

## Troop 409 Leadership Positions

### General Remarks on Troop Leadership Positions

In order for scouts to advance in rank beyond 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout, a scout is required to serve in a leadership position for a period of time (dependent on rank). Scouts working toward ranks 1<sup>st</sup> Class and below (junior scout ranks) are not usually considered for troop leadership positions. One exception is Assistant Patrol Leader; this position can be filled by junior rank scouts and is a good bridge for scouts planning to be a Patrol Leader. Please note that scouts serving in the Assistant Patrol Leader position will not receive leadership credit for rank advancement. Should a junior rank scout wish to assume a leadership position (such a bugler), preference towards these positions will be given to non-junior rank scouts who may need the position for advancement. Each year, the troop scoutmasters will recommend a small group of scouts to attend NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training) which is held at Camp Frank Rand in early June. These are scouts who show through participation and attitude, troop leadership promise.

### Primary Leadership Positions

The following positions are the critical leadership positions required by any Boy Scout troop. The positions allow the execution of the scout method. These positions can also be a great life experiences for the scouts who take these positions; as with many efforts in life, what is put into these positions is what is taken out. A scout who assumes these positions with proper diligence will have a rewarding experience.

**Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)** – The top scout leader in the troop. The SPL leads the troop by working with patrol leaders and is the scout liaison with troop adult leadership. In addition to running the weekly troop meeting, the SPL should be prepared to attend the majority of troop outdoor activities (camping trips, service projects, and the like). The SPL organizes and runs the monthly PLC (Patrol Leader Council), it is during the PLC that camping trips are selected and scheduled. The troop skill sets and monthly themes are also set during PLC meetings. This position is a great experience for scouts wanting to gain learn how to lead large groups.

*Requirements: Star Scout, scoutmaster approval and election by the troop scout body.*

**Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL)** – Aides and supports the SPL during troop activities. Fills in for SPL in his absence. The ASPL should be willing to attend the weekly troop meeting and a majority of the troop activities. The SPL and ASPL work as

a pair to ensure a smooth running troop.

*Requirements: Star Scout and approval by the SPL and scoutmaster.*

**Patrol Leader (PL)** – The scout leader for a patrol. The PL works with the SPL and ASPL to plan, organize, and operate all troop activities. The PL is instrumental in controlling the smallest unit of the troop – the individual patrol. A PL should be willing to attend the weekly troop meetings and participate in a majority of troop activities. A good PL can make a real difference in how successful new scouts integrate into the troop. This is a good position for scouts wanting to become SPL later in their scout career.

*Requirements: 1<sup>st</sup> Class, scoutmaster approval and election by the patrol body.*

**Assistant Patrol Leader (APL)** – Aides and supports the PL during patrol activities. Fills in for the PL in his absence. The APL is a good starting leadership position.

*Requirements: Patrol leader and scoutmaster approval.*

### **Other Troop Leadership Positions**

The remainder of this document describes other leadership positions. Although these positions are not as directed toward the day-to-day troop operation, they are never the less important positions. Scouts assuming these positions can make a difference in how the troop operates. As mentioned earlier, these positions are only rewarding when the appropriate amount of effort is put into the job. Some of these positions will require 1<sup>st</sup> Class or better rank. All positions will require scoutmaster approval.

**Troop Historian** – Collects photos and maintains the troop photo albums.

**Librarian** – Maintains the merit badge pamphlet library.

**Scribe** – Maintains the troop bulletin board, can host a troop newsletter column.

**Instructor** – Assists scoutmasters with advancement on junior grade ranks.

**Chaplain Aide** - Assists in troop religious services.

**Troop Guide** - Adviser and guide to the new scouts as well as Cub Scout visitors.

**Den Chief** - Works with a Cub Scout den as a guide.

**Quartermaster** - Responsible for troop supplies and equipment.

**Junior Assistant Scoutmaster** - A Scout 16 or older who aides scoutmasters.