

**The Importance  
of the  
Troop Committee**

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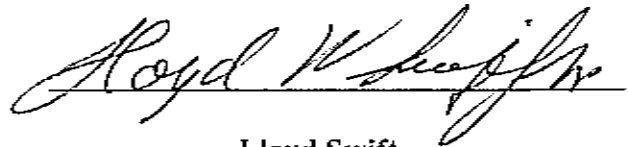
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To the Graduate Council, I am submitting herewith a thesis written by Clyde H. Hartley titled "The Importance of the Troop Committee". I have examined the final copy of this thesis for form and content. I recommend that this thesis be accepted in partial fulfillment of requirements for Doctor of Commissioner Science.

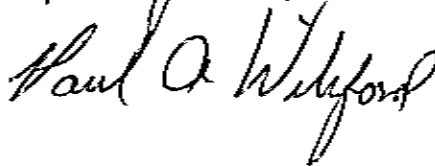

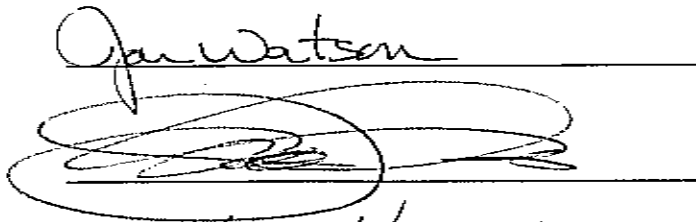


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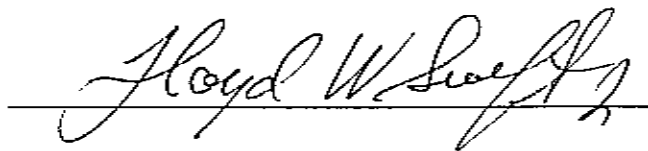
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We have read this thesis and recommend it's acceptance.



Accepted for Council:



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## **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

**It is the purpose of this paper to provide Committee Chairmen, Charter Organizations, Charter Representatives, and Scoutmasters a real in-depth view of the importance of a Troop Committee to help make the troop run more smoothly, and to help prevent burnout by the volunteer leaders who meet with the boys every week. I will give some real concrete examples of why troops who have committees run more effectively than troops without committees.**

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## *Is Scouting for You?*

Welcome to the wonderful world of scouting. You have decided to become an adult volunteer leader, or a committee member. The amount of time you spend doing the job you are volunteering for will depend on the responsibilities of the job, but you will discover quickly the more you put into the program, the more you will receive. The scoutmaster and his squad of Assistant Scoutmasters can't do everything that the troop needs; by being a committee member you will relieve the leaders of a lot of planning, so they can carry on with the normal activities of the weekly scout meeting. I will describe the duties of each committee member; you can determine which position will be best suited for you. Not every troop and committee are the same; all the duties of the positions described are not set in stone.

When Lord Baden-Powell founded the scouting program in 1910, his intention was to shape the lives of young boys and to build their character. By volunteering your time and talents to serve on a troop committee, you will have a part in preparing young men to be the future leaders of your community, state, or nation. Thanks to volunteers such as yourself, the aims of scouting will continue to flourish. As part of your duties on the troop committee, you will assist your Scoutmaster and his assistants to develop the Boy Scout program and follow the eight methods that have been proven to produce successful programs and scouts.

Today, our youth face many situations where they must make adult decisions about things that could have an effect on the rest of their lives. The scouting program through the

efforts of the volunteers, offers young men the opportunity to develop strong character based on a strong set of life principles, have peers who understand the problems they are facing, and adult leaders who are willing to listen and help them overcome their fears, and help them make the right decisions. As part of the troop committee, you will find the rewards of helping a young man is something really beautiful. You will be able to participate in many of the functions to observe the boys as they demonstrate character, leadership and ideals of scouting.

