

Boy Scout Organization

Each scout belongs to a **Patrol** which is a group of 5 to 10 boys, led by a **Patrol Leader**, one of their own that they elect. The patrol leader is responsible for organizing, motivating, and managing his patrol. He represents the interests of his patrol mates when planning activities with other patrols and relays information to his patrol as needed.



The patrol leader appoints an **Assistant Patrol Leader** to help him with the patrol duties. The APL fills in for the PL when needed and is second in command. Some patrols choose to elect an APL at each election and then have him move up to PL at the next election.



Patrols belong to a **Boy Scout Troop** which is led by the **Senior Patrol Leader**, a boy elected by the troop. This scout has ultimate responsibility for all the scouts in all the patrols in his troop. He runs all troop meetings, delegates responsibilities, and interacts with adult leadership. The SPL should be at least a First Class rank scout and must earn the respect and cooperation of his troop to be successful.



The senior patrol leader chooses another scout that he can work with and that he respects to fill the role of **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader**. The ASPL fills in for the SPL as needed and helps with running and managing the troop on outings and at meetings.



The SPL and ASPL run the Troop Meetings which are held 2 to 4 times per month. In troop meetings, scouts learn skills, present skits, play games, and prepare for monthly campouts. The SPL also runs the monthly Patrol Leaders Conference - a monthly meeting of all the patrol leaders in the troop - to review activities, plan new events, and delegate tasks to the patrols. This is the main organizational body of a troop.

Troops have from 12 to 100 scouts, with the norm being around 30 to 35. There are around 150,000 Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs across the country.

Each troop has an adult leader, the **Scoutmaster**, who is a volunteer registered with the Boy Scouts of America and trained. The Scoutmaster is responsible for helping the scouts with their planning of the year's program so the scouts are given adequate Opportunity to advance in rank and complete merit badges.



A troop will be successful if there are also **Assistant Scoutmasters** to support the Scoutmaster. The adult leaders should only do those things that the scouts can not do themselves - driving, for example. The boys should be allowed to lead their own troop with only minimal guidance as needed, depending on the maturity and abilities of the scout leaders.



The Troop is supported by a **Troop Committee**, all volunteers. There is a **Troop Committee Chairman** and other troop committee members. Most troop committees consist of family members and members of the troop's chartered organization. The chartered organization is granted a charter by the Boy Scouts of America to use the Scouting program. This chartered organization can be a school, service club, religious group, or other group interested in youth. The chartered organization approves the leadership of the troop, provides a meeting place, and operates the pack within the guidelines and policies of that organization and the BSA.



Troops in your area are organized into a **District** based on geographic boundaries determined by the local Council. At the district level, summer camps, day camps, leader roundtables, and other events are planned. The district supports units through membership, finance, and program services. Your unit has a District Executive and that person helps your troop and patrol get help and resources it needs. There are thousands of districts.

Districts are grouped into a **Council**. A council is responsible for growing a successful scouting program in its locality. A Council owns camp property and runs summer camps. It also offers fundraising programs, adult training, and service projects to support the troop units. According to the [BSA National Council](#) there are over 300 councils.

Councils in a geographic area are grouped into an **Area** of which there are 26 in the country. Each area director works with 10 to 15 councils. The area director maintains contact with the Scout Executive in a council and provides support as needed.

Areas are grouped into a **Region** of which there are 4 in the country. Regional management centers are liaisons between councils and the Boy Scouts National Council. A region provides direct support to its councils in the areas of fund raising, program, computers, and administration. Regional offices provide direct support services to Area Directors.

[BSA National Council](#), located in Irving, Texas, is the governing body of the scouting program in the United States. They set policy, offer national awards, organize national jamborees, have 3 high-adventure camps, and define the scouting program. There are many helpful resources on

[their website](#). On-line registration and membership support, program and literature development, advancement support, liability insurance, and maintaining program consistency across the country are all services provided by the National Council.