

Boy Scouts of the Philippines
National Capital Region
Quezon City



by Jay Francis Lee

Training Studies for Troop Leaders

1. Describe how the Patrol Method operates in the Troop.
2. What needs of a boy are satisfied when he becomes a boy Scout? Explain how these needs are satisfied by Scouting.
3. During the investiture, the Boy Scout commits himself to the Scout Oath and Law. Relate how the boy can integrate the three-(3) points of the Scout Oath in his daily life.
4. Relate what a boy needs to do to advance to the highest rank in Scouting.
5. "Patrol Leaders are boys under training and not necessarily trained leaders." Comment on this statement. Outline the methods you will adopt to train your patrol leaders.
6. These are the activities included in the Troop's annual plan:
 - Summer camp
 - 6 Troop meetings
 - 2 Camporals
 - 2 Hikes

Comment on the plan.

7. You have a boy in your troop who:
 - a. neglects his responsibilities.
 - b. is unruly in Troop meetings.
 - c. was reported by his patrol leader stealing.What action would you take?



8. Identify a serious problem in your community and devise a plan of action which your troop can undertake to solve or minimize it.
9. Troop Leader A cooks the meals for his troop because he wants to ensure that his boys get the proper nutrition they need, get their money's worth, be able to eat on time, and participate in the activities laid down by his Assistants.

Troop Leader B lays out and supervises the activities for his Troop. He gives the boys enough time to prepare their meals. He joins the boys at mealtimes even if they sometimes eat half-cook rice.

Comment on this.

I. PATROL METHOD IN THE TROOP

The patrol is organized by allowing the boys to group themselves into a group composed of 5-8 boys. They group themselves by their common interests, hobbies, age level, and other aspects which tends to binds them together. The patrol develops it's identity by selecting a patrol name, designing a patrol flag, composing a patrol song, call, and yell.¹

Each member of the patrol is given his responsibility that is challenging enough yet small enough for boys, we call this boy-size responsibility. They are as follows:²

- Patrol Leader
- Assistant Patrol Leader
- Patrol Scribe
- Patrol Treasurer
- Patrol Quartermaster
- Patrol Grubmaster
- Patrol Hike Leader
- Patrol Cheer Leader

The patrol method will only be possible if the Troop Leader allows it to operate through the Patrol Leaders' Council. It should be stressed what Baden-Powell said about the patrol method:³

“The patrol method is not a way to operate a Boy Scout troop, it is the only way. Unless the patrol method is in operation you don't really have a Boy Scout troop.”

II. THE BOYS NEEDS

Scouting provides and satisfies several needs of a boy:⁴

- The sense of belonging to a group
- Achievement and recognition
- Self-esteem
- Confidence in himself
- Self-discipline
- Self-reliance
- Healthy interaction with others
- Importance and effectiveness of teamwork

By allowing Scouts to hold positions of leadership and entrusting them with the responsibilities that comes with it, the Scout will grow with the feeling of self-worth and will be confident about his abilities to do the job.

¹ Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Troop Leader's Manual, revised ed. (Manila: Boy Scouts of the Philippines, 1995), p. 20.

² Ibid.

³ Boy Scouts of America, The Scoutmaster Handbook, 1998 ed. (USA: Boy Scouts of America, 1998), p. 20.

⁴ Ibid., p. 126.

Through the advancement program, he is challenged to reach higher peaks. Working on the requirements for a merit badge, for example, develops his self-discipline to do things and while he learns the skills in Scouting he learns to be self-reliant and more independent.

With the help of the Patrol and the Troop, he learns that even though he is more independent, he is still dependent with other people at some level. He learns to interact with them and learns to work with them.

Scouting also recognizes that it is not the only factor that develops the life of the boy, it recognizes that it is a mere contributing factor. This fact is embodied by the purpose of the Scouting movement to contribute to the development of the full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials of the boy.⁵

III. INTEGRATING THE POINTS OF THE OATH IN THE LIFE OF THE BOY

The boy will never integrate something into his daily life until he sees that it is something worth doing or worth integrating. Same goes with the Points of the Scout Oath, unless the boy realizes that the Points of the Scout Oath is something worth living by, he won't place it into practice.

