

Session 106

Webelos to Scouting Transition

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Thanks to Patrick McCann for the original presentation from PTC 2018

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Agenda

1. Differences between Cub Scouting and Troop Scouting
2. Pointers for doing a Troop search
3. Things to look for in a Troop
 - Questions to ask, etc.
4. Bonus Slides (optional)
5. Q & A



Introduction

- **Who I am...**
 - **Bill Burris, Scoutmaster, T499 Newcastle/Renton**
 - **~17 years as Scoutmaster, Currently also an AOL Den Leader, Member of the Mountain Territory District Committee, Wood Badge member and have been a Wood Badge Staffer**

- **A Promise**
 - **Not here on a recruiting call**
 - **Except for ALL Packs and Troops!!!**

- **Class Material:**
 - **Full presentation will be available online.**
 - **Email me for questions**



Differences: Cub “Ranks” vs Scouts BSA Ranks

1. Advancement

- Cub Den Level Badges (Wolf, Bear ...AOL) do not require the previous Badge
- **Except Bobcat!!** ... Quickly earned after joining!!!
 - Example: Bear badge doesn't require Wolf
- In Troops, all Scouts start at the Rank of Scout & work their way up in the order of the ranks.

2. 7 ranks in Scouts BSA recognition

- 1st four Ranks: Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, & 1st Class
 - Together they are called the **“Trail to First Class ... TTFC”**
 - All Ranks must be completed in order of Rank
 - Rank requirements can be done in parallel
 - TTFC requirements are a “checklist” of Scout Skills
 - Camping, first aid, citizenship, etc..
 - Can be done as fast as a Scout wants ... OR ...
 - As fast as an effective Troop TTFC Program takes them



Differences: Cub Ranks vs Scouts BSA Ranks

3. One significant Rank in Scouts BSA: 1st Class

- Achieving First Class (FC): Scout crosses into leadership
 - Single biggest milestone in the 1st(+) year in a Troop
 - More responsibilities (Able to signoff requirements for younger TTFC Scouts ... Example to younger Scouts ETC.)

4. After 1st Class: Star Scout, Life Scout, Eagle Scout

- The path comes under the control of the Scout
 - Every Scout's path can be different
 - Every Scout will go as far as they want to go
- Requirements include:
 - Being Active in the Troop
 - Holding Leadership Roles
 - Completing Merit Badges
 - Combination of Eagle Required and Optional
 - Community Service Projects



Differences: Dens vs. Patrols

A Patrol is:

- Scout led
- A self propelled group of Scouts
- Choose their own leaders
- Can function with minimal adult direction



Lord Robert Baden Powell:

“The object of the patrol method is not so much saving the Scoutmaster trouble as to give responsibility to the boy.”



Differences: Dens vs. Patrols

	Den	Patrol
Size:	6-9 Scouts	6-9 Scouts
Leader:	Den Leader: Adult	Patrol Leader: Scout
Ranks:	Scouts are working on same badge	Scouts are different ranks
Ages:	All the same grade	Can be all ages
Teaching:	Scouts learn from adults	Scouts learn from each other (EDGE method)
Names:	Similar names: Den 1, Den 2, etc. AOLs may select a "Den Name" ... Scouting Adventure	Cool and crazy names: Thunder Wolves, Penquinas, Roasted Marshmallows, etc..
Activities:	Do stuff that gets them to their badge	Scouts decide what to do



Differences: Troops Camp & Get Outdoors ... A Lot!!

- Most Troops camp each month or so
 - Car camping, backpacking, canoe camping, etc.
- Camping teaches Scouting & Leadership skills:
 - Planning & Preparation, teamwork, problem solving
- Patrols operate independently on camp outs
 - Cook & eat together, tent together, & responsible for their own camping area (“Leave No Trace”)
 - Patrol leader is responsible for his patrol on a campout
 - Adults have a camp area separate from the Scouts.
- BSA Summer Camp is 1 Week of Fun!!
 - Scout can make significant progress on TTFC
 - Most scouts usually get multiple Merit Badges
- High Adventure: 13 years old & 1st Class
 - Week-Long Backpack (“50 Milers”), Extended Canoeing Adventures, Extended Bike Adventures, etc..



Differences: The Scouts BSA Uniform

Merit badge sash: worn for special occasions

Merit badges: Silver trim means Eagle required MB. Green trim are non-Eagle.

Some Troops will “require” Scout Uniform Pants and Scout Hat as part of their Troop Uniform standard.



Neckerchief: Often indicates Troop. This is an Eagle Necker!!

