

# Developing Patrol Spirit

Your Patrol is your gang, a unique group of people who you go on your Scouting adventure with. With this in mind it's important to create your own Patrol identity, something that will help your Patrol to stand out from the crowd. The following are some ways that you might go about doing just that.

## 1. Patrol Branding.

What is the name of your Patrol? Whether it is one of the traditional Patrol names such as Wolf, Raven or Bull, or a name that has been made up by yourselves, such as Dragon or Surfer Patrol, you should try to create a unique image which will tell everyone else who you are. The most basic way to do this is to create an exciting logo, and then use this in as many ways as possible. For example you could get some Patrol T-shirts made up, order badges and stitch these onto your Troop neckerchief, make a Patrol flag or mark your Patrol box and camping equipment. Soon every other Patrol will know who you are.

## 2. Your Own Place.

If you are lucky enough you may be able to find a place of your own for your Patrol meetings. This might be a shed in someone's back garden for example. But more often than not you will have to settle for an area in the Scout Den. If this is the case you need to create your own unique space. This can be done with Patrol Boards, which can either be fixed to the wall or can be portable. Just add some folding benches and you have your own Patrol Corner. But remember, there is no use having a Patrol Corner if you don't make it unique. So make sure to get that new Patrol logo prominently displayed and put up some photos of Patrol activities. You may also be able to paint your logo onto the wall, but don't forget to ask your Scouters' permission first of course!

## 3. Patrol Meetings & Activities.

Troop activities are a major part of what you do, but you should also have regular Patrol meetings and a number of Patrol activities each year. These will give your Patrol the chance to get to know each other better, and you will find them a great way to build a feeling of belonging to a gang.



## 4. Troop Programme.

Sometimes Troop activities might be based around age or the badge stages, but mostly they should be based on the Patrol System. So there should be plenty of Patrol based games or challenges at Troop meetings. On Troop camps the Patrols should camp on their own sites. On Troop hikes the Patrols should hike together. Patrol based activities should be the first choice when the Patrol Leaders' Council are planning the Troop programme, and this will allow the Patrols to develop into proper teams.

### A word about competitions.

Inter-Patrol competitions can be great fun and can do wonders for your Patrol Spirit. They can be as simple as a single game at a Troop meeting, or can be based on a combination of a whole set of projects and challenges over a period of months. But if used incorrectly however, competitions can do a lot of damage. While winning is always nice, it should not become all important. At all times competitions should be entered into in the right spirit of doing your best. If you do this a competition can add to the interest of your Troop activities, and create a healthy rivalry between the Patrols.