

# How Troops Successfully Grow: Nine Ideas

## PTC 409

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# #1 Scouts Have Fun!



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"A boy is not a sitting-down animal."



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“A fisherman does not bait his hook with food he likes.  
He uses food the fish likes. So too with boys.” BP

If you aren't having fun, you aren't doing it right!



# #2 Scouts Lead: Chaos Tolerated



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When you want a thing  
done, 'Don't do it yourself'  
is a good motto for  
Scoutmasters.

– Robert Baden-Powell

Double Quotes  
doublequotes.net



# #2 Scouts Lead: Chaos Tolerated

- If I had a nickel for every time a parent said....
- Youth-run and adult mentored
- Voice from the back
- Provide a safe environment for the youth to fail
- Make failures a learning experience by asking leading questions
- ALWAYS jump in when safety is being compromised!



# #3 Camping Happens



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- $\frac{3}{4}$  of Scouting is OUTING
- The outdoor classroom is where real learning, confidence-building and independence is nurtured
- Statistics tend to bear this out!
  - Overnight outings
  - Camping
  - Summer camp
  - 50-milers and other high adventure trips



# #4 Advancement is Tracked



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- Advancement is the core of the Scouting Program!
- Advancement numbers are **a good indicator of how good a program your unit has.**
- A way to promote and encourage ongoing involvement

*Step 1: The Scout learns...*

*Step 2: The Scout is tested...*

*Step 3: The Scout is reviewed...*

*Step 4: The Scout is recognized.*



# #5 Parents Are Involved



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- Amazing opportunity to engage with your kids in a different way
- Lead by example
- Your enthusiasm (or lack thereof) is contagious
- More hands make for light work
- BSA does not stand for... (let's all say it together)
- Single-parent families



# #6 Signature Events Occur



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## Examples

- Summer Camp
- 50 Milers
- National Jamborees
- World Jamborees
- NYLT/NAYLE
- Philmont/Summit Bechtel Reserve



# NYLT/NAYLE



# WSJ 2019



# WSJ 2019



# High Adventure Bases



# Wood Badge



# Wood Badge at SBR



# #7 Scout/Leaders Are Trained



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- Unit has an “Introduction to Leadership Skills”. BE, KNOW, DO.
- Scoutmasters are trained for their position
- Send your youth to NYLT
- Send your adults to Wood Badge
- Assign scoutmasters to each patrol
- New Scout patrol mentored by Troop Guides
- Learning never stops!



# #8 Leadership Succession Youth & Adult Planned



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- Don't wait!
- Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader
- Troop Guides
- Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster
  - Do you have enough ASMs?
  - How old are their youth in your unit?
- Committee Chair, Chartered Org Rep, other key positions
- Outgoing Senior Patrol Leaders as JASMs



# #9 Meaningful Service Project



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## Scouting For Food



# #9 Meaningful Service Projects

- A worthwhile project allows youth to feel pride in what they are doing.
- Involve Scouts in all aspects of a project
- Make projects fun!
- Choose reasonable first projects
- Consider skill levels
- Set reasonable goals
- Make a difference



# Scouting During Covid

