

Your Duties As A Patrol Leader

When you accepted the position of patrol leader, you agreed to provide service and leadership to your patrol and unit. No doubt you will take this responsibility seriously, but you will also find it fun and rewarding. As a patrol leader, you are expected to do the following:

- Plan and lead patrol meetings and activities.
- Keep patrol members informed.
- Assign each patrol member a specific duty.
- Represent your patrol at all patrol leaders' council meetings and the annual program planning conference.
- Prepare the patrol to participate in all unit activities.
- Work with other unit leaders to make the unit run well.
- Know the abilities of each patrol member.
- Set a good example.
- Wear the Guide uniform correctly.
- Live by the Guide Promise and Law.
- Show and develop patrol spirit.

Ten Tips for Being a Good Patrol Leader

1. **Keep your word.** Don't make promises you can't keep.
2. Be **fair** to all. A good leader shows no favourites. Don't allow friendships to keep you from being fair to all members of your patrol. Know who likes to do what, and assign duties to patrol members by what they like to do.
3. Be a **good communicator**. You don't need a commanding voice to be a good leader, but you must be willing to step out front with an effective "Let's go." A good leader knows how to get and give information so that everyone understands what's going on.
4. Be **flexible**. Everything doesn't always go as planned. Be prepared to shift to "plan B" when "plan A" doesn't work.
5. Be **organised**. The time you spend planning will be repaid many times over. At patrol meetings, record who agrees to do each task, and fill out the duty roster before going camping.
6. **Delegate**. Some leaders assume that the job will not get done unless they do it themselves. Most people like to be challenged with a task. Empower your patrol members to do things they have never tried.
7. **Set an example**. The most important thing you can do is lead by example. Whatever you do, your patrol members are likely to do the same. A cheerful attitude can keep everyone's spirits up.
8. Be **consistent**. Nothing is more confusing than a leader who is one way one moment and another way a short time later. If your patrol knows what to expect from you, they will more likely respond positively to your leadership.
9. Give **praise**. The best way to get credit is to give it away. Often a "Nice job" is all the praise necessary to make a Guide feel she is contributing to the efforts of the patrol.
10. **Ask for help**. Don't be embarrassed to ask for help. You have many resources at your disposal. When confronted with a situation you don't know how to handle, ask someone with more experience for some advice and direction.