

Recruiting a Great Committee – Your Troop Depends on it!

Time Available

10 minutes.

Learning Objectives

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

- Understand the relationship between the troop and the Sponsoring institution
- Know what a chartered organization representative does
- Know what a Troop committee is
- Understand what the requirements are to be a troop committee member
- Know the methods to recruit and select troop committee member
- Understand what training for troop committee members need

Suggested Presenter(s)

Two Scouters: one to represent a troop committee chair and one to represent a chartered organization representative.

Presentation Method

Role play with discussion

BSA Reference Materials

- [Troop Committee Challenge](#)
- [Troop Committee Guidebook for Successful Troop Operation](#)
- **Bryan on Scouting:** [Troop Committee Challenge Training](#)
- Troop committee Position – Specific Training (available on my.scouting.org)

Presentation Content

This is a dialogue between the chartered organization representative (COR) and the troop committee chairperson (CC). Substitute the names of the sponsoring institution, COR, CC as appropriate.

COR: CC I'm glad that you agreed to meet with me this evening. As I told you in our phone conversation, the United Methodist Church in town has decided to sponsor a Scout BSA troop. And therefore "owns the troop. I have been asked to serve as the chartered organization representative or liaison between the church and the troop. My primary function is to recruit and select a troop committee. The troop committee selects and recruits the troop's Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster(s) and administers the troop so the Scoutmaster can advise and mentor the troop's youth leaders. The

minimum number of committee members is three, you and I will work together to recruit other members of the committee.

CC: I had no idea the troop committee was such an important part of the functioning of the troop. When I thought of a troop, I always thought the Scoutmaster was the head of the unit.

COR: The troop committee should meet monthly to make sure the troop is adhering to the principles of the BSA. The Scoutmaster should be invited to attend the committee meetings as a nonvoting member.

CC: Therefore, the troop committee is the board of directors making sure the troop follows the principles of the BSA (character development, citizenship, physical fitness, and leadership) and the Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmasters are the executive officers advising the troop's youth leadership.

COR: Between the monthly committee meetings the troop Key 3 (COR, CC, and Scoutmaster) should be in contact to ensure the troop is functioning well.

Ask: (Allow time for discussion)

1. Who owns your troop?
2. Does the chartered organization representative regularly attend troop functions (committee meetings, troop meetings, courts of honor, charter presentations)?
3. Does the chartered organization representative participate in troop Key 3 meetings?
4. How does your troop's committee function?
 - a. In name only and the Scoutmaster "runs the show".
 - b. Is it concerned with the administrative functions of the troop and allows the Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster(s) to guide the youth leaders?
 - c. Is it dictatorial with the committee chairman the "real" troop leader?

CC: Are there any other functions of the troop committee besides selecting the troop leadership and advising the Scoutmaster regarding BSA policy?

COR: Some of the other functions of the troop committee include: troop finances, care of troop property, making sure the troop participates in a minimum of 10 days and nights of camping each year, participating in boards of review, and courts of honor.

CC: You stated the minimum number of committee members is three. What is the maximum

number?

COR: There is no maximum. Sometimes it is easier to recruit committee members if they realize they have one specific job to do. Committee members serve one charter year unless they wish to serve another year.

Ask: (Allow time for discussion)

1. How many members are in your troop committee?
2. What are the specific jobs?

CC: What are the qualifications to be a troop committee member?

COR: A person must be 21 years or older, be registered with the BSA, and complete Youth Protection Training (YPT).

CC: How does one recruit committee members?

COR: The best place would be to look at members of the sponsoring institution, getting recommendations from the head of the sponsoring institution, friends, co-workers who have an interest in Scouting or have sons and/or daughters of Scouting age, Cub Scout packs, former Scouts, Eagle Scouts, retired Scouters. Have the parents of Scouts in the troop complete a Troop Resource Survey

Ask: (Allow time for discussion)

1. What were the methods your troop used to recruit committee members?
2. Were they successful? If not, why not? What would you do change?
3. When searching for new committee members, who did you ask?

CC: Now that we know who and how to recruit committee members, is there any training they should complete?

COR: Yes. Each committee member should complete Troop Committee Position – Specific Training. This can be taken on line by going to <https://my.scouting.org>. BSA Learn Center. Boy Scouting and selecting Troop Committee – Specific Training.

Ask (Allow time for discussion)

1. Are the members of your troop aware of Troop Committee Position – Specific Training?
2. What per cent of your troop committee are trained? If not, what might you do to encourage 100% of the troop's committee members to complete this training?
3. Has your troop committee tried have a group training so they can interact with each other and make specific recommendations for your troop?

Conclusion:

COR: The troop committee is required to ensure the troop leadership delivers the principles of the BSA to the youth in the troop. The troop committee along with an enthusiastic Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster(s) are necessary to create the best program to deliver the principles of the BSA to the youth in a troop.

Question(s): Answer questions from participants.