

Pre-opening / Gathering Period and SPL Announcements

Time Available

10 minutes.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the importance of a gathering period; and how to use them with their Troop.

Suggested Presenter(s)

A Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader or a Roundtable Commissioner

Presentation Method

Discussion and use of videos; if ability is available

BSA Reference Materials

[Troop Meeting Agenda Gathering Video](#)

[Troop Leader Resource: Gathering Period](#)

[Troop Leader Resources: Classifications](#)

[Troop Meeting Agenda Preopening Conference](#)

[Troop Meeting Agenda: SPL Announcements](#)

Presentation Content

Gathering Period

Activities are planned and prepared to give Scouts something to do that is fun and engaging prior to the meeting's opening ceremony. Designed so that other Scouts can readily join in as they arrive, these kinds of involving activities are set out in such a way so that a smooth transition can take place from the activity to the official start of the troop meeting.

View: [Troop Leader Resource: Gathering Period](#)

During the monthly Patrol Leaders' Council meeting, a different patrol can be assigned to prepare and present a gathering period activity for each week's meeting. Or in lieu of assigning the task to specific patrols, weekly pre-opening activities can be planned during the PLC meeting and an ASPL or an assistant Scoutmaster can take charge of the presentation.

Gathering period activities can be general in nature, or can be themed in accordance with a selected program feature for that month.

On the Troop Resource website, there are both general [Gathering Period](#) ideas and pre-opening ideas corresponding to various monthly themes or [Classifications](#), located in the troop meeting section for each of the 48 program features.

Senior Patrol Leader Announcements

While the activity is being held, it's advantageous for the Scoutmaster and the senior patrol leader to get together for a pre-meeting conference, in order to quickly go over

the plans for the meeting, just to make sure the SPL has all the bases covered.

View: [Troop Meeting Agenda Preopening Conference](#)

Introductions and remarks by the senior patrol leader can appropriately follow the opening ceremony. (A uniform inspection can also be carried out at this time.) This is an opportunity for the senior patrol leader to share information with the troop regarding:

- what to expect during the meeting
- troop news of interest

Important reminders and appropriate announcements can also be given, and/or repeated during the closing at the end of the meeting. Generally speaking, all announcements should be brief, well-paced, and to the point.

View: [Troop Meeting Agenda: SPL Announcements](#)