

JOB DESCRIPTION: The troop guide is both a leader and a mentor to the members of the new-Scout patrol. He should be an older Scout who holds at least the First Class rank and can work well with younger Scouts. He helps the patrol leader of the new-Scout patrol in much the same way that a Scoutmaster works with a senior patrol leader to provide direction, coaching, and support. The troop guide is not a member of another patrol but may participate in the high-adventure activities of a Venture patrol.

INTRODUCTION: The position of Troop Guide is a combination of the jobs of Patrol Leader and Den Chief. You should have the skills and leadership abilities of a PL and the ability to work with younger boys and the patience that a Den Chief has. In this guide you will find some of the specific things you should do to make your tenure as a Troop Guide easier and more rewarding. The Troop Guide is appointed by the Scoutmaster.

RESPONSIBLE TO: Assistant Scoutmaster

PREREQUISITES:

- None

GENERAL DUTIES:

- Help Scouts meet advancement requirements through First Class.
- Advise Patrol Leader on his duties and his responsibilities at Patrol Leaders Council meetings.
- Attend PLC meetings with the New Scout PL.
- Prevent harassment of new Scouts by older Scouts.
- Help Assistant Scoutmaster train new PL when he is elected.
- Guide new Scouts through early Troop experiences to help them become comfortable in the Troop and the outdoors.
- Help the Assistant Scoutmaster in planning and conducting a quality program.
- Use the First Year Scout Training Program contained in this book as a guide for planning and conducting the meeting and campout programs.
- Work through the Venture President (or Patrol Leader) to obtain older Scout instructors for various skills.
- Set a positive example for all other Scouts by following the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and proudly wearing the correct uniform to all meetings and activities.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- When planning Patrol events remember that you are NOT the Patrol Leader, you are his Guide. As much as possible work through the Patrol Leader and not around him.
- Be patient try to remember what it was like when you were a brand new Scout and how hard it was to remember how to tie new knots, remember first aid, etc.
- Know your stuff. The worst thing you can do when teaching is act like you know something when you really don't. These new Scouts are smarter than you think, they'll know when you're faking.
- Be Prepared!
- The following are the Job Description Guides for Patrol Leader and Den Chief. Both will help you do your job better and the first will help you train your Patrol Leaders.

RESOURCES:

- None listed

AT THE END OF YOUR TENURE IN THIS POSITION:

- Make sure you read the *Lessons Learned Feedback Sheet* contained in this book and provide the Scoutmaster any comments you may have at least 2 weeks before the new elections.
- Plan to spend some time during the next Troop meeting with the Scout who was appointed to replace you. We want you to review with him what you did during your tenure and what worked, didn't work, and could have been done better. Give him a good turnover to make sure there's a smooth transfer of duties from you to him.

To help you better understand your role within the Troop, here is the Organizational Chart that defines the relationships of all the leadership positions:

