

You know your troop uses the Patrol Method if...

[Check each statement that characterizes a boy-run, adult-supported troop – one using the Patrol Method rather than the adult-run, Troop Method]

- _____ 1. At game time, the SPL lines everyone up and they count off by twos.
- _____ 2. The Patrol Leader Council (PLC) is planning everything and the Committee empowers these decisions.
- _____ 3. Everyone is eating the same well-balanced, nutritious and perfectly cooked meals at campouts.
- _____ 4. The prime focus of weekly troop meetings are merit badges.
- _____ 5. Every patrol has its own cooking gear and rain fly.
- _____ 6. The troop regularly holds patrol competitions.
- _____ 7. The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) spends more time talking to patrol members than the Patrol Leaders.
- _____ 8. When a Scout asks a question the first answer is always "Have you asked your Patrol Leader?"
- _____ 9. The scoutmaster (SM) is in front of the group more than the SPL is.
- _____ 10. Your Scout has never received a phone call or e-mail from his Patrol Leader.
- _____ 11. Adults sign off on all T21 advancement requirements.
- _____ 12. All of the adults have dish-pan hands.
- _____ 13. You regularly use "virtual" patrols (creating new patrols for each activity).
- _____ 14. Each patrol has and regularly uses a patrol flag, symbol, song, and/or yell.
- _____ 15. The younger scouts in the troop are being taught by adults while the older scouts form cliques and goof around during a meeting because they've learned it already.
- _____ 16. The Scouts are allowed to struggle in their activities and are given the freedom to fail.
- _____ 17. Each Patrol has assigned jobs they perform continually or on a recurring basis.
- _____ 18. All of the leaders are trained (both Scouts *and* Adults)
- _____ 19. Scouts are told to "find" their own canoe to bring to a planned canoe trip.
- _____ 20. When it comes time to elect an SPL, no one wants the job because it's the only position in the Troop that requires a Scout to actually do something.
- _____ 21. Boys are allowed to pick who they want to be in patrols with.
- _____ 22. The Adult leader motto is "If a boy can do it, adults don't!"
- _____ 23. The Patrol Leaders have outvoted the SPL in the PLC meeting.
- _____ 24. You only have one Troop Quartermaster rather than one Quartermaster per patrol.
- _____ 25. The Scoutmaster's two favorite pieces of equipment are his coffee cup and a comfortable chair.
- _____ 26. The PLC, SM, and Committee all share the same vision for the Troop and the Program.
- _____ 27. Membership in Patrols is mixed up frequently to maintain the "right" size for each patrol.
- _____ 28. Most behavior problems are handled by the PLC.
- _____ 29. A Scout has been given a position of responsibility (POR) and no one has told him what he needs to do in the position, nor has he asked.
- _____ 30. At a PLC the Scouts meet in one room and the adults in another room (close, but separate).

“You Know Your Troop Uses the Patrol Method if” Sheet answers: The following statements characterize a troop using the Patrol Method: #2, 5, 6, 8, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30.

COMMON PROBLEMS THAT HINDER DELIVERY OF PATROL METHOD:

- ❖ No patrol identity – A troop is not a group of boys, it’s a group of patrols
- ❖ No patrol spirit
- ❖ No patrol method – just top-down, adult-led program
- ❖ Poor understanding of patrol method
- ❖ Responsibility not being given to Scouts
- ❖ Inadequate POR training
- ❖ Inadequate explanation of POR responsibilities and expectations
- ❖ Low POR expectations by adults
- ❖ No or inadequate Committee support or failure of Committee to understand their role
- ❖ Resources organized as a troop , not by patrol
- ❖ No opportunity for boys to learn leadership and citizenship
- ❖ No patrol tasks or opportunity for patrol to work together
- ❖ Scouts have a different vision than the adults
- ❖ Advancement supersedes all other purposes for patrol/troop membership (“Eagle Factory” problem)
- ❖ Program isn’t FUN for boys
- ❖ Adults not guiding, supporting, advising, or mentoring at all (Boy-led into the ground” problem)
- ❖ Parents don’t understand Patrol Method and Boy-run troop methodology
- ❖ “POR = Shoulder Patch and Advancement Check-Off Only” problem
- ❖ “ASM/Committee/Parents Monkey wrench” problem -- Scoutmaster being undermined
- ❖ Ineffective Scoutmaster
- ❖ Older scouts providing poor role models for leadership, citizenship, living Scout Oath and Law
- ❖ Poor activity planning, evaluation, and correction
- ❖ “Tradition” supersedes PLC vision and interest – not fun, of no purpose to boys, seems to be a “rut”
- ❖ Not clear who’s in charge of the patrol
- ❖ The “We’re on a schedule” problem – Adults want things to “march” at a “good” cadence