



Troop 61 Newsletter

March 2012



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OUTHOUSE



**CAUTION
POISON IVY**

Patrols are the building blocks of a Boy Scout troop. A patrol is a small group of boys who are similar in age, development, and interests. Working together as a team, patrol members share the responsibility for the patrol's success. They gain confidence by serving in positions of patrol leadership. All patrol members enjoy the friendship, sense of belonging, and achievements of the patrol and of each of its members.

A patrol takes pride in its identity, and the members strive to make their patrol the best it can be. Patrols will sometimes join with other patrols to learn skills and complete advancement requirements. At other times they will compete against those same patrols in Scout skills and athletic competitions.

The members of each patrol elect one of their own to serve as patrol leader.

Patrol Activities

Most patrol activities take place within the framework of the troop. However, patrols may also conduct day hikes and service projects independent of the troop, as long as they follow two rules:



- The Scoutmaster approves the activity.
- The patrol activity does not interfere with any troop function.



Patrol Spirit

Patrol spirit is the glue that holds the patrol together and keeps it going. Building patrol spirit takes time, because it is shaped by a patrol's experiences—good and bad. Often misadventures such as enduring a thunderstorm or getting lost in the woods will contribute much in pulling a patrol together. Many other elements also will help build patrol spirit. Creating a patrol identity and traditions will help build each patrol member's sense of belonging.

Every patrol needs a good name. Usually, the patrol chooses its name from nature, a plant or animal, or something that makes the patrol unique. A patrol might choose an object for its outstanding quality. For example, sharks are strong swimmers and buffaloes love to roam. The patrol may want to add an adjective to spice up the patrol name, such as the Soaring Hawks or the Rambunctious Raccoons.



A patrol flag is the patrol's trademark, and it should be a good one. Have a competition to see who comes up with the best design and who is the best artist. Make the flag out of a heavy canvas and use permanent markers to decorate it. In addition to the patrol name, the patrol flag should have the troop number on it as well as the names of all the patrol members. Mount the flag on a pole, which also can be decorated. Remember, the patrol flag should go wherever the patrol goes.

Every patrol has a patrol yell, which should be short and snappy. Choose words that fit the patrol's goals. Use the yell to announce to other patrols that your patrol is ready to eat or has won a patrol competition. Some patrols also have a patrol song.

Other patrol traditions include printing the patrol logo on the chuck box and other patrol property. Many troops designate patrol corners somewhere in the troop meeting room; patrols may decorate their corner in their own special way. Some patrols like to specialize in doing something extremely well, such as cooking peach cobbler or hobo stew.

Don't forget the college
basketball brackets!!

You can go to


<http://espn.go.com/mens->

[college-](http://espn.go.com/mens-)

[basketball/tournament/bracket](http://espn.go.com/mens-)

to make and print your bracket

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Read Across America Day/ Dr. Seuss's Birthday	3
4 PLC Meeting	5 Meeting, Court of Honor	6	7	8 Purim	9	10 Chuck Norris's Birthday
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins	12 Meeting	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patricks Day 
18	19 Meeting	20 First Day of Spring	21 Troop Committee Meeting	22	23 Baltimore Aquarium & Aberdeen Campground	24 Baltimore Aquarium & Aberdeen Campground
25 Baltimore Aquarium & Aberdeen Campground	26 Meeting	27	28	29	30	31

TROOP WEB SITE

If you forgot our calendar of outings, or if you want to see pictures of recent camping trips or even Eagle Projects, you should go to

<http://www.pack61eastbrunswick.org/Troop61/troop61.html>

The Troop Newsletters are also posted there. -
Mr. Weibel

Remember, scouts holding leadership positions must send in articles monthly.

Please tell me any comments that you have.

- Evan B.