



Grump Patrol Manual

Troop 14

Sebastopol, California

“The Patrol Method is not ONE method in which Scouting for boys can be carried on. It is the ONLY method!”

S Lord Robert Baden-Powell,
the founder of Scouting.

Like all well-run Boy Scout troops, Troop 14 runs on the “patrol method.”

The Patrol Method

Some say that a Boy Scout troop is divided into patrols. This is not really true. The best troops are made of patrols that come together as a troop.

“The formation of the boys into Patrols of from six to eight and training them as separate units each under its own responsible leader is the key to a good Troop.”

S Lord Robert Baden-Powell, 1888

The patrol provides each boy with a “home,” an identity and some close comrades, if not close friends. Each patrol has its own name, symbol and call.

Meetings are run by patrol and outings, especially, are run by patrol. We hike by patrol, we eat by patrol, we do camp chores by patrol and we sleep by patrol.

“The Patrol is the unit of Scouting always, whether for work or for play, for discipline and for duty.

An invaluable step in character training is to put responsibility on to the individual. This is immediately gained in appointing a Patrol Leader to responsible command of his Patrol. It is up to him to take hold of and to develop the qualities of each boy in his Patrol. It sounds like a big order, but in practice it works.

Then, through emulation and competition between Patrols, you produce a Patrol spirit which is eminently satisfactory, since it raises the tone among the boys and develops a higher standard of efficiency all around. Each boy in the Patrol realises that he is in himself a responsible unit and that the honour of his group depends in some degree upon his own ability in playing the game.”

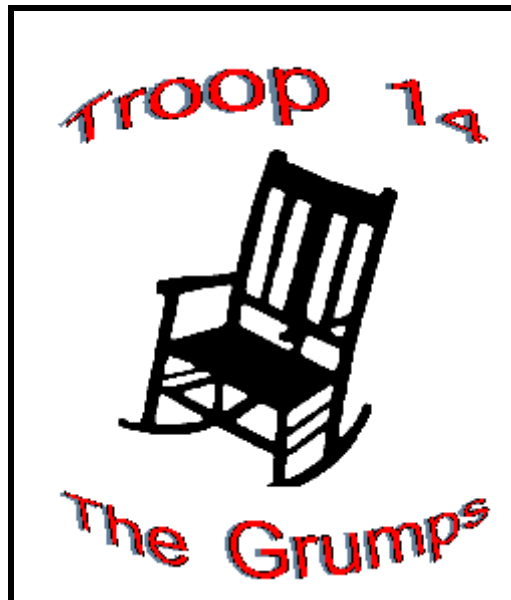
S Lord Robert Baden-Powell

The Grump Patrol

Troop 14 has formed the adult registered leaders into the Grump Patrol. To the extent possible, the Grumps act just like one of the boy patrols. We have our own patrol flag. We have our own patrol yell. We take part in inter-patrol competitions. We plan our own menus. We purchase our own food. We cook our own meals. We have our own duty roster. We have our own patrol camping area. Etc.

If you come along on one of our outings, you, too, will be a member of the Grump Patrol. That will be your identity and function on the outing. You will be a Grump, not a father, a mother, a brother or a sister. You will be a Grump.

The Grump Flag looks like this:



Our Patrol yell is: "We're old. We're tired. We're GRUMPS!" (As the situation calls for it, the Grump Patrol Leader may add other elements to the yell from time to time.)

The Chain of Command

The teaching of leadership is one of the most important goals of the Boy Scouting movement. We take this very seriously. Each patrol is led by an elected Patrol Leader. The troop is led by a Senior Patrol Leader. The adults' role is to support, train and provide overall supervision to the boy leaders.

Troop 14 prides itself on being a truly "boy led troop." Our program, meetings and outings are planned by and led by the Patrol Leaders' Council, which consists of the Senior Patrol Leader, the Patrol Leaders and some other boys in leadership positions. No adult is a member of or has a vote in the Patrol Leaders' Council. On our outings, each patrol is led by its Patrol Leader and the troop is led by the Senior Patrol Leader. The Scoutmaster is doing his job best if he is seen to be doing the very least. He is only to "step in" when there are serious safety issues or breaches of Boy Scout policies.

