

Troop Meeting Agenda: Games

Time Available

10 minutes.

Learning Objectives

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

- Understand the importance of games at a troop meeting
- Discover where to find games

Suggested Presenter(s)

A Scoutmaster or Senior Patrol Leader that has had success in using a variety of games at their troop meetings

Presentation Method

Discussion with handouts and videos when technology is available

BSA Reference Materials

- [Troop Meeting Planning Form](#)
- Troop Meeting Agenda: [Games & Challenges](#)
- [Putting Skills into Action](#)
- Troop Program Resources: [Scout Meeting Activities](#)

Presentation Content

Pass out printed copies of the Troop Meeting Planning Form

As Scout leaders, an important objective is to ensure Scout meetings are fun with positive outcomes. What's referred to as the Games Section of the troop meeting can contribute to making the meeting really fun more than any other part of the troop meeting agenda. This important section of the troop meeting can be approached from a variety of directions and in a variety of ways. In its most simple context, this portion of the meeting provides a chance to have some good, clean fun serving to change the pace of the meeting, and/or allow Scouts to happily let off a little steam. From another direction, this time slot can afford a golden opportunity to put Scout skills into action in a way that is involving and challenging—often relative to a monthly theme.

View: Troop Meeting Agenda: [Games & Challenges](#)

Because of its importance, it should be emphasized this portion of the Scout meeting deserves to be properly planned and prepared, so that Scouts can benefit most from their participation. All materials required should be arranged and set out prior to the Scouts assembling, and the Scout(s) conducting the activity need to be well-acquainted with how to clearly explain the objective and guidelines.

When properly presented, all troop meeting activities can contribute towards ensuring the troop meeting is fun with positive outcomes. "Good Fun" in itself can be considered a

positive outcome, but underscoring the desirability and advantages of an activity is its ability to produce additional positive outcomes where Scouts:

- put an acquired skill or skills into action
- experience a sense of belonging
- nurture their self-esteem
- exercise their resourcefulness
- exemplify teamwork
- share responsibility
- feel successful
- learn a life lesson

Scout Skill Challenges

Patrol and troop activities that rely on the performance of acquired Scoutcraft, Woodcraft, or Campcraft skills can be referred to as Scout Skill Challenges. They can very easily stand by themselves, because inherent in meeting an appropriate challenge is a sense of pride and a feeling of accomplishment.

View: [Putting Skills into Action](#)

Team Building Opportunities

When Scouts engage in an activity that requires them to work together in order to satisfy an objective, team building comes into play. In order to complete any of these activities, Scouts will need to use teamwork, pool their resources, and share leadership—all qualities of a well-working patrol and troop. (When accepting any of these team building challenges, a patrol that cooperatively works together can be considered a winner.)

Patrol Games

Healthy competition between patrols can have a positive outcome when presented in the right spirit. Naturally, when patrol makeup is homogenous, there's more of a level playing field. But, when patrols are organized by age, to compensate for the difference in skill levels, certain handicaps might be introduced. In this instance or when individual patrol attendance is disproportionate, dividing the troop into equal crews can be a practical alternative.

A system of recording patrol points for these activities can be adopted and contribute towards patrol spirit. But, the presentation of the activities is in itself beneficial, and carries with it its own rewards. Therefore, determining winners, scoring, and points are optional.

Patrol games are fun to play when pitting patrol against patrol; but, can also be enjoyed when played by a single patrol-sized group.

Troop Games

Troop games give Scouts an opportunity to team up with the members of other patrols for some friendly play. In addition to nurturing camaraderie and Scout spirit, their purpose is simply to have fun. One of the outstanding

characteristics of most Scout games is their uniqueness. Scouts don't ordinarily get to play them except during Scout gatherings.

In Troop Program Resources: [Scout Meeting Activities](#) there's a catalogued library of Scout meeting activities that cover all of the topics listed above.

Effective Scout meeting activities provide the grounds for both fun and learning. Even when specific Scout skills aren't coming into play, there's always an opportunity to participate cheerfully while fostering good sportsmanship. As often as possible, Scouts should come away from a meeting feeling happy, invigorated, feeling good about Scouting, and good about themselves.