If we, as Scoutmasters, would want to see our boys live by the points of the Scout Oath, we should not just leave the Scout Oath on a piece of paper or inside the Scout Handbook – we should place it into practice. We teach not by theory, but by example.⁶ As Lord Baden-Powell would put it:⁷

“Success in training the boy largely depends upon the Scoutmaster’s own example...we grow up, to forget what a store of hero worship is in the boy.”

We note that there is some hero worship in the boy and if was, as Scoutmasters, are looked up by our Scouts, we become role models, as heroes. By living Points of the Scout Oath in our daily lives, our boys are sure to follow.

IV. THE THINGS-TO-DO FOR ADVANCEMENT

The Boy Scouts of the Philippines concisely summarized and provided four-(4) basic steps in advancement: Preparation, Examination, Review, Award (PERA).⁸ Ignoring the unintended negative implication of it's abbreviation, the four-(4) steps of advancement is very direct and easy to follow.

The boy needs to follow these steps to complete the requirement for each Advancement Badge and Merit Badges.

⁵ World Scout Bureau, Fundamental Principles of Scouting (Manila: Boy Scouts of the Philippines, N.D.), p. 5.

⁶ Boy Scouts of America, Boy Scout Roundtable Planning Guide (Texas: Boy Scouts of America, 1988), p. 123.

⁷ Ibid., p. 135.

⁸ Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Troop Leader’s Manual, p. 37.

The boy has to first qualify for membership into the movement by earning the Membership Badge, which includes committing himself to the Scout Oath and Law during an investiture ceremony.

Then he needs to go through the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Outdoorsman, Venturer and Eagle, if he is a member of the Boy Scouting program; Explorer, Pathfinder, Outdoorsman, Venturer and Eagle, if he is a member of the Senior Scout program.⁹

Upon reaching the rank of Eagle, the boy should have earned at least twenty-one-(21) Merit Badges, including two-(2) Specialist Ratings. This should be done prior to him entering the age of 17½.

Advancement occurs within the Patrol, the Patrol Leaders identifies the needs of each Scout and plans on how to help his members earn the requirements of advancement.

V. TRAINING THE PATROL LEADER

“Patrol Leaders are boys under training and not necessarily trained leaders.”

Training of leaders is an on-going process. It begins immediately when the boy accepts a new position of responsibility within the unit.¹⁰ We should realize that the Patrol Leaders are boys who needs adult guidance whenever possible and practicable. Although they should be given enough right to make their own decisions, they should also be given the appropriate support from us, the Scoutmaster and their parents. It is the major responsibility of the Scoutmaster to train, guide and inspire the boys to successfully operate the troop.¹¹

The first thing we should do is to have a heart-to-heart talk with our Patrol Leaders, especially the newly inducted ones. We should immediately try to develop a rapport with the boy, we should also have a talk with the boy’s parents to know how well he is coping with the new responsibility he is holding.

With the assistance of the local council and our district officers, we can help in organizing a Patrol Leaders’ Training Course (PLTC). We can then send our Patrol Leaders to join in such courses so that they may have formal training. Should this be impossible, we should conduct ourselves informal sessions with the Patrol Leaders and train them.

So, the steps for training the Patrol Leader is as follows:

- Talk with the Patrol Leader and his parents
- Send to formal training or conduct informal sessions

⁹ Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Advancement and Merit Badge Handbook (Manila: Boy Scouts of the Philippines, 1992)

¹⁰ Boy Scouts of America, The Scoutmaster Handbook, p. 70.

¹¹ Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Troop Leader’s Manual, p. 35.

VI. COMMENTING ON AN ANNUAL PLAN

The annual plan presented are as follows:

- Summer Camp
- 6 Troop Meetings
- 2 Camporals
- 2 Hikes

We note from this annual plan that the troop intends to meet only once in two months. The troop meetings is the venue where the Troop Leader will be able to teach the boys the skills needed to be good and productive citizens. Here is where we develop their character. The more meetings we hold, the more the chances we have to influence the boy.¹²

Troop meetings should be at least once a week¹³ and should have at least one highlight activity a month, this highlight activity should preferably in the out-of-doors. Seeing the annual plan of this Troop, it would be difficult for new members to cope with the activities of the Troop, due to lack of knowledge in Scouting skills.

VII. TAKING ACTION ON PROBLEMS OF THE MEMBERS

Boy Neglecting Responsibilities. We should first analyze the situation and ask ourselves, “is the boy previously acting upon his responsibilities or was he always neglecting them?” We should talk to the boy and inquire whether he is experiencing personal problems or is having difficulty in setting priorities. We should make him feel that we are available to listen and share with his problem. We should also talk with the parents and see whether they notice if there are changes in the boy or if he is neglecting responsibilities in the home as well.