Are the boys expert leaders? Of course not. For many, this is their very first opportunity to lead. They will make mistakes. There will be poor decisions made. There will be delays in making decisions. This is to be expected and respected. This is all part of the learning process.

Our outings could be much better led, if the adults would make the decisions. Things would go smoother and be more efficient. However, the boys would not only lose the opportunity to learn leadership, they would also lose interest and the troop would become nothing more than a group of adults who go camping together.

One of the most important things that you, as a Grump, can do to support the boy leaders is to respect them and follow the "chain of command." You will taking your direction from the Grump Patrol leader. If you have a problem, question or concern, that is the person whom you should consult. He, in turn, will go to the Senior Patrol Leader or, if appropriate, the Scoutmaster. What you should not do, is to use your inherent authority as an adult or parent to give direction or orders to any Scout, even your son. This undermines the authority of and respect for that Scout's Patrol Leader.

We understand that this is not an easy thing to do. The uniformed leader Grumps will be happy to discuss these issues with you, either theoretically or as they arise.

Of course, if there is a life-threatening situation and you cannot summon a uniformed adult leader to intervene, please act to stop the threat. However, as soon as possible, allow the troop's leadership structure to take command of the situation. For instance, if you see a Scout seriously misusing his pocketknife, we would encourage you to tell him to stop. Then, you should report the incident as soon possible to the Grump Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster or Senior Patrol Leader. Please allow the leaders to determine how the Scout's actions should best be addressed.

Grump Patrol Functions

The Grump Patrol, like the other patrols, is a team. All of the Grumps have to work together for us to accomplish our mission and attain our goal.

What is the mission of the Grumps?

We are a demonstration patrol that provides an example of leadership, cooperation and efficiency to the boy patrols. Along the way, we have to make and break camp, cook our food, clean our camp and ourselves and safely travel to our next destination.

To do this, we have to come together as a team and each do our part to lead to the success of the Grump Patrol.

Like the other patrols, the Grump Patrol has a duty roster, which shows which Grumps have which duty for each day. The Patrol Leader will create and post the duty roster. If you are physically unable to perform one of these tasks, please let the Patrol Leader know as soon as possible. If you are unsure how to perform your duty, simply ask for assistance and guidance. Another Grump will surely help. For instance, if you are the day's Head Cook and do not know how to cook, the Asst. Cook and other Grumps will offer detailed advice and instructions. The cooking, however, is yours and your opportunity to grow into a new skill. (Don't worry. As Grumps love to eat, we simply won't allow you to fail too badly.)

The duties involved are usually as follows:

- Head Cook** - In charge of preparation of patrol meals.
- Asst. Cook** - Assists the Head Cook in the preparation of patrol meals.
- Water** - In charge of making sure that the Cook and K.P. staff have sufficient water for cooking and cleaning and that the Fireman has sufficient water for dousing any fire.
- Fireman** - In charge of building, lighting, maintaining and completely dousing any fire.
- Head K.P.** - In charge of setting up the kitchen supplies for the Cook staff and in cleaning up the kitchen and the patrol cooking gear.
- Asst. K.P.** - Assists the Head K.P. with setting up the kitchen supplies for the Cook staff and in cleaning up the kitchen and the patrol cooking gear.
- Gofer** - Is available to assist any of the above-mentioned, or the Patrol Leader, with their tasks.

In addition, each Grump is responsible for cleaning their own personal mess gear, including plates, cups and eating utensils. (NOTE: This is NOT part of the K.P. staff's job.) Also, each Grump is responsible for keeping their own personal gear in order and their tent clean and neat. The Grump Patrol expects to beat every other patrol in camp inspections, or at least to drive them to major efforts if they are to beat us once in awhile. To do this, all Grumps must take their responsibility seriously.

Ceremonial Duties and Uniforming

Troop 14 travels in "Class A" uniforms, which consist of the tan Boy Scout uniform shirt, Boy Scout pants (or shorts), Boy Scout belt and Boy Scout socks. Boy Scout hats are allowed, but non-Scout hats are not. Additionally, we have morning and evening flag ceremonies. When we are in a "car camping" or permanent Scout camp situation, Class A uniforms are required for flag ceremonies and at least some meals.

