role in planning and conducting patrol activities.

Encourage advancement.

Represent the patrol at the PLC

Set a good example.

### Three Types of Patrols

Regular Patrols.

New-Scout Patrols.

Venture Patrols.

### Other Patrol Positions

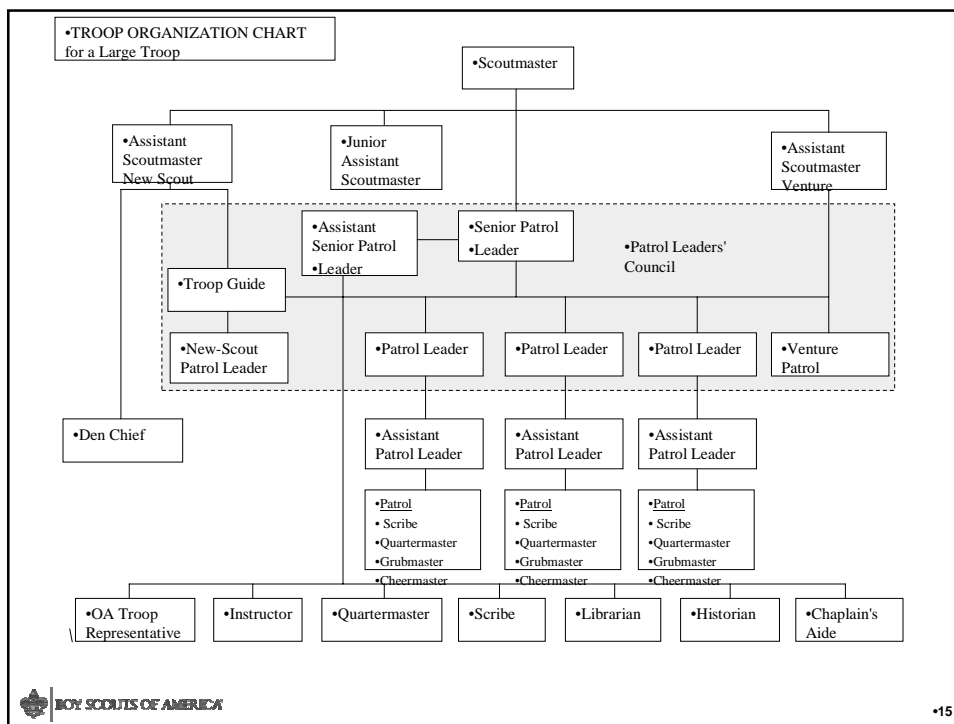
Assistant Patrol Leader.

Patrol Scribe.

Patrol Quartermaster.

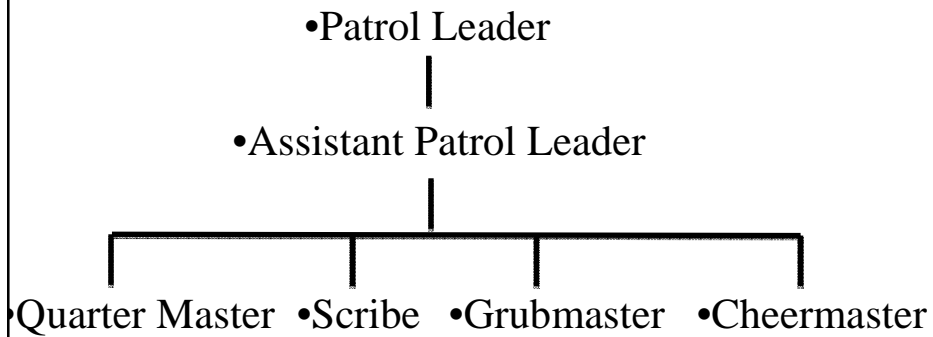


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## Patrol Organization



## Patrol Leaders – Leading Your Patrol

- Organizing Your Patrol
- Supporting the Senior Patrol leader
- Teaching Leadership and Team Building
- Using Duty Rosters
- Planning menus and determining food cost
- Encouraging Advancement
- Guiding the Patrol through problem Solving
- Teaching Outdoor Skills
- Ensuring Patrol safety during outings and meetings
- Handling Patrol finance
- Helping other younger Scouts make the most of their Leadership abilities
- **Have Fun !!!!!**

## Patrol Meetings

- During Troop Meeting
- On Campouts
- Separate from Troop
- At school
- Wherever the patrol is



## PATROL ACTIVITIES

### Types of Patrol Activities

- Hikes
- Campouts
- Service Projects
- Climbing gyms
- Patrol treks
- etc



## Building Patrol Spirit

Why is Patrol Spirit Important?

What happens when Patrols lose Patrol Spirit?

Is it OK if a Scout says “My patrol is better than yours?”

Names some ways to develop Patrol Spirit



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## National Honor Patrol Award

This award is given to patrols whose members make an extra effort to have the best patrol possible over a three month period



***Requirements can be found: Scoutmaster Handbook, Chapter 4, The Boy-Led Patrol and in Patrol Leader's Handbook***



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## Discussion: Scenario

“That is all right, all you have been saying about The Patrol Method. But I tried it in my Troop, and it just doesn’t work!”

“Take last week, for instance. We had our program all outlined, but the boys fell down on it. The Patrol Leaders had forgotten to prepare their Scouts, equipment was missing, and our game leader didn’t show up. I simply had to take over the meeting myself in order to keep it from being a general mix-up!”



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## Scouting Functions Through Patrols

*Make the Patrol the unit ALWAYS, in and out, through thick and thin, for better and worse in victory and defeat, in games and on hikes, and in camp.*

- “Green Bar” Bill Hillcourt, *Handbook for Scoutmasters*, 1936



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## Sometimes It is Hard



## What Are Some Signs of Adult Run?



## **The Patrol Method**

**Questions on the Patrol Method?**