I feel very strongly that before accepting any position on the troop committee, you should be willing to follow the same rules as the boys, such as living by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, and Scout Slogan. It is very important that adult volunteers follow these guidelines as we are to be an example for the boys.

## *Scout Oath*

*On my honor I will do my best*

*To do my duty to God and my country*

*And to obey the Scout Law;*

*To help other people at all times;*

*To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake,*

*And morally straight.*

## *Scout Law*

*A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful  
Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient,  
Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and  
Reverent*

## *Scout Motto*

*Be Prepared*

## *Scout Slogan*

*Do a Good Turn Daily*

### *The Organization Of Scouting - Where Do I Fit In?*

The Boy Scout program was founded by Lord Robert Baden-Powell in 1908 in England. The program was incorporated in America on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916. The Boy Scouts of America is owned by the National Council and led by a volunteer board of directors, and the National Executive Board. Each local Council has a paid professional staff that performs the administration of the program. The National Council maintains quality standards of training, registration records, advancements, and published literature. The National Council also publishes *Boys' Life* and *Scouting* magazines.

The National Council chartered by the U.S. Congress issues charters to each of the local councils throughout the United States and U.S. Territories. The local council, led by a volunteer board of directors, is divided into Scouting districts, led by a volunteer committee, who works to assist the local troops to function within the framework of the Scouting program.

The troop is "owned" by a Chartered Organization that receives a charter from the Local Council each year. The Chartered Organization may be a civic organization, religious organization, educational organization, business, government, or professional association. Each Chartered Organization uses the scouting program to enhance their involvement with youth in their respective neighborhoods, and must have goals that are compatible with the Boy Scouts of America.

The responsibility of the Chartered Organization is to provide a meeting place, select a Scoutmaster, appoint a Troop Committee of at least three people, and choose a Chartered Organization Representative. The responsibilities of the Chartered Organization Representative includes being a member of the Charter Organization, serving as a liaison between the organization and the troop, securing a committee chairman and other adult leaders, assisting with rechartering, encouraging service to the organization, and a voting delegate at the Local Council's annual business meeting. The Chartered Organization Representative is familiar with all activities within the district and is a valuable resource in securing training and program helps as he is an active and involved member of the District Committee.

The Troop Committee's responsibilities are supporting the Scoutmaster in



delivering a quality program to the boys, handling registration, tracking advancements, maintaining financial records, assisting with the outdoor program, and to attend other troop activities. With the Scoutmaster, the committee selects the Assistant Scoutmasters and often establishes direct relationships between the assistant and a committee member who have similar responsibilities. The Troop Committee is also an important resource to the troop, by providing areas of expertise in organization, specific fields of interest to the boys undertaking merit badge classes, recruiting new boys, maintenance and acquisition of troop equipment, and planning new outdoor experiences. The Troop Committee can assist the Scoutmaster in providing the two deep leadership on extended troop outings such as summer camp, high adventure treks, or special trips. Also, the committee can assist in special events such as Courts of Honor, Eagle presentations, and boards of review for advancement in the higher ranks.

As a member of the Troop Committee, you can provide service to the troop by working with an Assistant Scoutmaster, or with one of the boys in a leadership position. By taking an active part in the long range planning of the troop activities, areas of special interest to you can be scheduled to work within your own time constraints. Helping to develop the skills and abilities of the boys within the troop is a source of reward that will provide you with years of wonderful memories. Your service to the troop as a committee member will be very much appreciated by the other adult volunteers, as well as the boys, and their parents. As the boys in the troop receive their Eagle rank, you can proudly say, "I had a part in that young man's life in achieving his goals".

## **Troop Committee Organization And Responsibilities**

Every member of the Troop Committee should have a specific responsibility. The job of maintaining a productive and growing troop is too much for one person. More members on the committee provides less work for each person, more ideas for new and exciting adventures, and more resources being available to the troop. The committee requires at least three people, but the size of the committee is limited only by the number of concerned adults. The size of the troop will also help determine the size of the committee. Large troops need more committee members because the time of the Scoutmaster should be devoted to the activities of the weekly troop meeting. Small troops need an active and growing committee to insure the future growth of the troop. As the committee grows, so will the troop.

The general responsibilities of the Troop Committee are as follows:

- Provide and insure a safe and adequate meeting facility.
- Advise Scoutmaster on policies relating to Boy Scouting and the Chartered Organization.
- Carry out the policies and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Encourage leaders in carrying out the program.
- Be responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements in line with the approved budget plan
- Obtain, maintain, and insure proper care of troop property.
- Insure an adequate camping and outdoor program with a minimum of ten days and nights per year.

- **Recruit and train quality adult leaders as Scoutmaster and assistants. Two deep leadership is required at all times.**

The unit charter requires that at least three adults serve on the troop committee; however, most troops find that five members are needed. Of course, some jobs can be combined depending on the number of committee members available. As a general outline, the responsibilities of the Troop Committee are divided into six sections:

### **Chairman Of The Troop Committee:**

**Organize the committee to see that all functions are delegated, coordinated, and completed**

**Maintain a close relationship with the Chartered Organization Representative and the Scoutmaster**

**See that troop leaders and committee members have training opportunities**

**Interpret national and local policies to the troop**

**Work closely with the Scoutmaster in preparing Troop Committee meeting agendas**

**Preside over, and promote attendance at monthly Troop Committee meetings, and any special meetings that may be called**

**Insure troop representation at monthly roundtables**

**Secure quality, trained individuals for camp leadership**

**Arrange for charter review, and recharter annually**

**Plans for family night programs, family activities, Courts of Honor, and the charter presentation**

### **Secretary Of The Troop Committee:**

- Keep minutes of meetings, and send out committee meeting notices
- Handle publicity
- Prepare a family newsletter / calendar of troop activities and events
- Conduct, and maintain a troop resource survey
- Train, and supervise the Troop Scribe in record-keeping

### **Treasurer Of The Troop Committee:**

- Handle all troop funds
- Pay bills on recommendation of the Scoutmaster and authorization of the Troop Committee
- Maintain checking and savings account records
- Receive troop income each week from the Troop Scribe
- Keep adequate records in the Troop / Team Record Book
- Supervise money-earning projects, including obtaining proper authorization
- Supervise the camp savings plan
- Report to the Troop Committee at each meeting
- Lead in the preparation of the annual troop budget

### **Outdoor / Activities Advisor Of The Troop Committee:**

- Supervise, and help procure camping equipment

Work with the Quartermaster on inventory, storage, and proper maintenance of the troop equipment

Help secure permission to use camping sites

Serve as transportation coordinator

Encourage monthly outdoor activities or special events

Promote the National Camping Award

Strive to have an outing per month through campouts, camporees, summer camp, and family meetings

### **Advancement Advisor Of The Troop Committee:**

Encourage Scouts to advance in rank

Arrange, and conduct, monthly troop boards of review

Conduct quarterly Courts of Honor

Develop, and maintain, a merit badge counselor list

Make a prompt report on the correct form to the Council Service Center when board of review is held

Secure badges and certificates

Work with the Troop Scribe to maintain all Scout advancement records

Work with the Troop Librarian to build, and maintain, a troop library of merit badge pamphlets

### **Chaplain Of The Troop Committee:**

Provide a spiritual tone for troop meetings and activities

Give guidance to the Chaplain Aide

**Promote regular participation of each member in the activities of the religious organization of his choice**

**Visit homes of Scouts in time of sickness or need**

**Give spiritual counseling service when needed or requested**

**Encourage Boy Scouts to earn their appropriate religious emblem**

**Provide opportunities for Boy Scouts to grow in their duty to God and their fellow Scouts**

There is room for most anyone in the Scouting Program, but there are some things we are looking for in adult volunteers. I would like to list some characteristics that we are looking for.