World Scouting Patch: All Scouts around the world have this.

Rank Badge: This is an Eagle Rank Badge!!

Arrow of Light Patch ... If earned as a Cub. Goes directly below the left pocket.

Differences: The Scouts BSA Uniform

Green shoulder loops:
Indicates Boy Scouts

Patrol Patch

“Quality Unit”
Patch; For all
Scouts that are in
a **Journey to
Excellence** Unit



Council patch: Yours
will be Chief Seattle

Troop Number

Leadership Position
Patch: This is SPL

Trained patch: Only
for Scouts that
have completed
one of Youth
Leader Courses

Differences: Parent Involvement

Quite a bit different than Cubs!!!

- Parents don't sign off Rank Requirements

- Rank Requirement sign-offs are by SM, ASMs &/or OLDER SCOUTS, depending on Troop standards.
 - Builds confidence to speak to adults & bonding/ trust with older Scouts

- Parents guide & encourage their Scout

- But do not do the work for them ... Scouts "lead" themselves

- Parental "involvement" is a plus for a Troop

- Find a way to get involved:

- A few ways that parents can be involved:
 - Signing up to be an ASM or on the Troop Committee
 - Merit Badge Counselor
 - Fundraising Committees
 - Going on campouts and outings ... Join the Adventure!!



Differences: Leadership Organization

- **Cub Packs have 2 Leadership Groups**
 1. **Administrative (Pack Committee):** Committee Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Charter Rep
 1. Recharter, Financials, Annual Calendar Planning, etc
 2. **Program:** Cubmaster, Den Leaders, Advancement Chair .. All are also part of the Committee
 1. Pack & Den Meetings; Outings; Advancement
- **Troops have 3 Leadership Groups**
 1. **Troop Committee:** Committee Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Charter Rep
 - Recharter, Financials, Review Annual Planning, etc
 2. **Program: Scoutmaster & all ASMs**
 - Assure that the Troop program follows the standards & requirements of Scouts BSA
 - “Guide to Advancement”
 - “Guide to Safe Scouting”



Differences: Leadership Organization

3. Youth Leadership

- Sr. Patrol Leader (SPL): leads the Troop
 - Elected by the Scouts generally for a term of 6 months,
 - Works with the Scoutmaster
 - Leads weekly Troop mtgs & monthly PLC
- Patrol leaders: Lead the patrols
 - Reports to SPL
 - Leads on camp outs and weekly “patrol meetings/corners”
- Other roles: Ass’t SPL, Troop Guide, Instructor, Junior Ass’t Scoutmaster, Quartermaster, Chaplain’s Aide, Scribe, Librarian, Den Chiefs...



Pointers for Visiting a Scout Troop(s)

1. Visit a few Troops
 - Look for one that fits best for your family
2. Spend some time with your favorite Troops
 - At least 2 troop meetings (~1.5 hours each)
 - Outings and campouts are great
3. As much as it can be, Troop choice should be the Scout's decision ... along with parental guidance
 - Great opportunity for Decision Making
4. Parents should guide the Scout:
 - Interview after each troop visit
 - Take notes of each conversation
 - Compare and contrast based upon conversations and notes



Choosing a Scout Troop: Some obvious things...

There are a few obvious things to look for in a Troop:

- Is it close to you?
 - Does it fit your schedule?
 - Does the Scout have friends that go there?
 - How frequently does it meet?
 - Some meet once per week, others twice per month.
 - Opportunities for both girls and boys ...
- Linked Troops?



Choosing a Scout Troop: Look for a “Right Sized” Troop

What size Troop do you want?

- There is a wide range of Troop sizes
 - As small as 10 to 20 Scouts
 - As large as 50 to 60 Scouts (A few 100 or more)
- Small Troops:
 - Advantages: Individual attention & Scout won't get lost in the crowd
 - Disadvantage: May not be as many opportunities. (E.g. TTFC, Merit Badges), may be gaps in the Troop's age levels
- Large Troops:
 - Advantages: Lots of opportunity (Merit badges, TTFC, etc.), Lots of variety, lots of friends, Scouts at all age levels (Lots of experience)
 - Disadvantages: Can be loud & chaotic, Scouts can get lost in the crowd (Patrols become even more important as are additional Assistant Scoutmasters)

Advantages
to both



How to Choose a Scout Troop: Things to Look For



- **Are there plenty of adult leaders?**
 - Even though a Troop is Scout led, there should be plenty of Adult Leaders at Troop meetings and outings
 - Are Adult Leaders paying attention to what the Scouts are doing?
- **Are the Adult Leaders enthusiastic, skilled, and knowledgeable?**
 - Do they seem to enjoy talking about Scouting?
 - Can they answer most or all of your questions?
- **Is the Scoutmaster available to talk and does he or she seem to enjoy their role?**



