



The Senior Leadership Patrol

- This guide is meant to assist in carrying out each role throughout the course of the year. Please see the Junior Leadership Guide on our website for official requirements and expectations for each position.

Senior Patrol Leader: (The “C.E.O.” of the troop)

spl@troop173-yorktown.org

- **SPL support group:**
 - Scoutmaster
 - ASMs
 - Committee Chair
 - Chartered Organization Representative
- Job description:
 - Oversee and lead the Senior Leadership Team, including ASPL of Operations, ASPL of Patrols, and Troop Guide.
 - Receive (at-least) monthly reports from each member, regarding the state of their “departments.” This should be done prior to a PLC meeting, and the respective leader should share their findings with the PLC.
 - It is important to act as a coach or guide to the members of your Senior Leadership Team, if necessary, to make sure they fully understand their role. Within a few months, little delegation or instructions should be needed from the SPL, and the ASPLs and Troop Guides should be frequently reporting to the SPL.
 - The SPL reports to the Scoutmaster, if necessary.
 - Responsible for the day-to-day and long term operation of the troop, both during functions and behind the scenes.
 - Chairs the Patrol Leaders’ Council (PLC), which is the main decision-making body of the troop.
 - Set all agendas and control all correspondence regarding the PLC.

- Compile all troop programming details for meetings, and other events. Propose these programming ideas to the PLC, for approval or revisions.
- While planning the troop calendar, consider campout locations while working with Leadership Team, and propose to the PLC. (Select campouts may be designated to a patrol to find a location. Patrol Leader must propose to PLC.)
- Appoint troop members (based on applications) to serve in troop leadership positions, with the advice and counsel of the scoutmaster.
- If necessary, delegate duties and responsibility to other leaders.
- Work with Scoutmaster to lead troop leadership training (if trained).
- Set a good example.
- Wear the scout uniform correctly.
- Show scout spirit.
- Be familiar with the SPL handbook.
- Believe in and live by the PATROL METHOD!
- MOST IMPORTANT: Show care towards the scouts and families you are serving. Attempt to make a connection with as many scouts as possible, and make yourself available to those who need help. Learn to be flexible and work as a team.
- The SPL is the captain of his ship. He should never publicly criticize his team, and always support the philosophy of the troop. Any failure on the part of the Senior Leadership Team, ultimately falls on the shoulders of the SPL. The SPL should take the blame for it, even if it may not be fair.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader of Operations

Aspl_operations@troop173-yorktown.org

- Job Description:
 - Work with the SPL to help him carry out his duties.
 - The ASPL of Operations is responsible for assisting the SPL with operations of the troop. The ASPL of Operations is the primary one to step in, with the absence of the SPL (unless otherwise stated).
 - The ASPL of Operations is responsible for overseeing each of the troop leadership positions, with the exception of Patrol Leader, or those on the Senior Leadership Team. The ASPL of Patrols should serve as a coach or guide to those scouts in these leadership positions. The ASPL should have constant contact with each of these scouts, to make sure that they are up to task (avoid micromanaging). The ASPL should report to the SPL at least monthly on the state of each job.

- The ASPL of Operations reports the PLC after reporting to the SPL.
- It is important to maintain an encouraging and enthusiastic attitude when working with other scouts. Avoid displaying frustration, and help to coach the scout through any issues, and give praise when it is due. **Publicly praise, privately critique!**
- MOST IMPORTANT: Show care towards the scouts and families you are serving. Attempt to make a connection with as many scouts as possible, and make yourself available to those who need help. Learn to be flexible and work as a team.

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader of Patrols

Aspl_patrols@troop173-yorktown.org

- Job Description:
 - ASPL of Patrols is vitally important to the smooth operation of the troop. Troop 173 uses a service patrol method to plan and organize campouts and select events. The purpose of this system is not necessarily for smooth operation of the troop, but rather to share the valuable experience of leadership with our patrol leaders and scouts. This use of the patrol method allows patrols to take pride in “their events.”
 - The ASPL of Patrols serves as a coach and advisor to the Patrol Leaders, when planning events. The ASPL should walk each patrol through the troop’s campout planning procedure, which can be found on our website. The ASPL checks the patrol leader’s progress on the Campout Planning Checklist, and makes sure they are up to date at least every other week. If the patrol leader is not up to date, the ASPL is to blame, not the patrol leader. The ASPL is responsible for maintaining a positive and encouraging attitude while working with the patrol leader. Many new patrol leaders may be overwhelmed and not able to handle the task alone, and it is up to the ASPL to guide them. At times, the ASPL of Patrols becomes a “damage control” job. Failure to get things done at a patrol-wide level has an effect on the entire troop as a whole, and can lead to the cancellation of an event. Any event cancellation or delay is a failure on the part of the ASPL, whereas proper guidance was not provided. An event on the calendar is not optional, and it is up to the ASPL, Patrol Leader, and SPL to get it done regardless of the circumstances.
 - It is important to have a highly-involved, hands-on approach, and be in contact with the Patrol Leaders constantly.
 - The ASPL of Patrols must live by the troop calendar, which is available on our website. They must be aware of which patrols are assigned to which

events. The ASPL should make a practice of beginning contact with a Patrol Leader planning an event 2 ½ months before the event. Provide them with the checklist, and explain how to get started.

- Believe in the PATROL METHOD!
- MOST IMPORTANT: Show care towards the scouts and families you are serving. Attempt to make a connection with as many scouts as possible, and make yourself available to those who need help. Learn to be flexible and work as a team.
- **Publicly praise, privately critique!**

Troop Guide

- The Troop Guide is the main person that new scouts in the troop interact with, when they have questions. The Troop guide plans, organizes and runs the New Scout Program, from approximately April through June. The new scout program focuses on having the new scouts in one patrol of their age group, and being introduced to the features of Troop 173. They will learn skills that will get them to the Star Scout rank, and leave them prepared to advance further the following year in the troop's regular patrols.
- In the other months of the year, the Troop Guide should be in contact with each of the first year scouts, and any other young scouts in need of advancement. The troop guide may call an occasional meeting among first year scouts to keep tabs on their advancement, and get each scout to at least Tenderfoot by the end of their first year. Keep in mind the advancement also ongoing in the patrol.
- The Troop Guide should serve as a mentor to the younger scouts of the troop, and should be approachable. It is also important to be outgoing, and attempt to personally speak to each scout, as some may be hesitant to ask for help or speak to the guide.
- Publicly praise, privately critique.