### **Characteristics Of Adult Leaders**

**(1) High Moral Standards**

**Moral Standards are very important as we are to be an example for the boys.**

**(2) Commitment to the Ideals of Scouting**

**Without committing to the ideals of Scouting, you would not be successful in a leadership role.**

**(3) Ability to Relate to Boys**

**This is very important because you will have an encounter with the boys in just about every job in Scouting.**

**(4) Ability to keep a "Cool Head" under pressure**

**Boys can get on your "last" nerve real quick, so you need to be able to control yourself at all times.**

**(5) Organizing Ability**

**Being organized is very important, especially since the Scout Motto is "Be Prepared". Boys can tell real quick if you are unprepared.**

**(6) Ability to Relate and Interact with Adults**

**From time to time you will need to talk to parents concerning their boy, and you need to be able to relate any problems in as few words as possible.**

**(7) Flexibility and the Ability to Compromise**

Be willing to compromise in committee meetings for the best interest of the boys, and the future of the troop.

**(8) Planning Ability**

Be available for planning sessions, and bring your ideas for discussion. Help with planning for future troop events.

**(9) High Energy Level**

Working with boys ages 11-18 years of age can be very tiring, so you need to keep in good physical condition and put forth as much energy as possible.

**(10) Attention to Detail**

Pay attention during meetings and be sure and get all details written down so if any parents call, you can relay the information they are seeking.

I would like to now go into a little more detail on some of the responsibilities of the different Troop Committee members and how to recruit adult leaders.

## **Troop Organization**

### **Scoutmaster:**

**Step 1:** After a briefing for the head of the Chartered Organization or the Chartered Organization representative by a representative of the Boy Scouts of America, a Scoutmaster selection task force is appointed. At least one task force member must represent the chartered organization. The other members would be from the troop committee, interested parents, or community members.

**Step 2:** Have a meeting of the selection task force and develop a prospect list. Consider members of the Chartered Organization, current Assistant Scoutmasters, parents of the troop members, or other names suggested by task force members.

**Step 3:** Contact the prospect, and arrange a convenient time to meet. This should be done

by a member of the task force who knows the prospect well. The best place for this meeting is in the prospect's home, with their spouse present.

**Step 4: Call on the prospect as a group.** Explain the purpose of the visit to the prospect and his family. Relate the prospect's own abilities to those needed to be a successful Scoutmaster. Tell of the satisfaction of Scouting experiences; but give a realistic overview of the job time demands, support, and special problems within the troop. Answer all questions truthfully and completely. The task force must be sure that the prospect understands all aspects of the job, and should be given a copy of the Scoutmaster Handbook.

**Step 5: Register the new Scoutmaster** after he has been acquainted with the troop committee, key members of the chartered organization, and others involved with the troop. The Scoutmaster is briefed on the general organization of the troop, procedures, meeting place, and program plans. Arrangements are made to introduce the Scoutmaster to the parents of troop members, and turn over records, and other materials that will be the responsibility of the Scoutmaster.

**Step 6: Set up Fast Start Training.** Make arrangements for the Scoutmaster to attend the next *Scoutmaster Fundamentals* and *Youth Protection* training. Aid the Scoutmaster in obtaining copies of past *Program Helps* and *Woods Wisdom*. Also, be willing to accompany him to the next Boy Scout Roundtable.

One final note on obtaining a new Scoutmaster, the Boy Scouts of America is not responsible for acquiring or dismissing a Scoutmaster. The Chartered Organization has this responsibility.



### **Assistant Scoutmaster:**

Use the same procedure for selecting Assistant Scoutmasters as for selecting the Scoutmaster. An Assistant Scoutmaster may someday be the new Scoutmaster. All Assistant Scoutmasters should be given the same training opportunities as the Scoutmaster. In order to assure two deep leadership at all times, most troops find four Assistant Scoutmasters or more are needed.

### **Committee Members:**

A minimum of three committee members, 21 or older, is required. Most troops find that six or more committee members are needed to perform all the duties necessary. Committee members will not be required to spend as many hours performing their duties as the Scoutmaster and the Assistant Scoutmasters, however, they should have the same characteristics and be selected using the same steps used in selecting the Scoutmaster. An aid to securing names for committee members is the *Troop Resource Survey*, which should be completed by every parent of the troop members. It is also recommended, that members of the Chartered Organization be encouraged to complete a *Troop Resource Survey*.

### **Troop Finances:**

Every troop should have a checking account at a local bank which requires two signatures, the Scoutmaster and the Troop Treasurer. An account at a bank that does not charge a

monthly service charge is preferable. All new troop funds should be deposited as soon as possible into the troop's account. *The Troop / Team Record Book* is an indispensable record-keeping tool, and should be available at every troop committee meeting. In addition, the Troop Treasurer should maintain separate records of funds collected by individual patrols. Council offices also offer prepay accounts to maintain funds used for the purchase of rank, and merit badge awards, or other expenses charged to the troop at the Council level. A petty cash fund handled by the Scoutmaster, or an Assistant Scoutmaster, provides emergency funds for the troop on outings or other events.

### **Annual Budget:**

A plan for receiving and spending the troop's funds should be prepared as soon as the troop's annual program plan has been approved. The *Unit Budget Plan*, and the *Troop / Team Record Book*, are useful guides. The troop budget should include expenses for membership fees, unit accident insurance, *Boy's Life*, rank and merit badges, unit charter fees, unit flags, camping gear, program supplies, activity funds, and other expenses determined by the program plan. Income for the troop includes, dues which can be handled in a variety of methods to be discussed later, unit money-earning projects, and council money earning projects.

### **Dues:**

It is recommended that the boys pay dues on a weekly basis; however some units have found that monthly or yearly collections are easier to handle. A yearly fee provides the

troop with a single large collection, and is useful in helping to determine the budget; however it does not allow the boy to learn how to pay his own way, and could prohibit some Scout from joining the troop.

### **Unit Money-Earning Projects:**

Depending on the financial needs of the troop, these projects can be large, or small, and can be held on a regular or as needed basis. On-going projects can include; collection bins for aluminum cans and other recyclable products, and lawn care services. As-needed projects can be; car washes, bake sales, yard sales, dinners, and product sales. All money-earning projects should be approved by the troop committee and the Patrol Leaders Council. A *Unit Money-Earning Application* must be submitted to your local council for approval to insure conformity to the Boy Scouts of America policy.

### **Council Money-Earning Projects:**

Youth Expo ticket sales, and popcorn sales are examples of two annual Council-sponsored projects. Units are encouraged to participate by receiving a portion of the proceeds. These are the only money-earning projects where the Scouts are allowed to wear their uniforms.

### **Advancement:**

Four step process:

(1) A boy learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of

the patrol and the troop. When a Scout develops knowledge and skill, he begins to teach others, and develops his own leadership potential.

- (2) A Scout may be tested on requirements by his Patrol Leader, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop Committee Member, troop member, or anyone qualified to give and pass candidates for rank advancement or merit badges.
- (3) After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a board of review. For all ranks except Eagle, a board of review is conducted by members of the troop committee. The Eagle board of review is conducted in accordance with local council procedures.
- (4) When a Scout passes a board of review, he deserves to receive recognition at the next troop meeting, and at the next Court of Honor. Most troops find that presentation of rank badges at troop meetings, and presentation of rank certificates at Courts of Honor best meet this recognition requirement.

The committee, and the Advancement Advisor should view the video *Boy Scout Advancement*. The advancement advisor should have and be familiar with the booklet, *Advancement Policies and Procedures Committee Guide*. The Advancement Advisor should have an approved list of merit badge counselors who are at least 18 years of age, of good character, have skills, and education in the subject field, and be registered as adult members of the Boy Scouts of America. Useful tools in compiling a list of counselors include: *Worksheet for Building a Merit Badge Counselor List*, *Merit Badge Counselor Orientation* and *Recommending Merit Badge Counselors*.

