

How can your Scouts have an effective Troop Leadership Team?

The Troop Leadership Team, formerly known as the Court of Honour, is a forum for Scouts to make decisions regarding their program and Adventures. In Scouting, youth are led by youth and supported by Scouters.

The Troop Leadership Team is one of the key program components for successful youth development. Used effectively, the Troop Leadership Team builds youth leadership within the Troop.

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The Troop Leadership Team is made up of Patrol Leaders and Scouters, and is led by a Troop Leader (pretty clear terminology, right?). The Troop Leader is a youth, and should not be confused with adult Troop Scouters. The Troop Leader should be an experienced and accomplished Scout, but not necessarily the oldest Scout. Ideally, a Troop Leader will have already spent time on the Troop Leadership Team and served as a Patrol Leader, so he or she should be well-prepared for the role of Troop Leader. He or she can also take part in Scouts Canada's **Youth Leadership Training** to prepare for the role. Troop Leaders are selected early in the Scouting Year (that is, in the fall) from among the final-year Scouts by all of the Scouts in the Troop. The Troop Leader chairs the meetings of the Troop Leadership Team, inviting contributions from all of the Patrol Leaders and building consensus.

As a Scouter, you are part of the Troop Leadership Team, but it is important to support the Troop Leader so that the Troop is effectively Youth-led. Be patient, and let the Troop Leader grow into the role. Give the Troop Leadership Team plenty of time to generate its own ideas, and offer good advice to help make the youths' goals a reality. Adults should not outnumber the

youth at Troop Leadership Team meetings, and it's important to remember that the Two-Scouter Rule applies if the Leadership Team meets in another room or out of sight of the whole Troop.

The Troop Leadership Team uses the Plan-Do-Review process to make program decisions for the Troop, such as Troop goals and Adventures. The Team should meet at least monthly, and may meet informally as necessary—at a camp, for example.

The Troop Leader and the Troop Scouters should encourage the Patrol Leaders to be effective delegates for their Patrols. This means that Patrol Leaders collect ideas from their Patrols to share with the Troop Leadership Team, and share the decisions of the Troop Leadership Team with their Patrols. In this role, Patrol Leaders have an excellent opportunity to grow as strong leaders within the Troop—perhaps even growing into the role of Troop Leader.