If you are not a registered Scout or Scout leader, you are not required to (or authorized to) wear the Boy Scout Class A uniform.

When not in Class A uniforms, we expect the Scouts and Scout leaders to wear "Class B" uniforms, which consist of a Scout t-shirt, along with the Scout pants, belt and socks of the Class A uniform. Depending upon the activity involved (like backpacking or heavy labor during a service project), the troop may decide to allow non-Scout pants and socks to be worn.

If you are a uniformed member of another Scouting movement, please wear your movement's Class A, or equivalent, uniform when Class A uniforms are appropriate. Otherwise, we expect you to be in as close an approximation of the Class B uniform as you can during those times when either uniform is required. The Scout t-shirt can be of any type and may be available at the Council Trading Post in Santa Rosa. We would prefer, however, that you obtain one (or more) of our Troop 14 t-shirts, which have the Scout logo and "Troop 14" embroidered on them. They can be purchased from the Troop Treasurer. As for pants, shorts (or skirt), please try to wear comfortable olive-drab or dark green "civilian" versions. The idea is to "blend in" and to look like you belong to the troop, because you do.

During flag ceremonies, you will line up in formation with the rest of the Grump Patrol. When the call for "Scout salute" is given, please simply place your right hand over your heart (unless you are in another Scouting movement's Class A uniform, in which case you may use your Scouting movement's flag salute). Also, you will participate in the ceremonies by joining in on the Grump Patrol yell and any other matters at the request of the Grump Patrol Leader.

“Law of the Camp”

As with all permanent or temporary Boy Scout camps, the Law of the Camp on Troop 14 outings is the Scout Law.

A Scout is **Trustworthy**

S We trust each other and we work at being worthy of that trust. We tell the truth and we live up to our responsibilities. Our honor is our most valued and treasured possession.

A Scout is **Loyal**

S We are loyal to our Patrol and to our Troop.

A Scout is **Helpful**

S We pitch in to help the other members of our Patrol.

A Scout is **Friendly**

S We are a friend to all other Scouts. We strive to be worthy of that friendship.

A Scout is **Courteous**

S We treat others as we wish to be treated.

A Scout is **Kind**

S We are kind to each other, to other people and to animals.

A Scout is **Obedient**

- We follow the directions of our leaders, including our Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster.

A Scout is **Cheerful**

S We take to our duties with a smile (or at least without complaint).

A Scout is **Thrifty**

S While we strive to live up to the Boy Scout motto, “Be Prepared,” we make do with what we have and avoid waste.

A Scout is **Brave**

S We face challenges head on, whether these challenges be a physical obstacles, new skills that need to be learned or a moral stands that need to be taken.

A Scout is **Clean**

S We keep our bodies and clothes clean, to the extent possible on outings. More importantly, we keep our morals and values clean.

A Scout is **Reverent**

S We respect each other's religious beliefs and provide an opportunity for religious observance on our outings.

Your Responsibilities As a Parent

Troop 14 does not allow parents to go on outings.

So, if your son is in Troop 14 and you are going on an outing, it must be in some other capacity than as a parent. That capacity is as a Grump.

Boy Scouting is a wonderful, if not the best, way for a boy to become a young man and then become an adult. When going on an outing, it is his opportunity to operate outside the confines of his family. His patrol and troop provide the structure for his actions.

If a boy's "parent" is always there, he does not have this opportunity to grow. He becomes confused as to whether he is to look to his Patrol Leader or to his parent for direction.

Instead, you must step out of your role as a parent. We know that this is hard, especially if you are a good parent. The uniformed Grumps have all gone through this and are quite willing to assist. Rather than giving correction to your son, mention something to another Grump and we will take the appropriate action.

As the parent of a Scout, the best thing you can do for him is to allow him to have the same experience and accomplish the same growth as his patrol mates who do not have parents along on the outing. Your son will appreciate you for this.

