

**Narragansett Council, BSA**  
**September 2021 Scouts BSA Breakout Talking Points**

***Welcome to the Troop***

- Although a Scouts BSA troop should be youth led it still requires a variety of adult leaders who work together to make the Scouting program work. This group includes:
  - the charter organization representative;
  - a troop committee, lead by a committee chair;
  - a Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmasters.
- An organization that partners with the BSA to provide the Scouting program is called a chartered organization. Each Scouts BSA troop is required to have one.

The chartered organization adopts the Scouting program and provides a meeting place or assists in securing one in addition to other resources. A qualified chartered organization must share the values of Scouting and may not use Scouting for political or special interest purposes.

This partnership is often mutually beneficial when it is the goal of the chartered organization to serve its own youth membership or youth in the community.

A charter organization representative is selected by the head of the chartered organization to serve as the point of contact for the troop and provide direct support to the troop from the chartered organization.

Who is your chartered organization? How does it help you?

[Possible answers: a church; a fraternal organization; a business; a school PTO.]

[Helps with: approving leaders; providing a place to meet; provide a place to store equipment; may provide some funding.]

Do you know your charter organization representative (COR)? How often do you meet with them?

The COR is part of the troop Key 3 and should maintain a close working relationship with the committee chair and Scoutmaster.

- Every troop is required to have a committee. At a minimum, a troop committee has a committee chair, treasurer, and secretary. Successful troops actively recruit as many parents as possible to serve on the committee.

The new member coordinator, activities coordinator, equipment coordinator, and advancement coordinator are official positions on the committee. (You can find position descriptions for these and other positions in the *Troop Committee Guidebook*.)

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How many members do you have on your troop committee? What other positions do you have on your troop committee?

What is the role of the troop committee?

[Possible answers: membership recruitment; purchasing of equipment, supplies and recognition items; handles administrative tasks such as managing BSA registration for youth and adults; tracking of youth advancement; securing permits and locations for youth selected activities; fundraising; recruit adult volunteers]

- The Scoutmaster is the adult responsible for the image and program of the troop, working directly with the youth to do so.

What is the role of the Scoutmaster?

[Coach / guide / mentor the youth leadership as they plan and lead the troop meetings and activities.]

Assistant Scoutmasters, as the name implies, assists the Scoutmaster in the conduct of the troop program and are assigned specific program duties.

- One could argue that the most important leadership position in the troop is not that of an adult but is the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). They are elected by their peers and run the Patrol Leaders' Council to set the program for troop meetings and activities.

The SPL, in consultation with the Scoutmaster, assigns responsibilities as needed and appoints other troop youth leaders (except the junior assistant Scoutmasters).

How long does an SPL serve in your troop? How many assistant SPLs does your troop allow?

- Troop organization
  - Regardless of the size or make up of a troop, they all share the same general organizational structure. (See attached sample.)
  - All troops are single gender (boy or girl).
  - The number of patrols in a troop is dictated by the number of Scouts within the troop. Patrols should have from 5-8 Scouts.
    - Basically three types of patrols—a new-Scout patrol, a traditional patrol, an older-Scout patrol

What types of patrols does your troop use?

How many Scouts do you have in your patrols? If more than 8 why?

How many ASMs does your troop have? What duties are they assigned?

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- For general discussion:
  - Even though a troop is youth led and run, why is it important to involve as many adults as possible in the leadership of the troop?
  - How long do you wait before asking the adults in a new family to get involved in the troop?

[If the discussions have run their course let the participants bring up Scouting topics for general discussion. Guide and monitor the discussions to try and give everyone a chance to speak.]

*Next month we will take a closer look at the committee and how it supports the program.*

# Sample Troop Organization Chart