### **Service Projects:**

In order to help foster a sense of personal responsibility and citizenship, Scouts are required to participate in a service project approved by their Scoutmaster for the rank of Second Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. Second Class rank projects may be done as individual projects, or as a part of a patrol or troop service project, a minimum of one hour is required. Service projects for Star and Life require six hours minimum, and may be done as part of another's Scouts Eagle Service project with prior approval from the Scoutmaster.

### **Eagle Service Projects:**

For a service project to qualify as an Eagle Scout Service project, a Scout must plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project, benefiting any religious institution, school, or community. The project must be done outside the sphere of Scouting, and conform to the wishes and regulations of the organization receiving the service. The organization receiving the service cannot be a business, and the project cannot be commercial in nature, or a fundraiser. Routine labor, or service normally rendered, or a project without lasting benefits should not be considered. Prior approval of the unit leader, unit committee, and the benefactor of the project must be secured before the Life Scout can begin the project. After completion of the project, the Life Scout submits an Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook. The workbook should give detailed information about the project, its benefit to others, the group benefiting, and personnel involved, members who worked on the project, and hours served, and the materials used, and how they were acquired. The

approval of the troop committee and board of review is necessary to insure the Scout demonstrated leadership, directed the project, rather than performed the work himself, the project is of real and lasting value, project plans were completed as planned, or with approved modifications. The Scoutmaster and council members can compile lists of needed service projects, or organizations needing help as a reference for Life Scouts.

### **Board of Review:**

Scouts having completed requirements for all ranks between Tenderfoot and Eagle Palms, must appear before a board of review. The board is made up of three to six members of the troop committee. All unit leaders, relatives, and guardians, are excluded as members of a Scout's board of review. The purpose of the board of review is to make sure the Scout has met the requirements for the rank, to monitor the Scout's experience in the unit, to encourage further progress, and to insure that the Scout is living the Scout Oath, and Scout Law. A Scout appearing before a board of review should be in correct uniform with all badges worn properly, and the Scout should be neat in appearance. The Scout should be made to feel comfortable, and to talk freely about what he has learned in completing the rank requirements. This is a review, and not an oral examination.

### **Outdoor Activities:**

The major reason the Boy Scouts of America attracts most of the boys who join a local unit is the outdoor program. A successful unit should plan and provide opportunities for the

boys to experience a minimum of ten days and nights of camping, and other outdoor experiences in a variety of locations, and climates. It is the responsibility of the troop Outdoor / Activities Advisor, along with the Scoutmaster, to insure two deep leadership, transportation, proper food, and equipment. Proper advanced planning includes; filing of *Local Tour Permit* for trips under 500 miles, and *National Tour Permit* for trips more than 500 miles. Copies of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* should be made available and read by all leaders involved.

### **Transportation:**

Private cars and licensed buses should be used for the transportation of Scouts. NO SCOUT CAN RIDE IN THE BACK OF AN OPEN VEHICLE. All vehicle occupants must have seat belts, and all drivers must be licensed, at least 18 years of age with an accompanying adult leader of at least 21 years of age, and have adequate insurance. To insure safety for the troop members, all driving should be done in daylight, within established speed limits, and not in convoy.

### **Camping and Equipment:**

Camping trips of 1 to 2 nights duration planned on a regular basis, and a long term summer camp at a council facility, provide needed opportunities for Scouts to use learned skills, develop new skills, and meet rank advancement requirements. The outdoor/ activity advisor working with the Scoutmaster and Troop Quartermaster insure that proper equip-

ment and supplies are available for the planned activities. A detailed inventory should be maintained with location, and condition of equipment listed; as well as assignment to an individual or patrol.

