

# Troop 43 Job Descriptions – SPL



## Senior Patrol Leader

**Job Description:** The Senior Patrol Leader is elected by the Scouts to represent them as the top junior leader in the troop. This is the most important position in the troop and requires a commitment by the SPL to do the job right. Mistakes are forgivable but lack of effort and lack of commitment are not if you are going to have a quality troop.

- Reports to: **The Scoutmaster**
- Minimum Rank: **Star**
- Minimum Time in Troop: **2 yr**
- Prerequisite Offices: **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader or Patrol Leader**
- Elected by: **Troop at Large**
- Term/Limitations: **6 months/1 year**

### Senior Patrol Leader Duties:

- Runs all troop meetings, events, activities, and the annual program planning conference. This means that the SPL must command the respect of others and be able to provide leadership through his words and actions. He is not a "boss" but a "leader" of scouts and activities.
- Runs the patrol leaders' council meetings. This means planning and following an agenda and a meeting schedule, getting time-consuming tasks completed before the meeting so the meeting isn't a "workshop", and having copies of an agenda for other PLC members. The SPL should try to guide the Troop in the way that is best for the Troop as a whole. "Homework" is required to do this job right!
- Appoints other junior leaders with the advice and counsel of the Scoutmaster. This means consulting with the Scoutmaster before announcing any appointments! Help give other scouts opportunities to develop.
- Assigns duties and responsibilities to other youth leaders. Along with this goes the monitoring of assigned duties to see that they are getting done. If they aren't, then corrective action needs to be taken, whether it's a change of plan, better tools, more people, different people, some coaching, etc. Help give other scouts opportunities to grow, and expect the tasks to be done. Don't EXPECT what you aren't willing to INSPECT.
- Assists the Scoutmaster with youth leader training. Make sure that the Patrols are functioning properly and help coach the Patrol Leaders to improve the way the Patrols are working.
- Sets a good example. This is extremely important! It applies to the way the SPL leads and coaches the Scouts, respects other people, behaves and conveys his personal standards. Seeking continuous improvement for the troop is a good goal! Don't settle

for the minimum! Enthusiasm for Scouting and troop activities is a must! More than any other scout, the SPL sets the "tone" for the troop. Mature behavior and leadership are expected. The SPL should expect to work more and "play" less than the other scouts.

- Enthusiastically wears the Scout uniform correctly. Not only wearing the uniform neatly and correctly himself, but assuring that other scouts in the troop are doing so as well. This can be done by informal feedback to scouts on a regular basis (as you see scouts at weekly meetings) and occasionally (once during your term) a more formal "inspection".
- Lives by the Scout Oath and Law. Also the Outdoor Code and makes sure that other scouts in the troop learn to live by these as well.
- Shows and helps develop Scout spirit. This really means living up to the ideals of Scouting, including the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Outdoor Code, etc. as well as trying to be a friend to all in the Troop.
- Attends most Scout meetings and camping trips.