



**The Rover Patrol/Team:  
General Rover Patrol/Team Guidelines for Rover Crews of the Roving 4  
Life Association**

Information drawn from traditional/public domain sources including the following:

*Provisional Rules for Rover Scouts*; 1918 Edition; Boy Scouts Association  
*The Patrol System*, Ian Graham-Orlebar; Boy Scouts Association  
*Scouting For Boys*; Robert Baden-Powell  
*The Boy Scouts' Association 1938 POR – Policy, Organization, and Rules*,  
*1938 The Guidebook of Senior Scouting*, Boy Scouts of America

All these can be found on [thedump.scoutscan.com](http://thedump.scoutscan.com).

Material also drawn from:

Aspen Mountain Rover Crew Bylaws  
*The Presentation of a Rover Scout*, Boy Scouts Association, UK, 1946 [R4LA  
document compiled by Ken Pataky, Chief Rover Scout of R4LA]

Introduction

This document was created from the need for a clear understanding of how the Rover Patrol/Team should work in Roving according to traditional methods.

This document is intended for use in the Roving 4 Life Association of adult Rover scouts to help organize large Crews, although it can be helpful for any Rover Crews. As such, some of its material will reflect R4LA Bylaws and policies, which may not conform to every Rover Association.

These guidelines can be adjusted according to the traditions, needs, and policies of Crew circumstances and Bylaws, which Bylaws should take precedent over any conflicting information presented here.

## Rover Patrol/Team Guidelines

### I. Organizing a New Patrol/Team

- i. The need for Patrol/Teams arises as a Crew grows in large enough size that 1 Rover Mate and Rover Second does not feel they can further facilitate the entire Crew and wish for further delegation of responsibility throughout the Crew. The decision to create additional Patrols/Teams is up to the vote of the Crew and is completely optional.
- ii. When a Crew is first formed, a Rover Mate should be selected by nomination and vote of the Crew, and then a Rover Second by nomination and vote of the Patrol/Team. Any additional Patrols/Teams are formed according to **Point v**.
- iii. In the event there is more than 1 Patrol/Team, a Senior Rover Mate shall be nominated and voted upon by the Crew Round Table from the pool of available RMs. See **Section III-i** for the duties of the SRM.
- iv. Patrol/Teams are ideally formed by Rovers who already know each other and wish to scout together. When forming a Patrol/Team, the nominated Rover Mate must be 18 years old. If the RSL feels this Rover is not ready for leadership, they may intervene in the nomination and offer alternate recommendations.
- v. In order to organize a Patrol/Team, the proposing Rovers must meet with the RSL/ARSL and other Rover Mates at a Crew Round Table to express their desire and give legitimate reasons why they want to form a Patrol/Team. There must be at least 4 Rovers to start a Patrol/Team: one for a Rover Mate, one for a Rover Second, and 2 additional Patrol/Team members. The Crew Round Table may make recommendations for the Rovers to join an already existing Patrol/Team. Once the Patrol/Team is approved by vote of the Crew Round Table, the Patrol/Team may then organize themselves according to **Section II**. Also see **Section III-ii** for circumstances surrounding established Patrol/Teams.

### II. Organization of a Patrol/Team

- i. Senior Rover Mate – When there is more than 1 Patrol/Team in a Crew, a SRM must be elected by the Crew. A SRM is one of the RMs and leads their own Patrol/Team. Also see SRM duties in **Section III-i**.
- ii. The Rover Mate and Second
  - a. The title of a Patrol/Team leader is “Mate,” or Rover Mate (RM).
    1. The Rover Mate should be a Knight.
    2. The Rover Mate is elected by the Patrol/Team and approved by the RSL. The Rover Mate should be chosen for their moral integrity, their ability to listen, and their ability to lead by example. Also see the RM duties in **Section III-i**.
  - b. The Rover Second (RS), the assistant to the RM, is chosen by the RM and approved by the RSL. Also see the RS duties in **Section III-i**.
  - c. All Rovers in a Crew, with the exception of the RSL/ARSL and Crew Apprentices, must be part of a Patrol/Team.
- iii. Additional positions

