

Patrol Advisor (PA) Position Description

The Role of a Patrol Advisor:

A PA is a registered adult leader who is committed to the furtherance of the “Aims and Goals” of Boy Scouting through active participation in the Troop’s activities and programs. The PA’s primary duty is to assist the SM in providing a safe, productive and fun environment for the Scouts in the Patrol. The PA accomplishes this by becoming familiar with the “Aims and Goals” of Boy Scouting and by doing their best to implement and support these “Aims and Goals” of Boy Scouting within the Troop program. PAs help provide required two-deep leadership standards set by the BSA (there must be at least two adults present at any Boy Scout activity).

A PA advises the Patrol Leader (PL) on ways to keep the Patrol on track. They should seldom, if ever work directly with Patrol members. PA’s should monitor Patrol meetings and activities and advise the PL (away from the other Scouts so as not to undermine his leadership). The PA should be ever vigilant that they don’t yield to the temptation to start acting as the PL. PAs do not have a leadership role. It is extremely important that PAs obtain training before or shortly after taking on the role so they understand the Patrol method and how a Troop program functions. Attending the monthly Troop Leadership Council (TLC) meeting, PAs should not speak up, and preferably sit in the back of the room monitoring what is happening. If advice is needed to be given to the PL, it should be done before or after the meeting away from the other PLs so as not to undermine his authority.

General Responsibilities:

- Read the Boy Scout Handbook and the Patrol Leaders Handbook
- Set a good example
- Wear the uniform correctly
- Live by the Scout Oath and Law
- Show and help develop Scout Spirit
- Support the youth leaders of the Troop
- Work with other leaders to make the Troop run well
- Support the Troop’s and Patrol’s programs through active participation
- Bring problems and concerns directly to the SM or the Committee Chairman

Specific Responsibilities:

- Meet with Patrol members during Patrol meetings, attend TLCs, provide guidance and coaching to PLs during Patrol meetings
- Provides advice, mentoring and assistance to the assigned Patrol and specifically the PL
- Ensure that PLs are following Patrol Meeting Guidelines
- Encourage Scouts to work on their rank advancement and participate in Troop and Patrol activities
- Directly support the Scouts in their efforts to exercise their leadership role
- Attend as many Troop and Patrol events, campouts and meetings as possible
- Maintain a noticeable presence during all phases of meetings
- Attend the monthly Troop Leadership Council meeting
- Encouraged to attend the monthly Troop Committee meeting
- Put the needs of the Scouts first

Required Patrol Advisor Training:

A PA is considered to be trained after completing:

- Boy Scout Fast Start Orientation Training.
 - Fast Start is designed to help new leaders understand the fundamentals of their specific program and give insight into the various leadership roles of the people they will be working with.
 - Take immediately after registering as an ASM and before meeting with youth members.
 - Offered through MyScouting.org

- Youth Protection Training.
 - You will learn the BSA's Youth Protection Guidelines, signs of abuse, and how to report suspected abuse.
 - Take immediately, before registering as a PA and before meeting with youth members.
 - Offered through MyScouting.org

- This is Scouting (Replaced New Leader Essentials).
 - Provides an overview of the Scouting organization, including history, values, programs, Youth Protection, community involvement, and training.
 - Take immediately after registering as an ASM and before meeting with youth members.
 - Offered through MyScouting.org

- Position – Boy Scout Leader Specific Training
 - Boy Scout Leader Specific Training is designed for any adult accepting the invitation to serve as an adult leader of a Boy Scout Troop.
 - Take immediately when offered by the District or Council.
 - Offered by the District or Council as group training.

- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills.
 - Working as patrols, this hands-on course provides adult leaders the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors.
 - Take immediately when offered by the District or Council.
 - Offered by the District or Council as hands-on training.

- Weather Hazards Training.
 - Presents safety precautions for eight different types of weather, as well as planning, preparation, and traditional weather signs.
 - Take within 30 days after registering as a leader and before attending an outing.
 - Offered through MyScouting.org

- Safe Swim Defense.
 - All swimming activities in Scouting are required to follow the eight basic principles known collectively as the Safe Swim Defense plan. A unit that follows the plan can expect a safe, enjoyable aquatic experience.
 - Take before attending a swimming/aquatic activity outing.
 - Offered through MyScouting.org

- Safety Afloat.
 - All boating activities in Scouting are required to follow the nine basic principles of Safety Afloat. With an emphasis on accident prevention through proper preparation and skills, a unit that follows Safety Afloat can expect a safe, enjoyable activity.
 - Take before attending a boating activity outing.
 - Offered through MyScouting.org

Recommended Supplemental Training Courses for PA:

- High Adventure Leader Trek Training (HALTT).
 - This 37-hour course prepares unit leaders for backpacking and wilderness camping trips.
 - Complete Sessions I, II, III-A and III-B.
 - Offered by the Council High Adventure Team.

- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
 - This training helps you recognize and respond to emergency situations and care for life-threatening respiratory or cardiac emergencies in adults (persons over 8 years of age). You will learn to care for conscious and unconscious choking victims, perform CPR and use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

- Wilderness First Aid
 - Designed to meet the needs of those who go into areas that are beyond the reach of urban EMS. This course is required for those units going to Philmont or Northern Tier and is recommended for back country camping, hiking, canoeing, or other high adventure.