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*Guidelines for parents to help clarify The Patrol Method by which our troop helps train future leaders.*

Pre-Requisites for Attending Campout:

- Complete Youth Protection Training (Roundtable or Online on Council web at: <http://www.nega-bsa.org>)
- View the Fast Start Video (Boy Scout Adult not the Cub Scout one) or online at: <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/faststart/>
- Read "Boys' Game" article by Bill Hillcourt attached to this document.

Campout Guidelines.

- Boys camp by patrol within sight of Adult Patrol
- Adults camp as a patrol – Lead by Example
- Adults report to the designated Adult Patrol Leader for this outing.

- Give these boys a chance. They may far exceed your expectations.
- As Bill Hillcourt often said, "it's the Boy's Game."

**Adult Patrol Advisor.** Have advice? Channel it through the Adult Patrol Advisor for that scout's patrol. The Adult Patrol Advisor will relay the information to the Patrol Leader at his/her discretion. [ Use the 3 x 5 cards ]

**Provide Support.** Adults are on outings to help with "logistics and support" and to encourage their son and others. Unfortunately, many of us have been in the situation where our son or another scout was struggling and working with a leader to learn a skill. When some parents 'arrive on the scene' it put additional pressure on the scout who ended up quitting out of frustration. Don't smother your son - Allow other leaders to mentor him.

**Observing.** Some of us have had the opportunity to participate in "take your daughter or son to work" days with our employers. When your child visits you for the day, they don't have the ability to change how you do your job or to tell your boss how to 'get his act together.' In much the same way, this is a similar paradigm when parents visit the troop on an outing. Your sons are in charge and we are simply observers. It is not right for us to jump in and 'muddy the water' with our advice that may be limited in scope.

**Patrol Method.** The "Boy Scout Way" is work via "The Patrol Method" utilizing servant leadership and teamwork. It is not in any way related to Hollywood's glorified macho 'in your face' style of leadership. Our program is all about building relationships and mentoring these boys toward strong masculine leadership skills and positive memories that will aid them for a lifetime. Some parents seem to have the philosophy that "scouts are to be seen and not heard." The Patrol Method is all about putting responsibility on a boy's shoulders and helping them learn how to lead. It is not about chastising them when they fail to meet the expectations of how we would do a job.

**Guiding vs Dictating.** If older scouts are given the task of teaching a task to younger scouts, and you feel that they should teach it a certain way – it is your job to talk with the Scoutmaster & SPL to give suggestions to the scouts before they begin their teaching session. It is demeaning and disrespectful for adults to jump in the middle of a scout teaching a skill and tell them that they are doing something 'wrong' unless it is a safety issue. Too many times, we as adults jump in to stop a scout from doing something simply because it is done differently. What is the guideline here? **Follow the Golden Rule.** "Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you."

**Troop Structure.**

Senior Patrol Leader oversees: ASPL, Patrol Leaders, Troop Guides, Den Chiefs (all part of SPL's Leadership Corps)  
ASPL oversees: Troop Quartermaster, Scribe, Historian, O/A Rep, Instructor, Chaplain's Aide, and Bugler/Musician

**Who do I talk to about a key issue?**

If the issue involves a Committee issue, then speak with someone who has completed Committee training.  
If it involves a Scout, speak only with Scouter who has completed the Boy Scout Leader Indoor & Outdoor Training.

**Trained Adult Leaders**

ASM Training (all or part): Michael Sims, Michael Bywaletz, Milan Wallace, John Immke  
Committee Training: Deb Sims

## Types of Boys

We will have all of these types of boys in our troop and on outings with us. It is our job as leaders to try to respect each boy and help each boy to succeed, not to conform him to be a clone of us. We have no idea what kind of background each of these scouts is from, and we may be the only positive guiding force in that young man's life via Scouting.

***All boys are unique, some boys are more unique than others...***

Every boy is unique. In our work in Scouting, it's important to remember that above pretty much everything else.

There are, however, certain identifiable *types* of boys each of us has encountered throughout our life. Society may change and evolve, but boys will always be boys. To be an effective leader, whether you are a Scoutmaster or a Patrol Leader, it is important to not only understand these generalized types of boys, but to understand the individual boys in your charge.

While the types listed below may be helpful to you in reaching and motivating some of the boys, most real life boys will fall between these types, having characteristics of several different types. **Your job, as a Scout leader, is to get to know your boys, find out what makes them tick, and then find a way to focus their energy on the patrol and troop. It's not always an easy job, but you aren't alone in your work.**

### **The Natural Born Leader**

This type of boy naturally knows how to lead a group. Often, he'll be the natural choice of the Patrol as Patrol Leader. He has the raw talent, but sometimes lacks the experience and practice. For that reason, the Natural Born Leader isn't always seen as such. For the members of the patrol, he'll just be the guy they *know* will do a good job. His natural talents, though, need to be honed through training and practice.

### **The Smooth Running Boy**

This type of boy takes things pretty much as they come. He's agreeable and easily led. He may or may not have initiative or ambition. He's equally at home in the sunshine, and the rain and nothing seems to get him down. In most things, he won't put forth a great deal of effort, but he won't shirk his responsibilities either.

### **The Passive Boy**

This type of boy has no initiative at all. He has to be told to do everything. He will follow where he is led, but has to be led everywhere. Unlike the Smooth Running Boy, the Passive Boy won't put forth any effort without a little prodding. Unlike the Lazy Boy, he doesn't look for ways to get out of doing things.

### **The Clever Boy**

His natural talent is to analyze everything. He's adept at discovering mistakes and weaknesses. He has the added talent of *knowing* how things work or should be done. He's a good choice for Assistant Patrol Leader because you definitely want him on your side. Left to his own devices, he'll point out the

faults and mistakes the Patrol Leader makes, and will often comment "I would have done it better." For that reason, you want him right by your side, keeping you on your toes, and not sowing discontent within the patrol.

### **The Lazy Boy**

Like the passive boy, the lazy boy has no initiative. Unlike the passive boy, who will complete tasks and work hard if asked to do so, the lazy boy simply prefers not to do anything. He lacks the energy and motivation of even the passive boy. He'll tend to complain about anything that requires energy, or takes him away from his preferred activity (whatever that is). You'll have to keep an eye on him because he's prone to taking short-cuts and doesn't put much thought into the short-cut he takes.

### **The Troublemaker**

This type of boy naturally attracts trouble like a magnet. At times, he doesn't even have to work at it. Sometimes, however, he works very hard at it. He can really take the life out of any activity or meeting, and will certainly test your ability to control the group. It doesn't matter why the Troublemaker attracts (or makes) trouble. The easiest way to handle him is to keep him busy.

### **The Grouchy Boy**

Nothing satisfies this type of boy. He can never find anything good about anything; the weather, the food, the activity. He can find ten reasons not to do something for every reason *to* do it. He's like a wet blanket on campouts and hikes, dragging everyone's spirits down.

### **The Wise-Guy**

Like the Clever Boy, the Wise-Guy is particularly adept at discovering mistakes and weaknesses. Unlike the Clever Boy, who tends to figure out how to fix it before speaking up, the Wise-Guy leaps before he looks. He *can* be a real asset if you can get him to stop and think before he does or says anything.

### **The Bully**

Part Wise-Guy, part Troublemaker, part Grouch, the Bully delights in dominating everything. He brags about his abilities, and uses intimidation to get his way. Any boy is capable of challenging the Patrol Leader's authority from time to time, but the Bully will seize every opportunity to do so, and he'll do whatever it takes to be the boss. The good thing is that most Bullies don't like it when people stand up to them, so the best way to handle a Bully is to not let him win.

## The Boy's Game

By William Hillcourt

Immediately upon arrival at a camp site, a Troop's Patrols establish their "duffel-lines." The Troop Leaders' Council gathers and makes a survey of the site for the purpose of giving their Patrol Leaders a chance to select campsites for their Patrols. As soon as the selections are made, the Patrol Leaders are dismissed, each Patrol Leader leads his Scouts to their site, and they go to work – while the Scoutmaster and the other Troop Leaders keep hands off, possibly going into a huddle about special activities to take place later.

You—the Scoutmaster—and your assistants should be present to advise, but you should not volunteer any. And most important of all, *you should not go near the Patrol set-ups until after the Patrol Leaders come to you and announce: "Camp completed, sir!"*

Your fingers may itch on the first few camping expeditions to help the various Patrols put up the tents properly, or to rearrange the stones of the primitive fireplaces produced by the Scouts. But, please, *don't!* This is the *boys' game*.

Let *them* do their best. Then, after they have done the job, you may aid them with friendly advice and suggestions that will help them do even better the next time.

When tents are being put up for the leaders to sleep in, you will naturally give a hand. Otherwise be a free but exceedingly interested onlooker. You will have a chance as never before to study your Patrol Leaders at work, to find out how well they distribute the jobs, to see with what willingness the boys follow them and perform the duties assigned to them. Make written notes of points which may be bettered, and have friendly talks with the Patrol Leaders later suggesting how they may prove your leadership—by not pitching in to do work which honestly is **none of your business**.

To make such smooth sailing possible, the Patrol Leaders must, of course, have received proper training in advance.

**William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt**

Read here for much more information => [http://www.kudu.net/patrol\\_method/index.htm](http://www.kudu.net/patrol_method/index.htm)