### **Restricted Activities:**

The following activities have been declared unauthorized due to legal considerations and potential danger to participants:

All terrain vehicles (ATV's) are banned from program use.

Boxing and all martial arts are not authorized activities.

Chain saws and mechanical log splitters may not be used by Scouts under 18 years of age.

Exploration of abandoned mines is an unauthorized activity.

Club football competition or contact football is an unauthorized activity.

Selling of fireworks must not be authorized at any level.

Flying in hang gliders, ultra lights, experimental class aircraft, and hot air balloons, parachuting, and flying in aircraft as part of a search and rescue mission are unauthorized activities.

Motorized go carts and motorbike activities are unauthorized.

All motorized speed events, including motorcycle races, boat races, drag races, demolition derbies and related events are not authorized.

Participation in or sponsorship of amateur or professional rodeo events are not authorized.

"War games" or "paint ball" activities where individuals shoot dye at one another is unauthorized.



**Bungee jumping and related activities are unauthorized.**

**Hazing and initiations are unauthorized activities.**

### **Summary**

**As you have been able to see by reading this thesis so far, there are a lot of opportunities for you to get involved in the Scouting Program, at a level that suits your schedule. By serving the Scouting Program in a troop committee position, you do not have the responsibilities of weekly troop meetings. Most troop committees meet only once a month to discuss upcoming future activities, and prepare for, so you are only giving of yourself, and your time for small periods. The troop committee can actually be the life blood of the troop if the adult leaders of the troop are willing to let the committee do their respective jobs.**

**As I did research for this thesis, I visited three troops with very active working Troop Committees. As I sat and observed their meetings, I was astounded at how much they got accomplished in a short span of time. I had called ahead several weeks in advance to ask permission to visit at their committee meeting, and was welcomed with the great Spirit of Scouting. Upon arrival at the first Troop Committee meeting, I was handed an agenda by the Troop Committee Chairman, and he explained these were the items that would be discussed that night. He also went on to explain he asked for items the troop leaders wished to be brought up at each meeting, and only those items would be discussed in detail, and decisions made at that particular meeting.**

**The first item to be discussed was the issue of summer camp, and making sure**

that enough adult leaders had volunteered to go. The Outdoor / Activities Advisor advised the committee that he had enough people to have two deep leadership all week. The next item to be discussed was the planning of activities for the next six months. Again the Outdoor / Activities Advisor passed to all committee members a list of activities the patrols had voted on, and had been approved by the Patrol Leaders Council and adult leaders. After only about 20 minutes of discussion, all activities had been approved by the committee, and transportation to the activities had been secured. The next item of business was the report from the Outdoor / Activities Advisor that after a very in-depth survey of troop equipment, with the assistance of the Troop Quartermaster and some of the other boys in the troop, the troop was in need of purchasing six new tents, since six of the ones now in their inventory were basically beyond repair. He had already researched the cost and availability of three different brands of tents, and provided the committee with his findings. The Committee Treasurer reported to the committee there were adequate funds available to purchase the needed tents. There was a short discussion on which of the three brands they thought was the best bargain, and proceeded to vote to purchase the tents. The next item of business was the upcoming Council-wide popcorn sale. The treasurer of the committee reported he has already secured a "popcorn kernel" to head up the popcorn sales for this year. He submitted a goal of total sales he and the "kernel" had arrived at, based upon last years sales, and number of boys in the troop. He also stated that a letter would be sent to the parents explaining that all profits from popcorn sales would go directly in escrow for each boy to go toward their summer camp; thus each boy can earn his way to camp.

As I visited the other two Troop Committee meetings, I observed them doing basically the same things as the first committee meeting group did. They too had a meeting agenda, and items of interest were discussed, and action taken on each item. I saw how smoothly the needs of the troop were being handled by the Troop Committee members, and how much of a load was being taken off the adult leaders in the troop. With a real working committee, all the adult leaders are really responsible for is the week to week meetings, and making sure the boys are advancing in rank as they should.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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