

Troop Positions of Responsibility

The following leadership positions count toward Boy Scout advancement. For more information, see the Senior Patrol Leader Handbook (#32501) and Patrol Leader Handbook (#32502A).

Patrol Leader

The patrol leader is the top leader of a patrol. They represent the patrol at all patrol leaders' council meetings and the annual program planning conference and keeps patrol members informed of decisions made. They play a key role in planning, leading, and evaluating patrol meetings and activities and prepares the patrol to participate in all troop activities. The patrol leader learns about the abilities of other patrol members and full involves them in patrol and troop activities by assigning them specific tasks and responsibilities. They encourage patrol members to complete advancement requirements and set a good example by continuing to pursue their own advancement.

Senior Patrol Leader

The senior patrol leader is the top leader of the troop. They are responsible for the troop's overall operation. With guidance from the Scoutmaster, they take charge of troop meetings, of the patrol leaders' council, and of all troop activities, and they do everything they can to help each patrol be successful. They are responsible for annual program planning conferences and assists the Scoutmaster in conducting troop leadership training. The senior patrol leader presides over the patrol leaders' council and works closely with each patrol leader to plan troop meetings and make arrangements for troop activities. All members of a troop vote by secret ballot to choose their senior patrol leader. Rank and age requirements to be a senior patrol leader are determined by each troop, as is the schedule of elections.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader

The assistant senior patrol leader works closely with the senior patrol leader to help the troop move forward and serves as acting senior patrol leader when the senior patrol leader is absent. Among their specific duties, the assistant senior patrol leader trains and provides direction to the troop quartermaster, scribe, historian, librarian, instructors, and Order of the Arrow representative.

Troop Guide

The troop guide is both a leader and a mentor to the members of the new-Scout patrol. They should be an older Scout who holds at least the First Class rank and can work well with younger Scouts. They help the patrol leader of the new-Scout patrol in much the same way that a Scoutmaster works with a senior patrol leader to provide direction, coaching, and support. The troop guide is not a member of another patrol but may participate in the high-adventure activities of a Venture patrol.

Quartermaster

The quartermaster is the troop's supply boss. They keep an inventory of troop equipment and ensure that the gear is in good condition. They work with patrol quartermasters as they check out equipment and return it, and at meetings of the patrol leaders' council they report on the status of equipment in need of replacement or repair. In carrying out their responsibilities, they may have the guidance of a member of the troop committee.

Scribe

The scribe is the troop's secretary. Though not a voting member, they attend meetings of the patrol leaders' council and keeps a record of the discussions. They cooperate with the patrol scribes to record attendance and dues payments at troop meetings and to maintain troop advancement records. A member of the troop committee may assist with this work.

Historian

The historian collects and preserves troop photographs, news stories, trophies, flags, scrapbooks, awards, and other memorabilia and makes materials available for Scouting activities, the media, and troop history projects.

Librarian

The troop librarian oversees the care and use of troop books, pamphlets, magazines, audiovisuals, and merit badge counselor lists. They check out these materials to Scouts and leaders and maintain records to ensure that everything is returned. They may also suggest the acquisition of new literature and report the need to repair or replace any current holdings.

Instructor

Each instructor is an older troop member proficient in a Scouting skill. They must also have the ability to teach that skill to others. An instructor typically teaches subjects that Scouts are eager to learn—especially those such as first aid, camping, and backpacking—that are required for outdoor activities and rank advancement. A troop can have more than one instructor.

Leave No Trace Trainer

The Leave No Trace Trainer specializes in teaching Leave No Trace principles and ensuring that the troop follows these principles on outings. They can also help Scouts earn the Leave No Trace award. They should have a thorough understanding of and commitment to Leave No Trace. Ideally, they should have completed Leave No Trace training and earned the Camping and Environmental Science merit badges.

Chaplain Aide

The chaplain aide assists the troop chaplain (usually an adult from the troop committee or the chartered organization) in serving the religious needs of the troop. They ensure that religious holidays are considered during the troop's program planning process and promotes the BSA's religious emblems program.

Bugler

The bugler plays the bugle (or a similar instrument) to mark key moments during the day on troop outings, such as reveille and lights out. They must know the required bugle calls and should ideally have earned the Bugling merit badge.

Den Chief

The den chief works with a den of Cub Scouts and with their adult leaders. They take part in den meetings, encourages Cub Scout advancement, and is a role model for younger boys. Serving as den chief can be a great first leadership experience for a Scout.

Order of the Arrow Troop Representative

The Order of the Arrow representative serves as a communication link between the troop and the local Order of the Arrow lodge. By enhancing the image of the Order as a service arm to the troop, they promote the Order, encourage Scouts to take part in all sorts of camping opportunities, and help pave the way for older Scouts to become involved in high-adventure programs. The OA troop representative assists with leadership skills training. They report to the assistant senior patrol leader.

Webmaster

The troop webmaster is responsible for maintaining the troop's website. They should make sure that information posted on the website is correct and up to date and that members' and leaders' privacy is protected. A member of the troop committee may assist with this work.

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster

A Scout at least 16 years of age who has shown outstanding leadership skills may be appointed by the senior patrol leader, with the advice and consent of the Scoutmaster, to serve as a junior assistant Scoutmaster. These young men (a troop may have more than one junior assistant Scoutmaster) follow the guidance of the Scoutmaster in providing support and supervision to other boy leaders in the troop. Upon their 18th birthday, a junior assistant Scoutmaster will be eligible to become an assistant Scoutmaster.

Outdoor Ethics Guide

Outdoor ethics guides help troops plan and conduct an outdoor program that emphasizes effectively practicing the Outdoor Code, the Leave No Trace principles, and the Tread Lightly! principles. Guides work to help Scouts improve their outdoor ethics decision-making skills to help minimize impacts as they hike, camp, and participate in other outdoor activities. In particular, they should support Scouts who are working to complete the relevant requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks.