

# TROOP 218 ADULT ENGAGEMENT TIPS

LAST UPDATED APRIL 2017

## OVERALL VISION

The Scouting program has been in continual refinement for over 100 years, and as such should be respected and followed as set forth in the most recent editions of the Official Boy Scout Handbook and other BSA guidelines. Within these guidelines, our goal is to provide the best outdoor learning experience including the three aims of Scouting: skills development, citizenship training, and physical fitness.

## ADVANCEMENT

- We will follow the requirements as stated in the Handbook. This will help ensure consistency with other troops and within our own troop.
- Exceptions and additions should be approved by the Troop Committee. (*Example: some troops require NYLT training before boys can advance to Eagle. 218 does not.*)
- In a boy-lead group, adults become more of a coach and cheerleader. We assign one ASM to take on that role for each patrol. Ideally, the Troop Guide (a youth himself) would work with new scouts on developing scout skills. These leaders would be responsible for ensuring a scout knows the material before the Scoutmaster conference.
- Scoutmaster conferences are set aside so the SM can check on the scout's thoughts and feelings, gauge what the scout is learning, offer guidance, set goals, and collect input for the troop as a whole. There is not much quizzing on specific requirements.

## SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

- **SIGN-OFFS**  
Scout – First Class: SM, ASM, SPL, ASPL or Guide  
Star and Life: SM or any ASM  
Eagle: Scoutmaster  
Other Awards: SM or award-specific ASM
- To ensure fairness, leaders should not sign off on their son's requirements. *Exception: If scouts are doing something as a group, then the leader may sign all of them.*
- ASMs would ideally pick a role and own all the responsibilities related to it. The roles not taken will be shared as needed by all troop leadership. Possible roles are listed to the right.
- Parents who aren't registered leaders or Troop Committee members are still welcome to help. However, ANY job that involves direct contact with scouts requires Youth Protection Training (an online course).

## TROOP MEETINGS

Weekly meetings start at 7:00 and end around 8:30. Parents are encouraged to drop their boys off and leave. Parents and siblings are welcome to stay, but should wait outside on the patio area (weather permitting).

## PREVENTING LEADERSHIP BURNOUT

- BSA does not list any formal terms of office for "patch positions" (SM, ASM, etc.) However, the Committee agreed that at the beginning of each school year any leader, including the Scoutmaster, may vacate their position for any reason, no questions asked. This provides an opportunity to take a break if needed and to allow others to bring fresh ideas forward.
- If a leader chooses to stay, they agree to a 1-year commitment.

## POSSIBLE ASM ROLES

- Advancement
- Membership
- Training
- Outdoor Activities
- Venture Patrol
- New Scouts (pre 1st class)
- Eagle Scout Coach
- Troop Equipment
- Promotions
- Religious Emblem Coord
- Webmaster
- Communications
- Den Chief Coordinator
- NYLT Coordinator
- Merit Badge Coordinator
- Webelos Liaison
- Fundraising
- Scouting for Food
- OA Coordinator
- *others, as needed*

## OTHER EXPECTATIONS

- All parents are expected to be a counselor for at least one merit badge. More than one is allowed if you have multiple proficiencies. Choose badges that align with your profession or hobbies—something with which you have proficiency and knowledge and feel comfortable teaching to a youth.
- Bottom line: Within BSA policy, do what is right for our troop. Stay agile and observant enough to respond to new needs as they appear and to adopt a new strategy if something isn't working. With each other, be open and supportive. Keep each other in check.