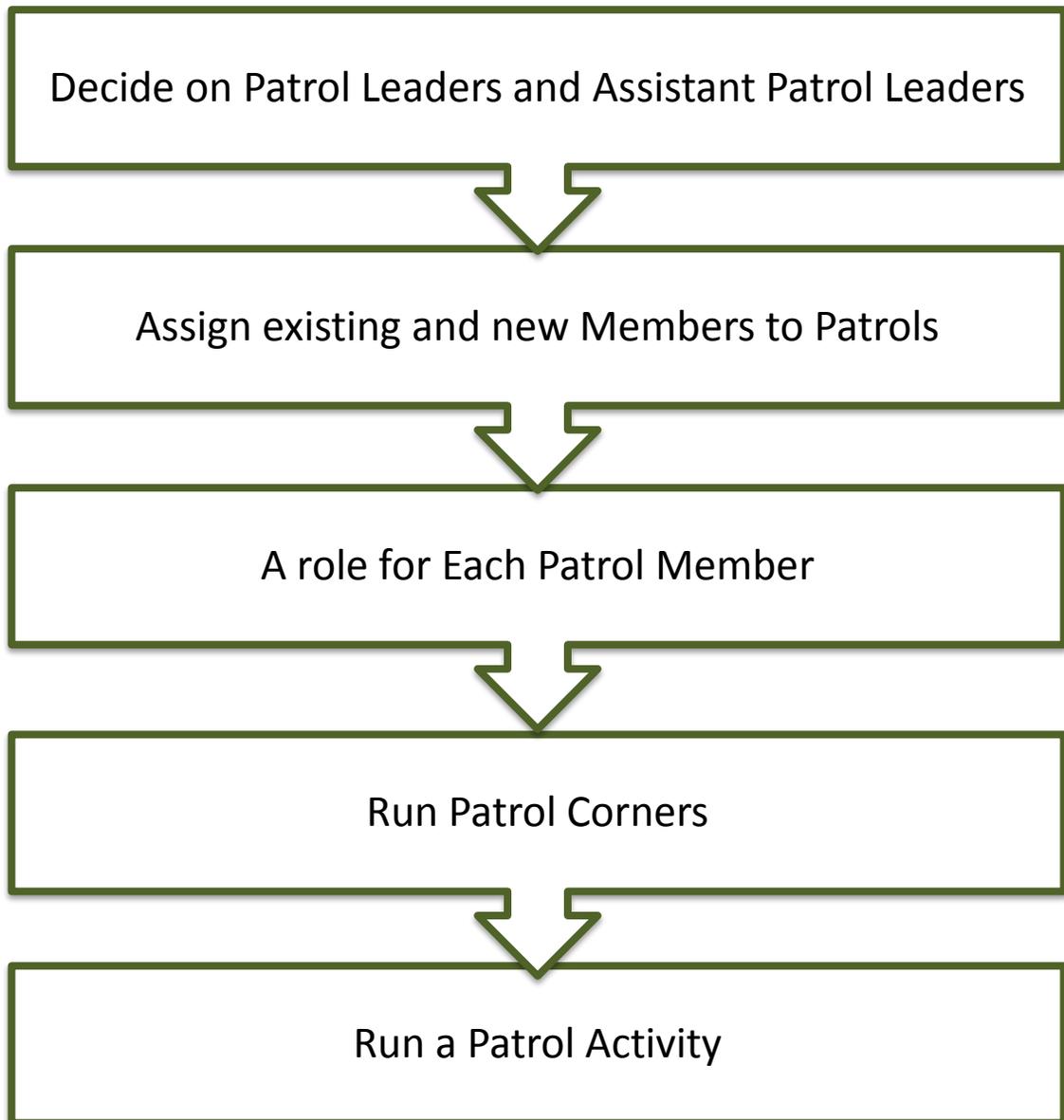




Forming Patrols

The Scout Programme should be focused on the patrol. From Patrol Corners that plan and review, to the running of activities in small groups, and the assessment of progress in badgework, everything should revolve around the patrols. Even in a Troop with small numbers, every effort should be made to have at least two Patrols. This resource is a guide to helping you get the Patrol System up and running in your troop.





