Recognizing and Appreciating your “Behind the Scenes Leaders”

Time Available
10 minutes.

Learning Objectives
At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:
• Understand the importance of the behind the scene leaders.
• See that Troops cannot function without behind the scene leaders.
• Understand that part of recruiting troop leaders includes recognizing them for their help in maintaining the troop.
• Use different methods of recognition.
• Know where, and how to recognize leaders.

Suggested Presenter(s)
• Troop committee chair
• Member of troop committee
• Scoutmaster
• Commissioner

Presentation Method
Presenter facilitated discussion

BSA Reference Materials
• BSA Scout Store

Presentation Content

What are “behind the scenes troop leaders”?
• Few troops function with the minimum number of adult leaders: troop committee chair, two members of the troop committee, and a Scoutmaster. These leaders assist the troop in presenting the best program possible for the youth in the troop.

Who are the “behind the scenes troop leaders”?
• Examples include but are not limited to: advancement chair, popcorn chair, finance chair, transportation coordinator, and others.

Question: What are the roles of “behind the scenes leaders” in your troop?

Question: Based on these answers are there any additional leadership positions which would enhance your troop program?

Question: Is it possible to have too many leaders? If so, how should a troop handle this situation?

Summarize the answers

Recruiting troop leaders
• They need to be told the job description and length of time they will be expected to serve in this capacity.

Question: What techniques have you found successful in recruiting troop leaders?

Question: Where have you been most successful in recruiting new troop leaders: parents of youth in the troop, former Scouts, Eagle Scouts, members of the sponsoring organization, others?

Recognizing troop leaders
All adult leaders in the troop should be recognized for their role in presenting the best Scouting program to the youth in the troop. These include:
• Certificates of appreciation (Scout Shop or created by the Scouts in the troop) presented in a frame, so it can be displayed rather than just filed away in a drawer.
• Scout mugs
• Patches from an event where the Scouter participated.
• Memento made by a Scout(s) in the troop.
• Providing a steak dinner on Saturday night for the adults that attended the monthly camp out.

Question: How does your troop recognize adult leaders other than the Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster(s)?

Summarize the answers

Adult leaders should be recognized at a court-of-honor or another troop family event. If the adult will not be present at one of these events, they should be recognized at the last troop meeting they will be attending.

To make the recognition meaningful to the adult volunteer, it should be presented by a Scout(s).

Question: When has your troop recognized the adult leaders in the troop?

Question: Who presented the recognition to the adult leaders? If not a Scout(s) why not?

Summarize the answers

To maintain good leadership in the troop, they must be:
• Trained
• Trusted
• Turned loose
• Thanked!

Questions: Answer all questions to the best of your ability.