

Practical Problem Solving

1. You have a new Patrol Leader who refuses to cooperate with others on the Patrol Leader's Council. He is very popular with members of his Patrol. Whenever he doesn't get his way, he acts up and disrupts the entire meeting. His father is an Assistant Scoutmaster and is always at every meeting (and often volunteers for every camping trip) and he is quick to defend his son and raise objections whenever you try to correct his son's behavior. The Scoutmaster doesn't seem to notice what is happening. What do you do with the Scout? The parent? The Scoutmaster?
2. During a campout, a Scout complains about being placed on kitchen cleanup (again). When told by his Patrol Leader that "we all have to pull our weight to get things done" he begins to yell at the leader. Eventually angry words between the two leads to shoving. A hot stove gets knocked over but no one is hurt. You rush into the situation and separate the two only a moment before punches were about to be thrown. Both boys are now very angry and yelling at one another. You are a brand new Senior Patrol Leader and anxious to prove yourself worthy of the task. The Scoutmaster has always trusted you to do the right thing but has always been there to back you up, but now he is nowhere to be seen. Tempers are flaring up again and you have to act alone. What do you do? How do you approach the situation?
3. Over a period of several months, personal items are missing (not lost) during camping trips. Finally, on a trip it becomes apparent to you that there is a thief in the troop. When you raise the issue with the Patrol Leader's Council, two of your Patrol Leaders confide to you that they believe a certain Scout has been taking things. You are concerned about the information because the Scout in question is a new boy who doesn't seem to fit in well with the group and has been the target of some jokes and pranks by the two Patrol Leaders bringing this information to you. How do you approach the problem?
4. You return to camp early one day from merit badge class while all the other Scouts are still out. While walking through the campsite you notice one of the tents has been left open so you go over to close it. As you do, you see adult magazines of a XXX nature partly exposed and partly concealed in a Scout's sleeping bag. You realize this is the tent of the Senior Patrol Leader. What do you do?

5. You are a new Patrol Leader. You ran for the position unopposed largely because no one else in the patrol was interested in holding the position. The Scoutmaster was very supportive of your taking on this position and you are anxious to prove to him you are capable. The Senior Patrol is also counting on you to orchestrate activities for the upcoming WEBELOS night. Things did not go well at the last troop meeting and because the boys in your patrol could not (would not) focus you got very little accomplished. You have called a patrol meeting at your home to finish planning for the big event. A few of the boys show up late (which you were somewhat grateful for because you yourself had not thought through fully what needs to happen). You 'stumble' briefly then as you begin the meeting. Almost immediately interest wanes and the boys again lose focus and begin to talk to one another about school, friends, movies, etc. The minutes tick by without anything happening and you realize that if you don't do something soon the entire hour will be gone and so too will be your fellow Scouts. What can you do (do you do) to recover and take back control over the meeting?

6. You have appointed a senior Scout to serve as Troop Guide to the new Scout Patrol. There is one Scout who simply doesn't fit in and is the butt of jokes by the other boys. You observe your Troop Guide also joins in the jokes at the boy's expense as a way of building a relationship with the rest of the Patrol. What do you do? What is your responsibility to the one out-of-place youth? What is your response to the Troop Guide? You are on a camping trip in the back country with eight Scouts and two adults. That night you see one of the adult get a flask of liquor from his pack and begin to drink when he believes no one else is watching. When he notices you he tells you it's nothing, explains it's just a 'night cap' and there is no reason to be concerned. You like the leader a lot. He is well thought of in the Troop and highly regarded by the boys. What do you do?

7. You see two fellow Scouts off by themselves. You think you smell smoke, but you can't be sure. Later that evening, another Scout tells you that the first two Scouts have cigarettes and are smoking when they think no one is around. These are two of your very best friends. The three of you have been together since you were in Tiger Cubs and all of you are soon to be Eagle Scouts (all that remains is for the three of you is to pass your Board of Review). The Troop has some very strict policies on smoking that include suspension. If you bring this to the attention of the Scoutmaster both friends are certain to be suspended and with their 18th birthday approaching would be unlikely to be readmitted to the Troop in time to meet their Eagle Board before turning 18. What do you do? Still later that evening, one of the two confides to you that he wasn't smoking cigarettes, but a drug. What do you do now?

8. You are a new Patrol Leader and anxious to prove yourself to the Scoutmaster as capable and up to the task. You are the District Klondike Derby. It's really cold and snow begins to fall just as the patrol competition gets underway. Several members of your patrol are complaining that the patrol never does particularly well at these competitions anyway and that you should just give it up now and retire to the comfort of the dining hall where it is warm. They have become quite vocal in their opposition to continuing with the competition to the point where they have become disruptive whenever you arrive at a new station and its bringing your score down. It's a familiar situation and one you have seen in previous district events (you would often go silently along with it even though you felt wrong doing so). It's different now, though; you are the Patrol Leader. What do you do now? How do you change the dynamic in your Patrol and Troop so that this does not continue to happen?