

Troop 110 Organization

The following is a brief description of the proposed Troop 110 organization with functional explanations for each sub group. More detailed descriptions of specific Troop positions can be found online here: <http://www.usscouts.org/boyscouts/bstroop.asp> . The proposed structure follows these guidelines with some modifications for our specific needs.

Troop Committee

The Troop Committee shall frame the overall direction of the Troop, manage the finances, and provide guidance for the Troop executives (adult and youth). The committee is headed by the Committee Chairman (CC) and includes a number of key Committee Member (CM) positions including Treasurer, Advancement Chair, and others. The Troop Committee shall meet approximately once / month or as needs arise. Troop executives including the Scout Master, Assistant Scout Master, Senior Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders shall also participate in Committee Meetings.

Troop Executives - Adult

The adult executives of the troop include the Scout Master (SM) and Assistant Scout Masters (ASM). These people are responsible for overseeing Troop meetings, outings, and ensuring that the Troop follows the program set forth by the Committee.

Troop Executives - Youth

The primary executives of the Troop include the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL), Patrol Leaders (PL) and Assistant Patrol Leaders (APL). In a 'boy led' Troop, the overall operation and performance of the Troop is in the hands of these youths. It is incumbent upon the adult leaders, however, to make sure that they are properly guided, coached, and mentored to effectively carry out this mission.

Senior Patrol Leader Council

The SPL Council is made up of the SPL, APL, Pls and APLs, along with any Eagle Corps members for guidance. The SPL Council shall meet approximately monthly or as needed to plan the activities of the Troop. While the Troop Committee is involved in “big picture” planning, the SPL Council is responsible for the more specific details. For instance, if the calendar put together by the Troop Committee shows that there is an upcoming camporee, the SPL Council meets to work out the details of the camping trip: who will be responsible for what, when to meet, how to accomplish the aims of the camporee, etc. It directs the Patrol Leaders in what they will need to do with their Patrols for the event.

Another mission of the SPL Council is to inform the Troop Committee of the needs of the Scouts in the Patrols. For instance, if a group of Scouts are in need of completing another weekend of camping to fulfill a rank requirement, the SPL would share this information with the Committee so that it can be scheduled and planned.

Patrols

The backbone of the Troop is the Patrol. The Patrols should be structured so that they are approximately equal in number, skill / ability level, and ages of Scouts. The current recommend structure includes a separate Patrol for “new” Scouts. In a larger Troop with more resources, this may be a viable structure. However, the size of our Troop and distribution of ages and ranks makes this structure unworkable.

A group of at least two and preferably three Patrols would be created, ranging in rank (approximately) from Scouter to First Class. PL and APL would still be elected by the Scouts in the Patrol, but deference should be given to rank and leadership ability, and this should be explained clearly to the Scouts before voting.

Creating similar Patrols (in ability) will allow for the use of games, relays, and other competitions to hone skills in a fun and engaging way. Merit Points will be awarded for performance at every opportunity and a running tally sheet shall be maintained by the SM and / or ASMs. Demerits may be applied for poor performance or behavior but should not be overused. The intent of the point system is to encourage participation, excitement, and team spirit within and between the Patrols. The point system can be used to determine privileges – for instance, which Patrol gets to go first for a particular activity, etc. Other forms of recognition can be used such as plaques and banners for special activities.

Patrol structures should be reviewed and adjusted annually. The influx of newly crossed over Webelos should be distributed between the Patrols. New officers will be elected, Patrol name selected, and a new Patrol Flag made. The Patrol Flag should accompany the Patrol at all Troop and Patrol functions and should serve as a rallying point for the Patrol.

Leadership Corps

Once a Scout has had the opportunity to grow within the Patrol system, has served as an officer in the Patrol, and / or achieved the rank of First Class or higher, a Scout will be eligible for selection to join the “Leadership Corps”. The Leadership Corps will be primarily comprised of Star and Life Scouts who are now focused on earning Merit Badges, working on service projects, and are ready for larger leadership roles in the Troop. These Scouts would also be encouraged to take up positions such as Quartermaster, OA Liason, Scribe, Historian, or other position.

The primary mission of the Leadership Corp as a “Patrol” within the Troop is to serve both as an example for the other Patrols, and to directly assist the Patrol Leaders in their efforts to manage their Patrols. They may also be tasked with demonstrating specific skills to younger Scouts, organizing games and activities during Troop Meetings and other activities to help the younger Scouts better learn their skills.

Eagle Corps

When a Scout achieves the Rank of Eagle, his focus needs to shift to that of an advisor rather than holding leadership offices within the Troop. This is better left to they Scouts in the Leadership Corp that need this experience on their path to Eagle. While the Eagle Scout is working on earning Eagle Palms, he can serve as an effective guide and example for all Scouts and can help with specific training as needed.