

### **THE TROOP LEADER' JOB**

The primary task of a Troop Leader is to guide and help the members of his Troop develop themselves into disciplined, responsible, self-reliant, concerned, and selfless service oriented citizens, each of them a potential leader of society. To be effective in carrying out this function, he must be knowledgeable, not only of the Boy Scouting program, it's features and processes, but also of his relationship responsibilities.

These responsibilities are:

- 1. In relation to the Boy Scouts of the Philippines** – Troop Leaders are volunteers in the BSP. As such, the BSP expects the following to be complied with:
  - Observe the letter and the spirit of the policies and principles of the BSP.
  - Abide by the Scout Oath and Law and set an example to the members of his Troop and to train them to do their best to live up to it.
  - Stick to the Fundamentals of the Movement by not introducing matters which depart from the Scout Method and the objective.
  - Carry out instructions that may be issued from time to time by the Local Council or the National Office.
  
- 2. In relation to the institution** - Troop Leaders are appointed by the Institution which sponsors the Troop. The Institution, therefore, through the Institutional Head or the Institutional Representative, expects from the Troop Leader the following:
  - Abide by the policies, principles, and objectives of the Institution at all times.
  - Maintain the good image of the Institution.
  - Assist in the Recruitment of boys for the Troop.
  - Seek approval from the Institution before undertaking any community involvement project and outdoor activity. This is also true for fund generating activities.
  - Keep the Institution informed of all projects and activities of the Troop.
  - Keep the Institution informed of the progress of Troop operations.
  - Train all adult leaders as well as the boy leaders of the Troop.
  - Make sure that all properties of the Troop are kept safely and in good condition.
  
- 3. In relation to the Parents** - The Scouts will not always be with the Troop Leader all the time and parents are most concerned with the welfare of their sons. They do expect the Troop Leader to insure that the well-being of their son is being attended to just like they do. Good working relationships must, therefore, be developed between the Troop Leader and the parents of the boys in his/her Troop.

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- Orient the parents on what Boy Scouting is and how the program can help them and their sons.
- Keep them informed of the roles they can play in the Troop.
- Encourage them to follow up on the advancement of their sons and to make sure they are behaving according to the Scout Ideals.
- Properly recognize their participation and assistance given to the Patrol.
- Keep them informed of their son's performance.
- Conduct regular meetings with them. This is aside from the personal visit that has to be made on them from time to time.
- Keep them informed of the activities and projects of the Patrol making certain to seek their approval for their son's participation in these ventures.
- Make sure his /her personal relation with the parents of the boys is kept at high levels.

**4. In relation to the Troop Committee** - The Troop Leader must remember at all times that it is the Troop Committee that recruited him and it is also the Troop Committee that is helping him with whatever is needed, financially and materially, to insure the smooth and effective operations of the Troop. They, therefore expects the Troop Leader to:

- Keep the Committee informed of the projects and activities of the Troop.
- Make sure they are properly acquainted with the progress of Troop Operations.
- Keep them informed of the financial and material situation of the Troop to include its safe keeping and maintenance.
- Involve them in the planning and the implementation of the Troop Plans.
- Properly recognize whatever assistance, participation, and contribution are given by them to the Troop.

**5. In relation to the Boys in his/her Troop** - The boys, too, have their own expectation of their Troop Leader. It is well to bear in mind that the degree of achievement a boy will have depends highly on the respect they have of their Troop Leaders. It is on this respect that their influence on the boys rest. It is, therefore, important for the Troop Leader to:

- Be friendly but firm with the boys of the Troop.
- Be a good role model to them.
- Cultivate his/her sense of humor and laugh with them.
- Be fair and consistent in dealing with them.
- Trust them completely and give them all the opportunity to develop their potentials and their personality.
- Keep them busy but make sure the projects and the activities you give are attractive to them.
- Encourage them in their advancement requirement.
- Be sincere in dealing with them. Win their confidence.

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- Train the boy leaders to run the troop. Make the Patrol System fully operational. Develop their self-confidence. Make them fully responsible for the success and failure of the Troop.
- Appreciate their interest. Make them feel important and needed.
- Be willing, ready and available to listen to their opinions, criticisms, suggestions, and concerns.

**6. In relation to Yourself** - On the shoulders of the Troop Leader weights a great responsibility...the responsibility for the future. Because it is he/she who leads those who will compose and probably lead in the future. The kind of future society is going to have will depend heavily on the value system, and the kind of personality he/she is able to develop in the boys of his/her Troop...the personality of leadership, the consistency of guidance, the strength of character, and the persistent pursuit of excellence he/she is able to provide. It is imperative, therefore, that the Troop Leader strives to make himself/herself enormous so he/she can selflessly give enormously to the boys in his/her Troop.

- Know yourself and seek self-improvement.
- Have a personal vision statement as a Troop Leader.
- Be principle centered. Strive to live the Scout Ideals.
- Know the different roles you play and be sure to have a vision statement for each so as not to neglect those that are important.
- Seek first to understand others before seeking to be understood.
- Strive towards a synergetic relationship with other adult leaders in Scouting as well as with your Scouts and their parents.
- Regularly review your vision statement and see how you are progressing in your self-development endeavors. Whatever is wrong, correct. Whatever has been corrected, improve. Whatever has been improved, innovate. And from whatever innovation you are able to have, create. From whatever has been created, learn its weakness. And whatever is weak, strengthen.

If the Troop Leader is able to do these things, then his/her success, not only as a Troop Leader but in his/her other endeavors as well, will be guaranteed.