

# PATROL SYSTEM

## 1. WHAT IS PATROL SYSTEM?

At Baden-Powell's first Scout Camp on Brownsea Island in 1907, the boys were formed into Patrols with an older boy known as Patrol Leader (PL), in charge of each patrol. This PL was given full responsibility for the behaviour of his patrol at all time.

The Patrol is the unit of Scouting always, for work and for play; for discipline and for duty.

The main object of the Patrol System is to give real responsibility to as many boys as possible. It leads each boy to see that he has some individual responsibility for the good of his Patrol. It leads each Patrol to see that it has definite responsibility for the good of the Troop. Through the Patrol System the Scouts learn that they have considerable say in what their Troop does.

*Baden Powell in Scouting for boys*

### 1.1 It provides:

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>PLs</b>                   | The opportunity to practise responsibility and leadership qualities.         |
| <b>SCOUTs</b>                | The understanding of subordination of self to the interests of the whole.    |
| <b>Both PLs &amp; SCOUTs</b> | The elements of self-control, team spirit, cooperation and good comradeship. |

1.2 The Patrol System encourages boys to plan and carry out activities under the leadership of someone in their own age group.

1.3 The older boys take responsibility, make decisions and train the younger.

1.4 The younger boys learn from and try to follow the leader.

1.5 It is not merely a method of organising a Troop into convenient, efficient groups for games but a unique method of training for and in leadership.

1.6 The Patrol System demonstrates, through the Patrol Leaders' Council, the principles of democracy at work and teaches boys to develop their interests through a challenging programme of training in self-reliance, responsibility and teamwork.

# PATROL SYSTEM

## 2. HOW TO ACHIEVE IT?

- 2.1 The Patrol System's success will depend on leadership provided by the Patrol Leader who seeks to influence by example, encouragement and suggestion and not by the one who attempts to rule the roost.
- 2.2 There will be difficulties to begin with. The Scout Leader will be there to assist.
- 2.3 In a new Troop or one where the Patrol System has not been fully developed in the past, it may take some time to achieve results - perhaps two or three years before the Patrol Leaders become Scouts trained to accept the increasing degree of responsibility which the system demands.
- 2.4 The Patrol Leader Council should meet regularly to formulate the program and policy of the troop.

**It is the doing of things that is so important: only by constant trial can experience be gained by his Patrol Leaders and Scouts. "The more he gives them to do the more they respond, and the more strength and character will they achieve.**

*Robert Baden Powell in Aids to Scoutmastership*

**It cannot be too strongly emphasised that without the Patrol System there can be no Scouting. Of course there will be difficulties to begin with, and the Scouter must be prepared to stand by and see mistakes made. The PL who only meet his Patrol on Troop nights is not a Patrol Leader, and is gaining nor more benefit from Scouting than he would get from any organisation dealing with boys. The PL, too who does not know how his boys are getting on, and cannot tell you straight away what holds up the new recruit from passing his Scout Badge or older from getting his Scout or Advanced Scout Standards, has no right to wear the stripes on his pocket. The Scout Leader who never takes his PLs out by themselves to get the training they need is not a Scout Leader, and the generation of boys that grows up under his guidance will never feel the thrill of a man's job and develop that sympathy and understanding which comes from experience of true leadership.**

*Charles Maclean in his message to all commissioners as  
Chief Scout of the Commonwealth*

