



# Scouting America *Troop 81*: Troop Guide Handbook

**Duties:** In *Troop 81* the task and purpose of the two individuals chosen to hold the position of Troop Guide is to serve as both a leader and mentor to members of the New Scout Patrol for 12 months. The scouts chosen must be above the rank of first class, and show knowledgeable skills of not only outdoor skills, but also the operations of the *Scouting America*, and *Troop 81*. They must also show a strong moral character and willingness to learn from not only other members of their Troop but also members of the New Scout Patrol. They must also be able and willing to attend all, if not a majority, of Troop events. It is also preferable, although not required, that the Troop Guide have gone through *Cub Scouts*, or joined as a first year scout themselves so they can understand where the new scouts are coming from, and the challenges faced when first joining the troop.

**Chain of Command:** The two Troop Guides act independently from their patrols, and report directly to the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, but will also work in conjunction with the Assistant Scoutmaster of the new Scout Patrol, and the Senior Patrol Leader. In the time a Scout is serving as a *Troop Guide* it is accepted that they are not actively serving their patrols at that time, and are instead acting in a capacity as Patrol leaders for the New Scout Patrol.

# Responsibilities:

## Month 1-6

- **Introduce New Scouts to Troop Operations:** This includes how to sign off requirements, earn merit badges, earn ranks, the youth chain of command, and the adult chain of command.
- **Teach Basic Scout Skills:** These skills include but are not limited to:
  1. Knot-tying: Scouts are taught various knots that are used for different purposes, such as securing tents, tying up food, and creating simple structures.
  2. Fire-building: Scouts learn how to build a fire using different techniques, including the use of matches, lighters, and fire starters. They also learn how to safely extinguish a fire.
  3. Navigation: Scouts are taught how to read a map and use a compass to navigate through the wilderness.
  4. First Aid: Scouts learn basic first aid skills, such as how to clean and dress wounds, treat burns, and perform CPR.
  5. Camping: Scouts learn how to set up a tent, cook outdoors, and properly pack for a camping trip.
  6. Outdoor Ethics: Scouts are taught how to respect and protect the environment through practices such as "Leave No Trace" camping and recycling.
- **Set a Good Example:** As a Scout, setting a good example is an important part of living up to the Scout Law and Oath. Here are some ways you can set a good example:
  1. Follow the Scout Law: The Scout Law outlines 12 traits that every scout should strive to embody, including trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. Make a conscious effort to practice these traits in your daily life.
  2. Be a positive role model: Be someone that others look up to by demonstrating positive behavior, such as being respectful to others, using good manners, and showing kindness to those around you.
  3. Take responsibility: Be accountable for your actions and own up to your mistakes. Don't make excuses or blame others.
  4. Demonstrate leadership: Whether you hold an official leadership position or not, demonstrate leadership by taking initiative and being a positive influence on others.
  5. Be prepared: As a Scout, you should always be prepared for any situation. Whether it's bringing the right gear on a camping trip or being ready for a meeting, being prepared demonstrates responsibility and reliability.

- **Live by the Scout Oath and Law:** As a Scout, living the Scout Oath and Law is an essential part of being a responsible and respectful member of the scouting community. These points should be taught to the new scouts.

1. Know the Scout Oath and Law: Take time to memorize and understand the Scout Oath and Law. This will help you keep them in mind and live by them.
2. Practice the Scout Law: The Scout Law outlines 12 traits that every scout should strive to embody. Make a conscious effort to practice these traits in your daily life, whether you are at a scout meeting or interacting with others in your community.
3. Be trustworthy: Always be honest and truthful in your words and actions. Keep your promises and be someone that others can rely on.
4. Be helpful: Look for ways to help others, whether it's volunteering in your community or assisting fellow scouts during camping trips.
5. Be respectful: Respect others, regardless of their backgrounds or beliefs. This includes respecting others' opinions, cultures, and traditions.
6. Be obedient: Follow the rules and guidelines set by your scout leaders and other authority figures. This demonstrates your responsibility and commitment to the scouting program.
7. Be prepared: Always be prepared for any situation, whether it's by bringing the right gear on a camping trip or studying for a school test.
8. Be courageous: Face challenges with bravery and determination, and stand up for what is right, even in difficult situations.
9. Be clean: Keep your body and mind clean, and care for yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally.
10. Be reverent: Show respect for your own beliefs and the beliefs of others. This includes respecting nature and the environment.

- **Show Scout Spirit:** Showing Scout Spirit is an important part of being a Scout, and it involves embodying the values and principles of the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life. These traits should be taught to the new scouts.

