

Being an adult in a Boy Run Troop

I've got a great idea, what do I do?
I see a young boy sitting at a table by himself, what do I do?
The newest patrol can't get their tents up...
Billy is fighting with Sam ...
The patrol is arguing over who cooks, cleans, ...

WDYSMS? WDYSPLS?

Thou Shalt ...

1. Never do what a boy can do and a boy can do everything.

- If skill missing from troop, teach it to one capable scout and he will teach others
- Yes, we want to showcase our skills and it temporarily feels good
- Teach a boy and he will credit you and keep coming back and he'll tell the troop

2. Be patient.

- Let the Scouts run the meetings, campouts, activities, etc.
 - Too many directions from different people frustrate them
 - Troop structure is there for a reason
- Stand back, observe, be patient, wait for results.
 - Be willing to let them make mistakes, goof off, argue and resolve their own disputes
 - Step in when it is becoming a safety issue
- Adults are resources for the Scouts:
 - Drivers
 - Provide supplies and materials
 - Merit Badge counselors
 - Volunteer your time and your skills to help the troop run smoothly

3. Whisper.

- No yelling
- Guide behind the scenes, but let the boys do
- No announcements - give to scout coordinator, SPL, or SM
- Don't take over meetings (large or small)
- Praise and reward rather than criticize, yell, and punish
- Let the scouts teach other (even with merit badges when possible)

4. Be an example.

- Wear your full uniform (shirt, socks, belt, jeans/shorts/pants, neckerchief, patches, etc.)
- Attend and complete training

5. Say, when asked a question:

- I don't know, what do you think?
- What did your patrol leader say?
- What did your SPL say?

6. Let the Scouts be in charge of discipline.

- The Scouts are much harder on themselves than we are
 - SPL and 2 adults (usually SM & ASM) meet with parties
 - SPL discusses:
 - Discovery
 - Recovery
 - Consequences
 - If there are consequences, must be approved by SM; if severe committee must also approved
- Spirit board review is opportunity for follow-up

7. Observe the traditions, rituals, and customs of the troop.

- Boy Run Troop
- Candle induction ceremony at scout/parent's first campout
- Ashes ceremony
- Planning campout
- Induction ceremony of positions at planning campout
- Peach floats at Bartle
- Campfires with skits, songs, SM minute, and Scout Vespers
- Church service on Sunday
- High adventure each year geared for the older boys
- Participate in Order of the Arrow
- Participate in Mic-O-Say

8. Ask permission to enter campsites

- If they need help, see SPL, SM, or find troop guides
- They learn by doing by themselves and sometimes making mistakes
- They form as a patrol
- It encourages someone to assume leader role or to share leader role

9. Keep rules simple.

- Troop
 - Live by scout oath and law
 - We don't need anything else
 - Additional rules only confuse the matter and require enforcement
 - Every boy and situation is different
- PLC rules
 - No electronics on campouts
 - Electronics only when transportation takes longer than 2 hours
 - No gambling
 - 2 pops per boy per day
 - No candy brought except cracker barrel items brought by grubmaster

10. Respect the boys.

- Treat them like the young men they are, or are becoming
- Giving respect gains respect