Deciding on PLs and APLs

Different troops have different ways of choosing which scouts would make the best PLs and APLs. Here are some approaches:

- PLs and APLs are elected with all scouts and scouters participating in the vote. Sometimes, the scouts going forward for election will need to meet certain requirements, such as having participated in leadership training, having gone on a number of camps, or having completed some of the Crean Awards.
- The current/outgoing PLs and Scouters meet to decide on which scouts should become new PLs and APLs. They will decide on the qualities needed for the roles and assign scouts to them. These conversations are fair, confidential, and respectful.
- Personal progression is also important in this system, allowing for scouts in their first year to participate in the programme, scouts in their second year take an active involvement with some leadership roles, and scouts in their third/final year tend to lead as PLs, APLs, or activity leaders.
- The PLs generally have been APLs or scouts with leadership roles; while the APLs are generally the more active, enthusiastic, and capable scouts.
- The input of the current/outgoing PLs is essential as they are the ones who are most used to working with the scouts and who appreciate their abilities.





- When matching PLs and APLs consider their capabilities/circumstances (eg. a new APL with a more experienced PL, or a having a gender mix).
- Before taking up a role the incoming PLs/APLs should discuss it and commit to fulfilling it as best they can.
- Leadership and programme training should be provided as soon as possible; although it is advisable for scouts to have undertaken this training as APLs or as active scouts.



Assigning Members

Here are some approaches that troops use:

- The PLC (PLs, APLs, and Scouters) can work together on dividing the troop in patrols.
- Alternatively, the PLs and APLs could come up with a list and then discuss it with the Scouters.
- Scouts can request to be with particular people; this should be accommodated as much as is possible and is suitable for the circumstances.
- Several factors are generally taken into account, including scouting experience, existing members of patrols, friendship groups, and social dynamics.
- Patrols tend to have scouts at different stages of their Crean Awards, reflecting the personal progression of the programme and the patrols system.





Roles in the Patrol

It is important that everyone in the patrol has a role. This ensures that each scout plays an active part and contributes to the patrol. Two scouts can work on the one role together, if required. Here are a selection of common patrol roles:

- **PL:** The scout who organises the patrol. They will support other scouts in their roles and make sure the daily rota is working.
- **APL:** The scout who helps the PL in their role and deputises for them when required.
- **Quartermaster:** The scout who organises and maintains the Patrol's equipment.
- **First Aider/Safety Officer:** The scout who maintains the first aid kits and gives first aid, with the help of scouters.
- **Treasurer:** The scout who plans the patrol's budget and administers the patrol funds, with the PL.
- **Photographer/Scribe:** The scout who records the activities of patrol for the log.
- **Record Keeper:** The scout who maintains the records, such as the roll and programme book.
- **Leave No Trace Officer:** The scout who makes sure the patrol is following the principles of Leave No Trace.
- **Grubmaster:** Responsible for planning and buying of food.

In the general running of the programme, scouts should take on individual roles relevant to the activity. These roles should reflect their personal progression: scouts in their first year participating (Discovery/Terra Nova), scouts in their second taking an active involvement (Endurance), and scouts in their third/final year leading and organising (Polar).





Patrol Corners

These are a short patrol meetings within your troop meetings. Typically these should take up about 20-30mins. During these meetings patrols will:

- Plan Programme
- Review Activities
- Assess progress in Badgework

Getting patrol corners up and running in your troop can help establish the Patrol System. By participating in these meetings, scouts will begin to appreciate how they are a part of a team and will think about scouting in terms of their patrol. For more information on Patrol Corners, check out this other resource: goo.gl/OFx2tO

Patrol Activities

Next, try to get the Patrols to do activities in their patrols. Initially, base games and other activities during weekly meetings on the patrols. Then, encourage troop activities where each Patrol operates independently – such as a series of bases they rotate through, or each patrol could light and cook on their own fire.

Gradually, you can suggest that each patrol might try to do something different to the others on troop activities. This would be very useful for helping with badgework; as at their Patrol Corner the Wolf Patrol might decide to the Air Activities Adventure Skill and the Raven Patrol is going to work on their Environmental Special Interest Badge. Both activities could be accommodated within a troop activity.

