

COUNCILS

1. INTRODUCTION

As you get into the swing of things you'll probably want to work out ideas with the rest of your Patrol - finding out their likes and dislikes so that you can plan an active programme together.

You've probably been friends with the other Patrol Leaders for a long time, and no doubt you have discussed with them your problems, plans, successes and failures- perhaps staying behind with the Scouters after Troop Meeting or having a get-together during the week. When this sort of thing takes place someone may have an idea for a Patrol or Troop activity, and you will want to talk about how to put it across.

At another time you may have a restless boy in your patrol who is a bit of a problem, and one of the other Patrol Leaders has an idea for keeping him busy.

The Scouters may have details of a District event, and they will want your suggestions as to which Patrols should represent the Troop.

In these discussions with your Scouters and others Patrol Leaders you will begin to see that your responsibilities go far beyond merely leading your Patrol - you are a member of the team which runs the Troop, a group of Scouts which brings unity to what might otherwise be a collection of patrols all going in different directions.

This leads us to the consideration of the two important 'Councils' of the Troop - the **Patrol Leaders' Council** and the **Patrol-in-Council**.

2. The PATROLS' LEADER COUNCIL (PLC)

- 2.1 The Patrol Leaders' Council is a body composed of the Patrol Leaders.
- 2.2 Senior Patrol Leader can act as chairman or each Patrol Leader may take turns.
- 2.3 In a small Troop, Assistant Patrol Leader may be invited as a member.
- 2.4 Five or Six is a good number to have.
- 2.5 If the group is too large, you can invite one of the Assistants to each meeting so that they can share in the discussions and thus gain valuable experience for the future.
- 2.6 The Scouters will act as Advisor to the Council. They keep you up-to-date with the Troop activities.
- 2.7 A Secretary is appointed to write the minutes.

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3. WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE PLC ?

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|-----|-------------------------|---|--|
| 3.1 | Maintaining Standard | - | Monitor the progress of the Patrol boy |
| | | - | Training the Patrol boy |
| | | - | Maintaining the troop's property |
| 3.2 | Guarding the reputation | - | Uniform |
| | | - | Smartness |
| | | - | Courtesy |
| | | - | Pride |
| 3.3 | Planning the Future | - | Plan and execute troop activities |
| | | - | Prioritises activities |
| | | - | Give direction and ideas to troop programme |
| | | - | Represent your Patrol in giving ideas |
| | | - | Internal administration |
| | | | (eg. A scout may want to move to another patrol) |

As discussed, PLC is charged with the responsibility of deciding what the troop wants to do, planning it and carrying it out. Your PLC will need to be in orderly fashion (business like), a proper Agenda and minutes, with your Chairman exerting sufficient control to keep discussion to the point while allowing and encouraging everyone to have their say. It's not an easy job and the chairman will only succeed if every Patrol Leader backs him up.

4. HOW TO CONDUCT A PLC

4.1 Frequency

There are generally two kinds of PLC:

4.1.1 Routine PLC

- Hold on a regular basis.
- Highlight problems encountered after every activity.
- Plan improvement.
- Inform members of the PLC on plan.
- Duties of the next activity.

4.1.2 Emergency PLC

- Serve only to confirm and finalise details of activities.
- Decisions which requires immediate consensus.
- Items which does not require immediate attention should be reserved for the Routine PLC.

The Secret of conducting a PLC effectively is to limit the time. A long PLC would bore everyone and soon it would be a dread to attend such meetings.

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4.2 Notice of Council meeting

- 4.2.1 Inform the meeting in advance.
- 4.2.2 Details of the such as the date, time and venue must be cleared.
- 4.2.3 Give members ample time to prepare.

4.3 Agenda (Programme of the meeting)

- 4.3.1 Agenda must be made known to all members before the meeting.
- 4.3.2 Council Secretary will be responsible for this item.
- 4.3.3 Example :

0900 hrs	Call to Order
	Silent Prayer / Scout Prayer
	Reaffirming the Scout Promise
	Minutes of the previous meeting
	Matters Arising from the Minutes
	QM's Report
	Treasurer's Report
	Patrol Report (4 Patrols - 10mins each)
	Future Patrol / Troop Activities
	Scout Leader's Notice
	AOB (Any other business)
	Summary
	Confirmation of next meeting
	Silent Prayer / Scout Prayer

4.4 Quorum

- 4.4.1 A minimum number of members must be presented.
- 4.4.2 Scout Leader and the PLC will decide on the number.
- 4.4.3 The number should not be less than half the PLC.

4.5 Voting / Decision

- 4.5.1 There should be an even number of voting members.
- 4.5.2 SPL and SL will not vote but will have the final say.
In some instances, the SPL or the SL may over-rule the decision made by voting if he is able to convince the Council of his final decision.

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4.6 Code of Conduct

- 4.6.1 As PLs., you should learn to conduct yourself.
- 4.6.2 Always prepare yourself with writing materials and a note book.
- 4.6.3 Never interrupt when someone is talking. Raise your right hand if you want to speak.
- 4.6.4 Avoid doing any other business during the meeting (eg. chatting, eating).

4.7 Representing your Patrol

- 4.7.1 It is important to note that you are the link between your patrol and the PLC.
- 4.7.2 You must be attentive and relay correct information and decision to your patrol.
- 4.7.3 You are also the means by which the voices of your patrol are heard so be a good transmitter.

5. PATROL IN COUNCIL (PIC)

- 5.1 As a Patrol Leader you have the responsibility to regularly call the Patrol together for a meeting called the Patrol In Council. This can be done at the end of a Patrol Meeting or any Patrol Activity.
- 5.2 The Patrol Leader usually chairs the Patrol in Council.
- 5.3 The PIC is to get the boy's ideas and desires for programme items, plans for camp, choice of targets and so on. It is most important that every boy has his say on all matters.
- 5.4 You may feel tempted not to bother about the PIC, but that would be wrong.
- 5.5 Patrol Leader needs to keep members on track with the topic discussed.
- 5.6 Patrol Leader must be careful not to force his own ideas on everyone.
- 5.7 Patrol Leader should do his best to head off arguments.
- 5.8 PLC may be used to "discipline" an errant member.