We should not present the boy the choice of backing down from his responsibility in the Troop, this might damage his self-esteem and confidence. Should he be the one to suggest such an action, we are there to help him analyze his decision and help him come up with his own solution. We should show support whatever decision he makes.

We should also consider the possibility that the boy might not be neglecting responsibilities but rather, he is unaware of such a responsibility. We as leaders might have neglected training him and informing him about his responsibilities. This is why it is important to send our boy leaders to training or hold informal session with him.

Unruly in Troop Meetings. We should talk with the boy and his Patrol mates, that we may know why and what things he has been doing during Troop and Patrol meetings. Sometimes boys who are unruly in Troop meetings are those who needs more attention to himself, it might be good to give him bigger responsibilities within the Troop. There are also times when he is advanced with the skills in Scouting and is not challenged enough, we can have alternate activities for more advanced Scouts.

¹² De la Cruz, R.R., Guidebook on the Revived and Updated BSP Program: The Renaissance of Scouting in the Philippines (Manila: Boy Scouts of the Philippines, 1992), p. 29.

¹³ Ibid.

We should also talk with the boy's parents about his behavior. There could be a possibility that the boy is neglected at home and seeks attention outside the family.

It is also good to frequently recognize the achievement of each boy in the Troop, that each and every boy gains the attention of their fellow boys.

Boy Reported Stealing. First, we verify the report if it is true. There could a possibility that it is just a prank or an information aiming to destroy the image of another boy. Should it be just a story, we should counsel the one who reported it and inquire why he did it.

Assuming that the report was true, we should talk with the boy on why he did what he did. The boy may lack attention and diverts to stealing just to draw the needed attention. We should also inform the parents about the incident and suggest that we work hand-in-hand with them to remedy the problem in the most subtle way.

Regularly check the boy for developments and follow him up. This will show him that somebody cares for his future and what is happening with his life. We should not embarrass the boy in front of his friends by declaring out loud that he stole something, but rather we should talk to the boy with confidentiality.

VIII. ACTING ON A COMMUNITY PROBLEM

A problem in the community that is evident is the traffic. Since we are a school based unit and that the sponsoring institution is situated within a village, traffic is heavy during the morning and in the afternoons. This traffic has caused several students to arrive late for classes.

We can have some of our Scouts to attend seminars on traffic management. It can be conducted by someone from the district or local council who is knowledgeable about traffic management or by a contact in a government traffic authority willing to conduct such a seminar.

Putting up traffic signs and information within the village would likewise help. Scouts are also to learn traffic safety and know what equipment should be used when aiding in traffic. The troop can conduct money earning projects in order to purchase the needed equipment to for the safety of the Scouts.

The Scouts, once trained, can easily augment the security force of the village to aid in traffic management.

IX. COMMENTING ON TWO TROOP LEADERS

Troop Leader A, cooks for his boys while they are on their activities. The troop's activities are organized and planned by the Assistant Troop Leaders. It is true that we have to give importance to the nutritional value of the food our boys are eating, however, we should also think on a long term basis.

We should teach our boys how to prepare nutritious food for themselves, because we as adults cannot be with them for the rest of their lives. As part of the Scout method, Scouts learns by doing the skills necessary for them to be self-reliant. Without the concept of learning by doing, the program can never be considered a Scout program.¹⁴

¹⁴ World Scout Bureau, Fundamental Principles of Scouting, p. 11.

Troop Leader B on the other hand, allows his boys to cook their meals on their own and joins them with their meal. However, we can note that Troop Leader B is one laying out the activities and laying it out, we should remember that the Assistant Troop Leaders are always there to help in laying out and organizing the activities for the Troop. It is also good to allow the Senior Patrol Leader and the Patrol Leaders to organize some activities for the Troop.

In some way, we should learn to allow the boys to do the work so that they will learn. We should first teach them and allow them to do it so that they will learn and we will see how much they've learned.

We should remember that if we do not allow our boys to do the work, they will never actually learn. They might learn in theory but they will never learn in practice, unless we allow them to learn it by doing. As the saying goes, *"Give a man a fish and he eats for a day, but teach him how to fish and he will eat for the rest of his life."*

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