Troop Meeting Agenda: Group Instruction, Skills Instruction

Time Available

10 minutes.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

• Raise awareness of the Troop Meeting Plan Form
• Understand how to use group instruction and skill instruction

Suggested Presenter(s)

A Troop Instructor or Scoutmaster

Presentation Method

Discussion with handouts and videos; where technology allows

BSA Reference Materials

• Troop Meeting Planning Form
• Troop Meeting Agenda: Group Instruction
• Program Feature Classifications
• Troop Meeting Agenda: Skills Instruction

Presentation Content

Pass out printed copies of the Troop Meeting Planning Form

Much of Scouting is learning. Though, regularly the best learning takes place on occasions when Scouts are having fun and aren’t at all aware they’re learning anything. Periods set aside for relevant instruction are a fundamental part of a normal troop meeting.

What does your troop do pertaining to instruction during troop meetings?

Group Instruction

When it’s appropriate to feature a special presentation, revealing demonstration, or the introduction of a new skill that’s of interest to the entire troop, a period of group instruction can be included in the troop meeting agenda. Like regular periods of skills instruction, group instruction sessions can focus on topics relevant to an upcoming outing, monthly theme, or a merit badge. These kinds of sessions can be presented by adult or junior leaders, or by a visiting expert. Depending on its content, group instruction can be brief, or it can be scheduled to encompass the entire time devoted to the portion of the meeting dedicated to instruction.

View: Troop Meeting Agenda: Group Instruction

Skill Instruction

The Skills Instruction portion of a troop meeting can feature topics that are theme-related, rank-related, merit badge-related, or readiness-related as in preparing for a special activity, project, or event.

Since Scouts most always are of different ages with varying degrees of experience and levels of proficiency, during skills instruction, the troop generally divides into different groups. In Program Feature Classifications these groups are categorized by levels and termed: essential, challenging, and advanced. Often, the criteria for which instructional group Scouts attend is what will benefit them the most in accordance with their individual needs, as well as the needs of the troop.

Skills instruction sessions should be presented by well-prepared Scouts serving as troop instructors, adult Scout leaders, or outside authorities willing to share their knowledge with the troop.

As much as possible, instruction should be hands on and activity based.

View: Troop Meeting Agenda: Skills Instruction