How to Choose a Scout Troop: Things to Look For



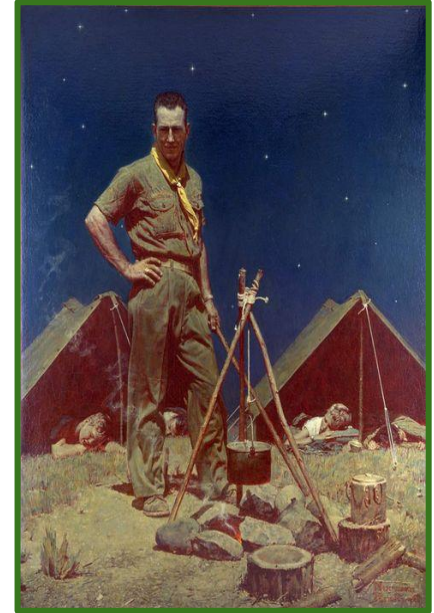
- **Is the Troop Scout led?**
 - Are older Scouts teaching younger Scouts?
 - Is the SPL leading the meeting or outing?
 - Do the Scouts seem to fix their own problems?
 - Are adults intervening a lot & doing things for the Scouts?
- **Is there a good distribution of ages?**
 - Due to attrition, there will usually be more younger Scouts than older Scouts in a Troop
 - Are enough Scouts at each age level to provide leadership for the next 3-4 years?
 - Enough younger scouts (11-12) so the Scout won't feel like they are the only young Scout?



Choosing a Scout Troop: How to Ask Questions

How to ask questions:

- Ask during a Troop meeting or outing
 - Outings are generally better since they are less hectic
- Parents/guardians should ask the questions
 - While the Scout is involved in the meeting or outing
- Bring a list of questions you want to ask
 - Maybe a pencil to jot down things you want to remember
- Look for an experienced, enthusiastic leader and/ or parent to answer your questions
 - Look for someone who's been directly working with the Scouts for a year or more
 - They'll know the most about camp outs, ranks, youth-led, etc.
 - ASMs are a good source of information
- Talk with the Scoutmaster!!!



How to Choose a Scout Troop: Questions to Ask

- **What the Troop does for Trail to First Class (TTFC)**
 - Do they have planned activities and structure to guide a new Scout on TTFC?
 - Planning/structure makes it easier for Scouts to reach 1st Class
- **How do they organize their patrols?**
 - **Same age patrols**
 - Advantages: Scouts have more in common & easier to become good friends ... Disadvantage: Older Scouts can ignore younger Scouts from other Patrols
 - **Mixed age patrols**
 - Advantages: Younger Scouts learn from older Scouts & Patrols are approximately equal
 - **New Scout Patrols**
 - 1st Year Patrol ... working with Troop Guide/ Instructor



How to Choose a Scout Troop: Questions to Ask



- Ask how often they camp.
 - Most Troops camp about once per month
- Ask what “Scout-led” means in their Troop.
 - All Troops do “Scout-led” slightly differently.
- Ask what the challenges of a Troop are
 - All Troops have challenges...
 - Involved adult leaders should be aware of what the challenges are
- Ask what the strengths of the Troop are
 - All Troops have strengths
 - Involved adult leaders should be eager to brag about the strengths of the Troop



How to Choose a Scout Troop: Questions to Ask

- **Ask what they do for fundraising**
 - Do they have one big fund raiser or lots of smaller fund raisers?
 - Do they do Christmas Tree Recycling?
- **Ask what the Troop pays for**
 - How much do camp outs cost?
 - Strong fundraising makes Scouting more affordable for families
- **Ask if the Troop goes to Summer Camp each year**
 - Where do they go & estimated cost
 - Does the Troop assist with earning money for Summer Camp?
 - Summer Camp is great tool for retention of Scouts
- **Ask what the Troop does for High Adventure**
 - Again, High Adventure is for Scouts that are 1st Class (or higher) and 13 (or older)
 - What have they done recently and what are they planning?
 - Do they do at least one HA trip per year?