- a. A Patrol/Team may have the option of assigning Patrol/Team members to different duties for the Patrol/Team, such as those suggested below; other positions may be created as needed.
  - 1. Grub master – in charge of listing foods, pricing, acquiring food, and related duties for Patrol/Team activities and outings.
  - 2. Quartermaster – in charge of Patrol/Team gear; they make sure gear is prepped for usage and can request additional gear from Patrol/Team members to contribute for activities.
  - 3. Scribe – takes minutes of meetings to help the RM/RS keep track of Patrol/Team business.
  - 4. Historian – makes records of the Patrol/Team history and activities.
  - 5. Committee members – a temporary committee may be formed for specific projects/activities according to the needs of the Patrol/Team, such as a service project committee.
- iv. Size of a Rover Patrol/Team
  - a. The optimum size of a Patrol/Team is 4-8 members. Exceptions can be made to the maximum number depending on the needs and capabilities of the Patrol/Team.
- v. Patrol/Team Traditions
  - a. Patrol/Team name
    - 1. Traditionally a Patrol/Team may be named after a national or local hero, although an alternative name may be chosen. The Patrol/Team must vote unanimously on the name.
  - b. Patrol/Team cheer
    - 1. A Patrol/Team may also choose a cheer to boost the spirit of the Patrol/Team and identify their Patrol/Team at Crew meetings and outings.
  - c. Patrol/Team flag
    - 1. Patrol/Teams are encouraged to create their own flag to identify themselves at outings and Crew meetings.
- vi. Types of Rover Patrol/Teams
  - a. Age-group Patrol/Teams – Patrol/Teams consisting of peers closer in age to one another to better participate in Rover activities together according to physical, mental, and emotional capabilities. This can also be applied to co-ed and gender-specific Patrol/Teams.
  - b. Co-ed Patrol/Teams – consist of both men and women in a single Patrol/Team.
  - c. Locale Patrols/Teams – if the Crew is spread apart over a geographical area, Patrols/Teams can be formed by those in close proximity to each other to better facilitate their Roving.
  - d. Men-only and women-only Patrol/Teams – as agreeable to the Crew so long as Rovers do not feel excluded from Rover activities due to gender.

### III. The Patrol/Team in Practice

- i. Duties

- a. Senior Rover Mate – The duty of the Senior Rover Mate is to represent all the Rover Mates at Round Table. They are a Rover Mate of their own Crew, but may wear the insignia of the SRM. While the RSL presides at a Crew Round Table, the SRM conducts and leads the Round Table to discuss activities and Rover progress with the Crew. The SRM acts as a link between the Crew and the RSL.
  - b. Rover Mate – The duty of the Rover Mate is to facilitate, or support, the SRM, RSL, and the entire Crew. They do this through the support of their Patrol/Team. They are to attend Crew Round Tables as often as possible and to add their voice to decisions and plans.
    - 1. The Rover Mate is in charge of writing down insignia orders for their Rovers to submit to the RSL/ARSL for ordering. Once the RSL receives the order from the supplier, they give that order to the RM to give to their Patrol/Team members.
  - c. Rover Second – The duty of the Rover Second is to support and at times take the place of the RM if the RM cannot be present for Patrol/Team/Crew meetings and activities. They should work closely with the Rover Mate to learn how to lead the Patrol/Team, and should get to know each Patrol/Team member. As the SRM is also the leader of their own Patrol/Team, the RS to a SRM is expected to lead in Crew Round Tables in the absence of their SRM and to conduct as their SRM would.
  - d. Patrol/Team member – The duty of a Patrol/Team member is to support their SRM, RM, and RS in scouting activities. They should participate as often as possible in person and participate in voting quorums. They should get to know each Patrol/Team member and enjoy the spirit of scouting together. They should cooperate in disciplinary matters.
- ii. Joining an established Patrol/Team
- a. Candidates and Squires
    - 1. Candidates joining the Association will have the opportunity to become a Squire under the mentorship of a chosen Knight. The Squire automatically works under the mentor Knight's Patrol/Team until such time the Squire is Knighted.
    - 2. If a Squire has objection to being in their Knight's Patrol/Team or they wish to start their own while a Squire, they must consult with the RSL/ARSL. If the Squire has compelling reasons enough to start their own Patrol/Team, they may form one according to **Section I**.
    - 3. Once Knighted, a Rover can remain with their mentor's Patrol/Team as long as the Patrol/Team does not exceed the Patrol/Team limit and if there are no objections by the Patrol/Team; or they can join/start a different Patrol/Team.
  - b. When a Rover wishes to leave one Patrol/Team to join another or start another, it should only be initiated after much thought and consideration, as a scout is a friend to all scouts, and it should be done out of the Rover's best intentions for everyone.
    - 1. In order to initiate the change to/start of another Patrol/Team, the Rover must have a council with the RSL/ARSL, the Rover Mate of the Patrol/Team they're leaving, and (if applicable) the Rover Mate of the Patrol/Team they

wish to join. Any personal/disciplinary issues should be resolved at this council if they are the reason for a Rover leaving a Patrol/Team. If deemed necessary by the RSL, this particular situation should be brought before the Crew Round Table for a vote. If the desire to start a new Patrol/Team is acceptable, the Rover may form a Patrol/Team according to **Section I**.

