

# Being an adult in a Boy Run Troop

I've got a great idea, what do I do?  
I see a young boy sitting at a table by himself, what do I do?  
The newest patrol can't get their tents up...  
Billy is fighting with Sam ...  
The patrol is arguing over who cooks, cleans, ...

WDYSMS?      WDYSPLS?

Thou Shalt ...

## 1. Never do what a boy can do and a boy can do everything.

- If skill missing from troop, teach it to one capable scout and he will teach others
- Yes, we want to showcase our skills and it temporarily feels good
- Teach a boy and he will credit you and keep coming back and he'll tell the troop

## 2. Be patient.

- Let the Scouts run the meetings, campouts, activities, etc.
  - Too many directions from different people frustrate them
  - Troop structure is there for a reason
- Stand back, observe, be patient, wait for results.
  - Be willing to let them make mistakes, goof off, argue and resolve their own disputes
  - Step in when it is becoming a safety issue
- Adults are resources for the Scouts:
  - Drivers
  - Provide supplies and materials
  - Merit Badge counselors
  - Volunteer your time and your skills to help the troop run smoothly

## 3. Whisper.

- No yelling
- Guide behind the scenes, but let the boys do
- No announcements - give to scout coordinator, SPL, or SM
- Don't take over meetings (large or small)
- Praise and reward rather than criticize, yell, and punish
- Let the scouts teach other (even with merit badges when possible)

## 4. Be an example.

- Wear your full uniform (shirt, socks, belt, jeans/shorts/pants, neckerchief, patches, etc.)
- Attend and complete training

## 5. Say, when asked a question:

- I don't know, what do you think?
- What did your patrol leader say?
- What did your SPL say?

## 6. Let the Scouts be in charge of discipline.

- The Scouts are much harder on themselves than we are
  - SPL and 2 adults (usually SM & ASM) meet with parties
  - SPL discusses:
    - Discovery
    - Recovery
    - Consequences
  - If there are consequences, must be approved by SM; if severe committee must also approved
- Spirit board review is opportunity for follow-up

**7. Observe the traditions, rituals, and customs of the troop.**

- Boy Run Troop
- Candle induction ceremony at scout/parent's first campout
- Ashes ceremony
- Planning campout
- Induction ceremony of positions at planning campout
- Peach floats at Bartle
- Campfires with skits, songs, SM minute, and Scout Vespers
- Church service on Sunday
- High adventure each year geared for the older boys
- Participate in Order of the Arrow
- Participate in Mic-O-Say

**8. Ask permission to enter campsites**

- If they need help, see SPL, SM, or find troop guides
- They learn by doing by themselves and sometimes making mistakes
- They form as a patrol
- It encourages someone to assume leader role or to share leader role

**9. Keep rules simple.**

- Troop
  - Live by scout oath and law
  - We don't need anything else
  - Additional rules only confuse the matter and require enforcement
  - Every boy and situation is different
- PLC rules
  - No electronics on campouts
  - Electronics only when transportation takes longer than 2 hours
  - No gambling
  - 2 pops per boy per day
  - No candy brought except cracker barrel items brought by grubmaster

**10. Respect the boys.**

- Treat them like the young men they are, or are becoming
- Giving respect gains respect