In practical terms, this means that you should not "hang out" with our son. You certainly will not be sharing a tent with your son. (On RARE occasions, the Scoutmaster may allow you to share a tent with your son, but that would involve serious health and safety reasons.) Grumps stick together (as do the other patrols), so you should plan on spending your "free" time in the company of other Grumps.

However, if you are the parent of a non-Scout on the outing, you are still responsible for “parenting” and supervising your non-Scout child. Your non-Scout child will be a Grump, along with you, and may share your tent. Please read the following “If Your Brother is a Scout” section and discuss it with your non-Scout child.

Youth Protection Training

Any adult who accompanies us on any overnight outing is required to have current (within three years) B.S.A. Youth Protection Training (“YPT”). YPT is offered either in person at the Scout Service Center in Santa Rosa (third Thursday of each month, call 546-8137) or on-line at <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/ypt/ypt.jsp>. YPT is free! There’s also a link at www.scouttroop14.org.

If Your Brother is a Scout

If you are coming on an outing because your brother is a Scout, we welcome you. However, just like your parent, you will be a Grump and will be expected to do your share of work with and for the Grump Patrol. Yes, even kids are on the duty roster.

This does not mean that you cannot have fun with your brother. It is just that you will be “hanging” with the Grumps, rather than your brother’s patrol.

Troop 14 practices the “buddy system.” This means that no one leaves the place where the troop is by themselves. They must always have a buddy and tell a leader where they are going. Usually, your parent will be your buddy, but even they must tell a leader where the two of you are going.

Prohibited or Restricted Activities

Asides from the obvious, such as illegal activities, no one on a Scout outing may possess or consume alcoholic beverages. Firearms and ammunition may only be possessed or used with the permission of the adult leaders and only within strict confines for certain activities. Smoking or other use of tobacco is severely discouraged. If you feel that you must use tobacco, a place and time for that may be arranged by the Grump Patrol Leader.

Because you are on a Scout outing, you are not free to “wander off.” The Grump Patrol Leader is responsible for you, so he (or she) must know where you are, what you are doing and when you are expected to return. If you need to leave the group, even temporarily, be sure that the Grump Patrol Leader knows.

Also, our Boy Scout insurance policy does NOT cover non-registered adults or youth, even though we are treating you as a member of the Grump Patrol. Please be sure to have your liability and medical coverage information with you.

What's In It For You?

Troop 14 has a saying. "The same boy NEVER returns from an outing." By that, we mean that we want each outing to add to the development and growth of the Scout. We try to make sure that each Scout is presented with a challenge. For instance, a new Scout may be challenged by having to take his turn cooking his patrol a dinner, even though he has never cooked before. An older, experienced Scout may be challenged by having to teach skills to a young Scout. Everyone may be challenged by a night hike without the use of flashlights.

In sum, we want to "stretch" each Scout on each outing.

We want to challenge you and give you an opportunity to grow, whether you are an adult or another kid. For instance, if you are a kid (and not a Boy Scout already) you will have an experience very similar to the Scouts in our troop. If you are an adult, you will have an opportunity to "play" at being a Boy Scout and can learn some of the things Boy Scouts do. Other Grumps will be happy to share their knowledge of Scouting and Scouting skills with you.

In either case, we hope that you will make new friends or deepen existing friendships within the Grumps. If something is not going right for you, be sure to let the Grump Patrol Leader know. He or she should be looking out for the well-being of all the Grumps.

As Scouting founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell put it,

"My ideal camp is where everyone is cheery and busy, where the patrols are kept intact under all circumstances, and where every patrol leader and Scout takes a genuine pride in his camp and his gadgets."

Camping (and other outings) offer a unique opportunity for each patrol really to develop as a team. It is not only an opportunity to work together in developing team skills, but it also provides the chance to learn more about each other and to use that knowledge to excel. We expect all patrols in Troop 14, even the Grumps, to have a "mountain top" experience and to take full advantage of the opportunity this experience provides.

The Grump Oath

On my honor, I promise:

S to do my best,

S to do my duty to the Grump Patrol,

S and to live up to the expectations and responsibilities of being a Grump.

Date

Name

