

## Patrol Projects

The patrol project encourages Wood Badge course participants to focus their efforts on the production of a tangible product and to experience the satisfaction that results from participating as a member of a high-performing team.

During the morning's orientation session, everyone saw the project developed and presented by members of the Wood Badge staff. Each patrol is now assigned the challenge of creating a patrol project of its own. The projects will be presented to the entire troop on the afternoon of Day Five.

- The project must illustrate a program element or theme of Scouting that is clearly a part of all four programs—Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Venturing—and must consist of both a self-explanatory display and an oral presentation.

- Possible topics include (but are not limited to) advancement, adventure, athletics, citizenship, codes of ethics, conservation, diversity, family involvement, leadership training, learning, outdoor activities, public service, recognition, safety, and uniforms.
- Elements of the project could be a game, role-play, demonstration, or narrative. There are no restrictions on creativity or method of presentation. However, the project must be constructed in such a way that patrol members can transport it to their backcountry campsite.
- Patrol members must reach a consensus regarding the topic of their project by the morning of Day Two. The patrol scribe will write a brief description of the topic to be presented by the patrol leader to the senior patrol leader for approval. Approval must be gained no later than the Day Two patrol leaders' council meeting.
- Each patrol will have a set amount of time to present its project to the rest of the troop—usually 15 or 20 minutes, depending on the number of patrols in the course. Patrol members must keep that time limit in mind as they prepare and rehearse their presentations.
- The quality of each project should meet or exceed the standard set by the staff exhibit observed on the morning of Day One.
- The quartermaster will make available a variety of materials for patrols to use in constructing their projects. In keeping with the Leave No Trace standards of Wood Badge, patrols *may not* use native materials found at the course sites.
- At patrol leaders' council meetings from Day Two through Day Five, patrol leaders will offer status reports on the progress of their patrol projects.
- On the afternoon of Day Five, the patrol projects must be presented in a manner in which all patrol members have substantial participation.
- At the patrol leaders' council meeting on the morning of Day Five, the Scoutmaster will assist patrol leaders in discussing and reaching a consensus regarding a plan for the presentation of the projects.
- All Wood Badge participants are expected to contribute to the success of their patrols during the development and presentation of projects. The final product should clearly reflect the combined efforts of many individual talents.
- After presenting their projects, patrol members will complete a self-assessment to explore the process by which they developed their project and to reinforce their understanding of team development.
- Whenever possible, the patrol projects will not be discarded after the Wood Badge course, but should be used as permanent exhibits to promote the Scouting program within the participants' units, districts, and councils.

*Note:* Insisting that patrol leaders present their project topics no later than the Day Two patrol leaders' council meeting can prevent duplication of topics and ensure that each patrol's topic is appropriate and can be fully realized within the time constraints of the Wood Badge course. It may also help move patrols more quickly toward becoming highly productive teams.

*Note:* During courses operating on a two-weekend format, participants working on their projects during interim patrol meetings may incorporate any materials they wish into their projects. During courses based on a six-day format, patrols must rely upon the troop quartermaster to fulfill their requests for project preparation materials. The quartermaster should be prepared with a variety of materials in sufficient supply to satisfy the needs of all the patrols.