- c. A Crew Apprentice, as described in the AMRC Bylaws, is under the direct authority of the RSL/ARSL, with supervision from their adult family member, and may not join a Patrol/Team until they are able to join R4LA as a Candidate.

### iii. Elections

- a. The normal term of a Senior Rover Mate, Rover Mate and Rover Second is 12 months. At the end of a 12 month period, nominations and silent voting shall be held by the Patrol/Team for a new Rover Mate. There must be a quorum of at least 51% of the Patrol/Team to hold a vote. The Crew Round Table must be notified ahead of the next CRT meeting of the voting results.
- b. If a SRM/RM/RS must end their term early due to extenuating circumstances, the RSL and Crew Round Table must be notified, and the Patrol/Team may hold a new vote for a new RM, and the entire Crew for a new SRM.

### iv. Disciplinary Council

- a. If there is a member of the Patrol/Team that displays offensive behavior during a Crew/Patrol/Team activity, the following escalation actions are recommended:
  - 1. First, they can immediately be brought aside to speak 1-on-1 with the RM to deter the behavior.
  - 2. If the offensive behavior persists, the RM and RS may hold a more formal disciplinary council with the offender and those they have offended, if applicable, to mediate issues.
  - 3. If the offensive behavior persists after this council, the RM/RS may bring the case before the Crew Round Table, as discussed in **Section V-iii**.
- b. All Rovers in a Patrol/Team shall abide by the Code of Conduct in the Crew Bylaws. Violation of the CoC that cannot be resolved either through Patrol/Team and Crew Round Table disciplinary actions can result in the dismissal of a Rover from Crew membership.

### v. Patrol/Team Progression

- a. Each Patrol/Team decides how it will progress through the R4LA progression program. The Patrol/Team takes into account the needs of its Candidates, Squires, and Knights, and can plan their yearly activities and outings accordingly to help fulfill their needs.
- b. A Patrol/Team should meet once a year to plan the next 12 months of their Patrol/Team activities and outings. These plans should then be submitted to the RSL/ARSL for approval and to help them coordinate Crew activities with Patrol/Team activities.
- c. The Patrol/Team can plan the frequency of their activities according to the suggestions in the Bylaws, but can adjust according to their Patrol/Team needs.

## IV. Types of Patrol/Team meetings

- i. There are 3 types of Patrol/Team meetings: the Patrol/Team Meeting, the Patrol/Team Activity, and the Patrol/Team Outing. Each are described below.
- ii. Meetings and the Rover den
  - a. A Rover Patrol/Team should have their own “den,” or regular meeting place for planning, discussing the condition of the Patrol/Team, advancement, and as a base of operation before leaving on activities and outings. Preferably the den can be used to store Patrol/Team materials, such as shared camping gear, stationery, materials for advancement, first aid kits, etc.
  - b. A Patrol/Team should meet at least once a month in person for Patrol/Team business. Online video conferences are also permissible if Rovers cannot meet in person. Meetings are to be led by the RM, or the RS in absence of the RM.
  - c. The Patrol/Team decides by vote where the den should be, depending on the availability of facilities. Ideally all meetings should be held outdoors, but an indoor den should also be readily available for the Patrol/Team in case of adverse weather.
- iii. Activities
  - a. Rover Activities are localized, hands-on meetings. This can include patrolling to help others, service projects, meeting with another Patrol/Team, or a 1 day activity where the Patrol/Team practices scoutcraft in the outdoors.
  - b. Patrol/Team activities and frequency should be suggested by all Patrol/Team members and voted upon.
- iv. Outings
  - a. Outings consist of overnight activities, normally away from a local area. The RM should enlist the help of all their Patrol/Team members and delegate duties to help prepare for an outing. (This is where the “official” positions of grub master, quartermaster, etc. can come in handy.) Outing plans should be discussed with the Patrol/Team well in advance and submitted to the RSL/ARSL for approval. Any monetary needs for outings should also be discussed and shared by the Patrol/Team as much as possible.
  - b. All Rovers should be prepared for an outing. For example, if a member of the Patrol/Team is not physically prepared with the proper gear for an overnight outing, and there is no way to get their gear in a timely manner, the RM/RS has the authority to dismiss them from the outing for their safety and the safety of the Patrol/Team.
  - c. Patrol/Team outings and frequency should be suggested by all Patrol/Team members and voted upon.

