

Patrol Assistant Scoutmasters

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Every BSA 365 patrol has one or more Patrol Assistant Scoutmasters assigned with principal responsibility to work with that patrol. Typically, there is a "lead" with other Patrol Assistant Scoutmasters working as a team. Elements of this role are described below.

Toward Scouts

- Advise the Patrol Leader and hold him accountable.
- Assist the Patrol Leader in holding accountable other Scouts in the patrol.
- Help the Patrol Leader to remember to attend all meetings. If he cannot attend, help him assure that the Assistant Patrol Leader or another patrol Scout attends.
- Help the Patrol Leader establish a telephone tree for contacting all Scouts in the patrol.
- Help the Patrol Leader in maintaining sufficient order during patrol and troop meetings.
- For inexperienced Scouts, use Troop Guides to assist.
- Assist the Patrol in
 - holding agenda-focused Patrol meetings during Troop meetings.
 - preparing meaningful and interesting programs for the Troop whenever the Patrol is assigned to the program.
 - completing duties whenever it is assigned to service.
 - cleanup after meetings.
 - assuring all Scouts have rides home from the meeting.
 - organizing to conduct flag ceremonies.
- Sit with the patrol during meetings, and encourage other Patrol Assistant Scoutmasters to do likewise.
- Encourage patrol activities independent of the Troop, to build patrol spirit (e.g. a movie, game, or other activity).

Scoutmaster Conferences

A Patrol Assistant Scoutmaster conducts Scoutmaster Conferences for Scouts in their patrol seeking advancement up through rank of First Class. Use the Scoutmaster Conference to motivate Scouts for advancement, praise and critique their performance, hold them accountable for showing patrol participation and Scout Spirit, and assure satisfaction of rank advancement requirements, including regular troop and patrol activities, and active participation requirements. For Star and Life ranks, our Scoutmaster may ask you to conduct these conferences or may conduct them himself. If a Scoutmaster

conference is planned, then conduct a “pre-conference” with Scouts in your patrol seeking advancement to Star through Eagle ranks. Review with them the requirements for advancement, particularly fulfillment of their leadership position, Scout Spirit, and compliance with and knowledge of the Scout Law and Scout Oath.

Toward Other Adults in the Troop

- Participate to the degree you can in Troop Committee meetings.
- Attempt to maintain some uniformity of approach with other Patrol Assistant Scoutmasters.
- Inform the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair of problems and successes of the patrol and its leadership.
- Discuss any important advancement, medical, and disciplinary issues privately. As appropriate, involve parents of patrol Scouts, the Troop Committee Chair, or the Scoutmaster.
- Preserve the authority of Scouts in the patrol, especially the Patrol Leader, against the intrusions of adults not assigned to your patrol.
- Recruit parents of Patrol members to assist in “fun” patrol activities.
- Enroll in available Boy Scout Adult Leader Training

Campouts

- Personally attend as many campouts as possible.
- Maintain “two deep leadership.”
- To the degree possible, assure that an adult assigned to the patrol attends every campout, and is present each night of the campout.
- Teach safe camping rules to patrol members, and encourage compliance with those rules. Using advanced Scouts and Troop Guides, teach safe and efficient patrol campsite setup.
- Assist in getting patrol members to camp and tent together.
- Help the Patrol Leader to
 - complete a Duty Roster in advance of all campouts.
 - provide you a copy, with definite assignments of all patrol members attending.
 - post a Duty Roster at the campout, and assist him in assuring its implementation.
 - encourage proper cooking and cleaning methods.