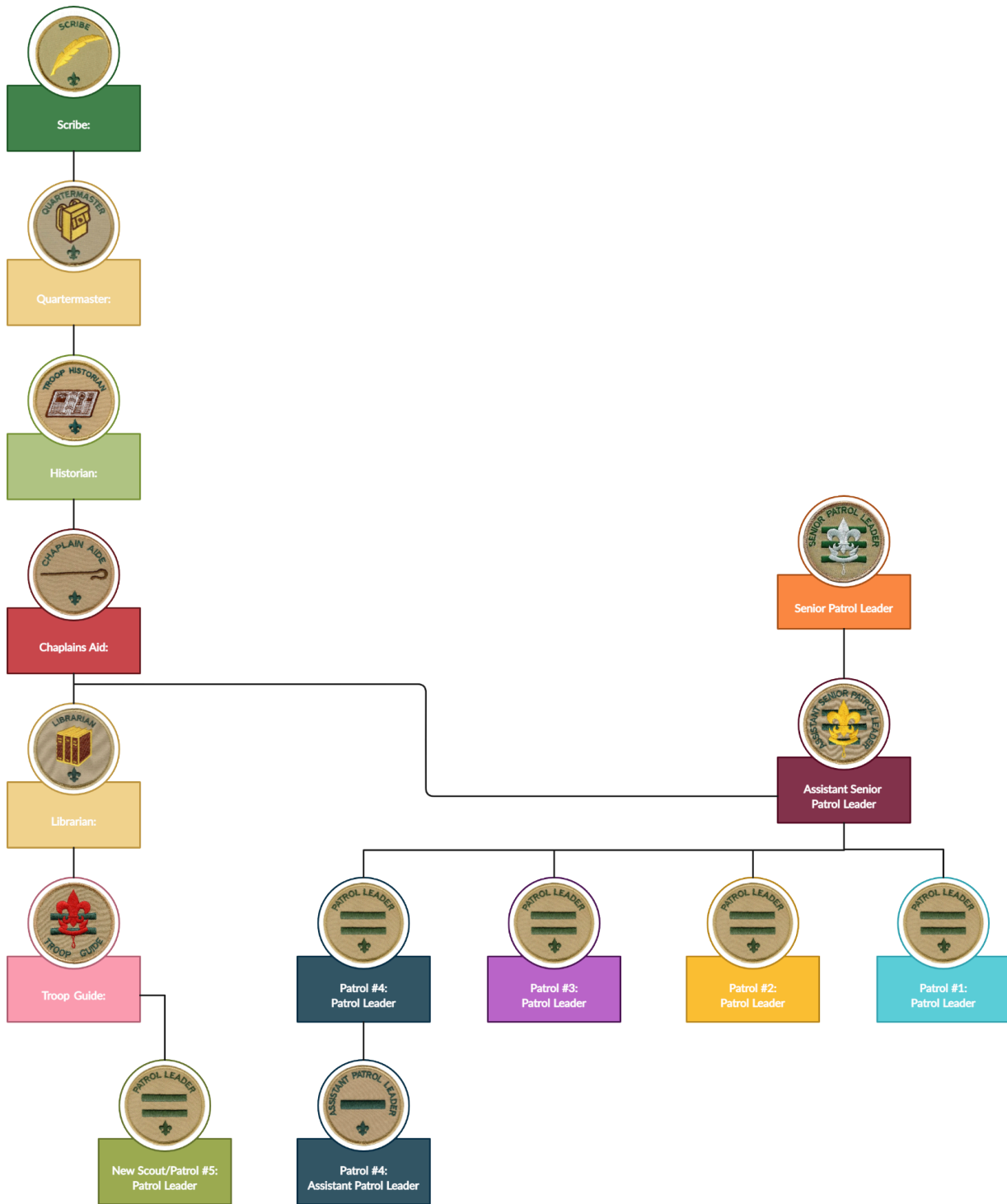
1. Participate actively: Attend scout meetings, events, and activities, and actively participate in discussions, games, and service projects.
2. Wear your uniform: Wear your Scout uniform proudly and properly, as it represents your commitment to the scouting program and its values.
3. Demonstrate leadership: Take initiative and lead by example. This can involve helping to plan and organize activities or offering to help fellow scouts when needed.

4. Be respectful: Show respect to your fellow scouts, scout leaders, and other adults you interact with. This includes using good manners, being polite, and listening to others.
  5. Follow the Scout Oath and Law: Live by the values and principles outlined in the Scout Oath and Law, and strive to embody the 12 points of the Scout Law in your daily life.
  6. Promote Scouting: Share your positive experiences with others and encourage them to join the scouting program.
  7. Be a good citizen: Be an active and responsible member of your community by volunteering, helping others, and making a positive impact in your local area.
- **Offer Aid in Earning Ranks and Merit Badges:** When and If available to you (depends on scoutmaster permission) go through the requirements for the scouts next rank. Support and Promote scouts to perform the required actions for the scouts next rank. Show them and guide them through the steps for obtaining a merit badge.
  - **Demonstrate the Proper Scouting Uniform:** Wear your uniform correctly and teach the scouts about where specific patches and uniform items go.
  - **Represent the Patrol at the Patrol Leaders Council:** Perform the actions of a Patrol leader for the new scout patrol.
  - **Guide new Scouts away from Harassment Received by Older Scouts:** Be outspoken and ensure a safe environment for new scouts.
  - **Counsel Individual Scouts on challenges faced in Scouting:** Help and guide the new scouts through the nuanced difficulties with scouting.

### **Month 6-12**

- **Coach the new Scout Patrol Leader following the sixth month of the patrol:** Bring the patrol leader up to speed and ensure that they know the duties and responsibilities of a patrol leader.
- **Train the new Scouts on the principles and values of leadership:** Teach them on how to be a good leader using the principles in Troop 81's Leadership Handbook.
- **Assist the new Scout Patrol Leader in their duties at the Patrol Leaders Council:** Act in a capacity as an assistant patrol leader, and ensure that the patrol leader knows what they are doing.
- **Continue To:** Set a Good Example, Show Scout Spirit, Live the Scout Oath and Law, Offer Aid in Earning Ranks and Merit Badges.





**Edits:**

8/30/2024 Riley Ramey: Filled out the responsibilities section, and removed gender specific pronouns.

2022 Coen Segerstrom: Started document and made responsibilities and summary.