



# Election Process for Youth Leaders

The following is a suggested process for running elections. It includes steps to be conducted weeks before the Election. These are outlined below in a separate section. A short description of the election process is found in the Troop Guide for Parents and Scouts and show below.

## A Brief Description of the Process

The following is obtained from the Troop Guide for Parents and Scouts.

All youth members of the Troop elect the Senior Patrol Leader. The Senior Patrol Leader will appoint his Assistant Senior Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster. All other positions (Den Chief, Quartermaster, Scribe, Troop Historian, Librarian, Instructor, Troop Guide, *OA Representative*, etc.) are appointed by the Senior Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster. Neither the Senior Patrol Leader nor his assistant remains in a patrol after he takes office, but other troop positions as indicated above do continue as patrol members.

The Patrol Leader is elected by the youth members of his Patrol. The Patrol Leader will appoint his Assistant Patrol Leader with the approval of the Scoutmaster. Like any other patrol, the new Scout patrol elects a patrol leader, who will attend patrol leaders' council meetings and have a vote. He should serve only a short time, however, so that other new Scouts can share in the leadership experience. Each patrol of new Scouts is under the supervision of an older Scout called a troop guide.

The Scoutmaster and the Senior Patrol Leader are responsible for conducting troop junior leader training shortly after each troop election (usually held every 6 months).

## Prior to Elections

1. Weeks prior to elections the **PLC reviews the Election Process** during the PLC meeting.
2. Identify scouts needing a leadership position to obtain the next rank (Star, Life, and Eagle).
3. An announcement of the upcoming Elections is advertized to Parents and Scouts by both email and during upcoming meetings. The "Leadership Position Application" is distributed to scouts either at Troop Meeting or via email. This should occur one to two weeks prior to the election date.
4. Prior to Elections, the scout applies for a position by filling out the "Leadership Position Application".  
The scout indicates his preference for up to three positions.
5. Once "Leadership Position Application" nominations are received back from candidates, future patrols membership positions should be considered. Since Patrol Leaders are elected by their patrols, Patrol Leader candidates can be spread across future patrol membership assignments. See the section below on Patrols and Patrol Leaders. Those patrol assignments do not have to be finalized prior to elections.

## Elections Process

### Senior Patrol Leader

1. Present the Senior Patrol Leader Responsibilities, Qualification Requirements, Performance Requirements, and recommended training to the entire troop. Included is defining his responsibility to appoint the following positions in the following order later during this process.
  - a. Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, with the approval of the Scoutmaster.
  - b. Troop Historian,
  - c. Librarian,
  - d. Quartermaster,
  - e. Scribe
2. Scouts declare their candidacy for the position of Senior Patrol Leader and explain why they want the job and why they feel they are the best candidate for the position.
3. The Troop Elects the Senior Patrol Leader by secret ballot.

## **Assistant Senior Patrol leader – Appointed by Senior Patrol Leader**

4. Scouts declare their candidacy for the position of Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and explain why they want the job and why they feel they are the best candidate for the position. They may also express their need to fill a leadership position to fulfill requirements for rank advancement.
5. The Senior Patrol Leader appoints the ASPL. Should this be done immediately?

## **Patrols and Patrol Leaders**

Note: It is important for patrol leaders to be selected next and prior to other officer positions. This promotes strong leaders for each patrol because they currently have not yet been selected for another position. It also provides discretionary selection of other officers by the SPL based on the scout's needs to hold a leadership position for rank advancement requirements.

6. Since patrol leaders are selected by their patrol, the patrol membership must be organized selected. Hints to this process can be found in a chapter "All about Patrols" in the Scoutmaster Handbook. At this time the dynamics of patrols should be discussed so the scouts understand their options and make an educated choice during the organization process. Some important factors and options are presented below. More than one option should be considered:
  - f. Option to evenly balance the patrols with variety of skill sets contained in each patrol. This option promotes fair competition between patrols.
  - g. Evenly balanced patrols with a similar number of active and less active scouts in each patrol. This balanced approach promotes participation of all scouts in a patrol and avoids the situation where scouts show up to a meeting or outing and no one else from their patrol is present.
  - h. Establishing "Best Friends" Patrols. Discussing the pros and cons of this option.
  - i. Scoutmaster and SPL can discuss with the troop a suggested organization of predefined patrols and the appointment of the ASPL. Any final changes are made at this time.
7. Elections continue as follows.
8. Members of each patrol elect their patrol leader
9. Patrol leaders appoint the Assistant Patrol Leader.

## **Chaplain Aide**

10. Scouts declare their candidacy for the position of Chaplain Aide and explain why they want the job and why they feel they are the best candidate for the position. They may also express their need to fill a leadership position to fulfill requirements for rank advancement.
11. The Troop elects the Chaplain Aide.

## **Bugler**

12. Scouts declare their candidacy for the position of Bugler and explain why they want the job and why they feel they are the best candidate for the position. They may also express their need to fill a leadership position to fulfill requirements for rank advancement.
13. The Troop elects the Bugler.

## **Order of the Arrow Representative**

14. Scouts declare their candidacy for the position of Order of the Arrow Representative and explain why they want the job and why they feel they are the best candidate for the position. They may also express their need to fill a leadership position to fulfill requirements for rank advancement.
15. The Troop elects the Order of the Arrow Representative or he is appointed by the SPL and approved by the Scoutmaster.

## **Appointments by the Senior Patrol Leader**

Note: The actual appointment process for the following positions may not have to be executed in the same evening as the election of the Senior Patrol Leader. You may want him to have time to evaluate the candidates for each position and make the decision to be announced at the next meeting. It is suggested that candidates for the appointed positions declare their candidacy on or before the same night as the elections.

### **Troop Historian**

1. Scouts declare their candidacy for Troop Historian and explain why they want the job and why they feel they are the best candidate for the position. They may also express their need to fill a leadership position to fulfill requirements for rank advancement.
2. The Senior Patrol Leader appoints the Troop Historian

### **Troop Librarian**

3. Scouts declare their candidacy for Troop Librarian and explain why they want the job and why they feel they are the best candidate for the position. They may also express their need to fill a leadership position to fulfill requirements for rank advancement.
4. The Senior Patrol Leader appoints the Troop Librarian

### **Quartermaster**

5. Scouts declare their candidacy for Quartermaster and explain why they want the job and why they feel they are the best candidate for the position. They may also express their need to fill a leadership position to fulfill requirements for rank advancement.
6. The Senior Patrol Leader appoints the Quartermaster

### **Scribe**

7. Scouts declare their candidacy for Scribe and explain why they want the job and why they feel they are the best candidate for the position. They may also express their need to fill a leadership position to fulfill requirements for rank advancement.
8. The Senior Patrol Leader appoints the Scribe

## **Appointments by the Scoutmaster**

**Junior Assistant Scoutmaster**

**Den Chief**

**Instructor**

**Troop Guide**

Note: All positions listed here including elected or appointed positions can server toward meeting leadership position advancement requirements for Star, Life, and Eagle.