



BRIDGETOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COMMITTEE

SCOUT LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

TRAINING SHEET

IDEAS FOR SUCCESSFUL PATROL MEETINGS

OPENING CEREMONY

Get the meeting off to an impressive start. Make everyone feel that now's is the time to get down to business.

CHECKING

This is your business period. Make it short and sweet.

- The patrol scribe checks the attendance and records.
- The patrol leader checks off all advancements tests passed by Scouts since the last meeting.
- The patrol treasurer collects dues and reports on the Patrol finances
- The patrol leader checks the uniforming.

COACHING

This is the most important part of the patrol meeting. This is where every patrol member learns something new or practises something old. This is where most of the patrol advancement takes places.

The coaching period must fit the needs of the Scouts. From checking the advancement that was just done in the previous period, you know what tests each member has passed and what tests each needs to meet to complete his next skill award or rank.

PROJECTS

There is no limit to the kind of projects a patrol can do.

- Have each Scout whittle a woggle.
- Make a stencil of a patrol animal.
- Have each Scout show his inventive genius by making a camp gadget from a tin can, a piece of wire and a nail.
- Make models of bridges and other pioneering projects.

PLANS

Next comes planning for the future. Everyone should get his chance to have his say. Try wherever possible to make your decisions by majority vote.

You may need to talk about things like:

- The next patrol hike.
- The program for the next patrol meeting.
- Advancement.

CEREMONY

Now you have come to the end of the meeting, wind it up with a ceremony. Close the meeting in a spirit of true fellowship.

- Close with the patrol yell.
- The patrol leader says “Be Prepared”, the Scouts say, “We Are Prepared”.
- Form a circle with the patrol flag in the center. Each Scout grasp the flagstaff with his left hand, salutes with his right. All sing the patrol song.

WHAT’LL WE DO NEXT?

The patrol meeting is over. It was good, wasn’t it? But you want the next meeting to be even better.

Feedback will help you. After each meeting ask your Scouts what they thought of it. Did everyone participate? Was there enough variety?

PLAY

Now it’s time for play. Games, singing and yells put the fun and spirit into your patrol meeting.

- A game just for fun.
- A physical fitness game.
- Perhaps a “brain” game that will challenge the wits of your Scouts

Singing - Use part of each patrol meeting to practice the old favourite and learn new ones.

REFERENCES

1. **The Official Patrol Leader Handbook.** William “Green Bar Bill” Hillcourt and Keith Monroe, 1980. Boy Scouts Of America.
2. **The Scout Troop.** Ron Jeffries and Paul Moynihan. The Scout Association, Baden Powell House, Queen’s Gate, London, Great Britian.
3. **The Patrol Programme Planning Kit,** 1991. Boy Scouts Of America.