# PATROL SYSTEM

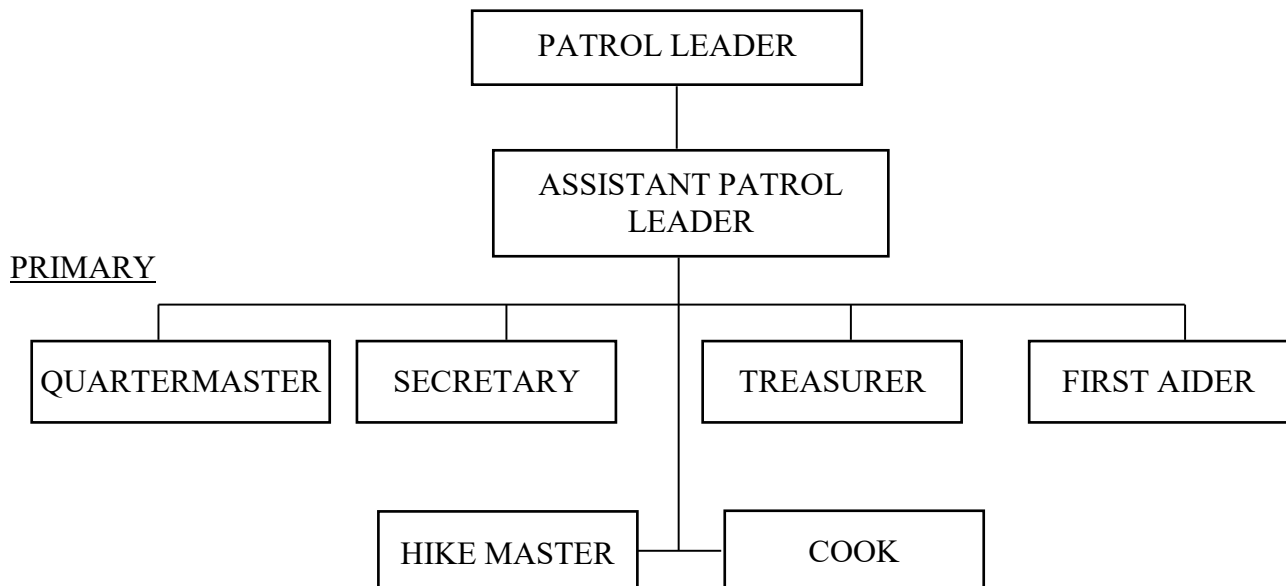
## 3. PATROL SIZE

- 3.1 Each Scout Troop consists of two or more Patrols of six to eight boys.
- 3.2 Everyone in the patrol must be involved in Patrol Activities.
- 3.3 The Patrol must be large enough to enable it to undertake a reasonable range of activities.
- 3.4 If the size is too small, the boys may find difficulties in completing any activity successfully.
- 3.5 If the size is too large, the Patrol Leader may have difficulties in controlling it. The boys are likely to lose interest and this can easily lead to boredom or frustration of being excluded.



# PATROL STRUCTURE

## 1. PATROL STRUCTURE



### SECONDARY

- 1.1 Each Patrol consists of about 6 - 8 members.
- 1.2 Try to give each Scout a role to play in the Patrol so that he feels important.
- 1.3 With the Patrol working as a Team and the jobs share round, you will have more time to plan ahead and to keep a general eye on the progress of each Scout.
- 1.4 In this way, each boy will feel useful and will occasionally have the opportunity to take the lead.

## 2. POST

### 2.1 QUARTERMASTER

- 2.1.1 Look after Patrol Box and all equipment given as a Patrol responsibility.
- 2.1.2 Maintain a list of all equipment and advises when necessary maintenance is due.
- 2.1.3 Incharge of loaning and returning of equipment from the Troop for your Patrol activity.

# PATROL STRUCTURE

## 2.2 SECRETARY

- 2.2.1 Keep a record of all Troop and Patrol activities.
- 2.2.2 Take attendance for every activity and maintain a Patrol Log Book.
- 2.2.3 Keep your Patrol cupboard and library neat and tidy (if any).

## 2.3 TREASURER

- 2.3.1 Collect and manage the Patrol Fund.
- 2.3.2 Present the Patrol budgets and the spending to your Patrol Leader.
- 2.3.3 Settle Patrol bills for all activities and attend to all financial affairs.

## 2.4 FIRST AIDER

- 2.4.1 Keep a Patrol's First Aid Kit in order.
- 2.4.2 Able to apply First Aid treatment for your patrol.
- 2.4.3 Check and replenish all first aid items in the kit before any patrol activities.
- 2.4.4 Advise the PL in all First Aid exercise.

## 2.5 COOK

- 2.5.1 Advise the PL when drawing up menu for camp.
- 2.5.2 Responsible for supervising and training the other cooks.

## 2.6 HIKE MASTER

- 2.6.1 Look after the Patrol's map and compass.
- 2.6.2 Advise the PL in planning hikes.
- 2.6.3 Expert on how to pack gear, cares for feet, recommends correct footwear and so on.

## 3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 There are many other responsibilities for jobs in the Patrol, but these will help you get started.
- 3.2 Finally, you should accept that once you have given out the post, give the Patrol boy every assistance **but leave him to do the job.**
- 3.3 You and your assistant Patrol Leader need only be sure that things going well and provide the necessary encouragement.