How to Choose a Scout Troop: Questions to Ask

Troop Involvement with the rest of the Scouting World:



- Ask if they are involved with **Order of the Arrow**
 - Honor society for Scouts
- Ask if they are involved with **NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training)**
 - Leadership training for older Scouts
- Ask if they are involved with **Round Table**
 - Monthly district information session for adult leaders
- Ask if they are involved with **Wood Badge**
 - Leadership training for adult leaders



Bonus Slide: Bad Assumptions

Assumptions that may not be that helpful:

- Bad Assumption: Small troops are unhealthy troops
 - Some troops are small by choice
 - Small troops have several real advantages
- Bad Assumption: Few Eagle scouts means an unhealthy troop.
 - Low numbers of Eagle Scouts can be because of low recruitment numbers 4-5 years ago.
- Bad Assumption: Fund raising and service projects are not good times to visit with troops.
 - Fund raising and service projects can be fun team building activities and a great time to visit



Bonus Slide: What to Buy for Scouts

- **Priority 1: (First month) ... Scout Handbook!!**
 - **Uniform:**
 - Class A shirt with loops ... Optional: pants, socks, belt
 - Patches: Troop, Patrol, World Scouting
 - Optional: Sash, AOL Patch, Scout Hat, Class B.
 - Neckerchief & Slide/Woogle : Troops commonly provide
- **Priority 2: (Before first camping trip)**
 - Mess kit: Keep it simple (Cup, Bowl, Spoon). It will get lost.
 - Sleeping bag: Warm enough for 30° nights & should pack small & light.
- **Priority 3: (first 1-4 months)**
 - Backpack: Youth size, well built, expandable for growth. (Ask if packs are available from the Troop)
 - Boots: Tough, waterproof ... be careful with price as the Scout will outgrow them quickly!!
- **Priority 4: (after first year)**
 - Tent: Troops commonly supply tents to borrow and try out



**LABEL
EVERYTHING!!!**



Bonus Slide: Merit Badges

- **135+ Merit Badges:** Frequent new additions
 - Displayed on sash
- **Eagle Required vs. Non-Eagle Required (Optional)**
 - Required are generally harder
 - e.g. Personal Management, Cooking, Environmental Science, Citizenship in the World/ Nation/ Community/ Society (**New in 2022**), Swimming, Camping, Personal Fitness
 - Optional Merit Badges vary a lot in difficulty but are quite broad in interest areas
 - e.g. Rifle Shooting, Geocaching, Animation, Kayaking, Fishing, Canoeing, Welding.
- MBs are required for higher Ranks' Advancement
 - Eagle requires: 14 Required MBs & 7 Optional MBs
- Visual: Silver trim for Required MBs
 - Green trim for Optional MBs



Bonus Slide: Scouts BSA Terms (page 1)

“Ask your SPL” --- An ASM’s answer when a Scout asks a question that the Scouts should figure out on their own.

ASM --- Assistant Scoutmaster: Registered Adult Leader that works directly with Scouts. Attends Troop meetings & camp outs, can sign off requirements and works with a patrol(s).

BOR --- Board of Review: Meeting between a Scout and 3-4 Committee members. This is the last requirement for a rank. Not a test of Skills ... Conversation and encouragement

COH --- Court of Honor: Awards ceremony. Commonly used to present Rank Badges, Merit Badges, and other recognitions

Eagle Palms: Awards beyond Eagle Badge for extra merit badges and time in Scouts. Bronze (5 MBs) → Gold (10 MBs) → Silver (15 MBs)

Bonus Slide: Scouts BSA Terms (page 2)

EDGE Method --- Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, Enable.

Four step method of Scouts teaching Scouts.

PL --- Patrol Leader: Elected Scout that leads a Patrol. 6 month term.

PLC --- Patrol Leader's Council- monthly meeting of SPL, Patrol Leaders and other youth leaders. Used to plan upcoming events and talk about issues in the Troop.

❖ **“Sometimes called the Green Bar”**



SPL --- Senior Patrol Leader: Elected Scout that leads the Troop. 6 month term.

Scoutmaster Conference: One on one meeting between SM and Scout in the Troop Meeting Room. This is the next to the last requirement for a rank. (BoR is last)

TTFC --- Trail to 1st Class- All requirements for ranks from Scout to 1st class.

Bonus Slide: Additional Scouting Opportunities

- Venturing (Crews)
 - High Adventure
 - White water rafting, shooting, rock climbing, etc.
 - Co-ed, ages 14-21
 - Counts toward Troop rank advancement
 - Find a Crew: [Beascout.org](https://www.beascout.org).
- Sea Scouts (Ships)
 - Maritime scouting
 - Co-ed, ages 14-20
 - Counts toward troop rank advancement
 - Find a Ship: [beascout.org](https://www.beascout.org)



Final Thoughts

. Questions?

. Thoughts?

. Suggestions?