## V. Crew Round Table

- i. A Crew Round Table is much like a Court of Honor in other scouting associations. It consists of the RSL/ARSL and all the Rover Mates (or Rover Seconds, if a Rover Mate cannot be present). Together they form a council to report on and decide on Crew-wide affairs with their SRM. It is presided over by the RSL/ARSL, and conducted by the SRM.
- ii. RMs report on the conditions of their Patrol/Teams to the SRM. During a CRT, The RMs/RSs receives any detailed information and recommendations from the

RSL/ARSL and the rest of the Round Table, and then passes that information on to their Patrol/Team.

- iii. The Round Table is used to report and vote on Crew activities throughout the year, such as service projects, Crew outings, and Rover progression. Though the RSL/ARSL may preside over the Round Table, it is ultimately up to the RMs to decide upon and vote upon activities and other matters. The RSL holds a final veto over a vote, but hopefully may never need to use it. The RSL may also break a tie vote if necessary.
- iv. Sensitive matters discussed at Crew Round Table are to be held in confidence by its members save for any relevant information RMs must share with their Patrol/Teams under the permission of members of the Round Table.
- v. The CRT is used for disciplinary matters for Rovers that cannot be resolved within a Patrol/Team according to the escalation methods discussed in **Section III-iv**. The offending Rover will be brought before the CRT for a discussion on persisting problems, any resolutions, and a silent vote can be held by the CRT on whether an offender should continue with the Crew.<sup>1</sup>
- vi. The Round Table is an opportunity for RMs to submit insignia orders to the RSL/ARSL, and for the RSL/ARSL to give received insignia orders to the RM to give to their Patrol/Team members.
- vii. The Round Table will meet quarterly, either in person or online video conference, as is acceptable to Crew officers.
- viii. There must be a minimum 51% quorum of CRT members to hold a vote.

## VI. Crew Meetings

- i. A regular Crew Meeting is where new Squires are received, plans announced for Crew-wide activities, and Patrol/Teams can participate together in a larger activity. More formal and detailed instructions will be relayed through RMs to their Patrol/Teams. All Rovers are encouraged to attend Crew Meetings to enjoy the friendship, ceremony, and spirit of scouting. Ideally there is a Crew Meeting once a month according to the Crew Bylaws, but this can be adjusted according to the needs of the Crew and Patrol/Teams.
- ii. The Crew can also hold Knight investitures as part of a meeting, or as the sole reason for a meeting. These are attended by the whole Crew and conducted by the RSL for the Squire(s) becoming a Knight(s).

## VII. Insignia for Patrol Positions

- i. Senior Patrol Mate – Wears a red stripe, ½ in. wide and 3 in. long, on either side of the left breast pocket, with an additional red stripe on the bottom of the pocket, horizontal. For hat insignia, wears a R-K (Rover Knight) pin or golden fleur-de-lis

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<sup>1</sup> As suggested from *The Patrol/Team System*:

“In the presence of the offender, the case should be outlined by the chairman, or yourself, or whoever has brought the Scout before the Court of Honour. The Scout should then be given an opportunity of stating his case and even, if really necessary, of producing witnesses. Then he should be asked to retire whilst his case is discussed. Finally he must be recalled and given another opportunity of speaking his mind both before and after he has been told of the verdict and sentence.(...).it is often a good idea to hold emergency meetings to deal on the spot with breaches of discipline. This is particularly effective after a Troop Meeting or at a camp. It impresses everyone with the speed with which Justice can strike at offenders, and has a correspondingly good effect on discipline.”

pin, with a 1 in. red stripe on either side of the pin and one stripe horizontal beneath the pin.

- ii. Rover Mate – Wears a red stripe, ½ in. wide and 3 in. long, on either side of the left breast pocket. For hat insignia, wears a R-K pin or golden fleur-de-lispin, with a 1 in. red stripe on either side of the pin.
- iii. Rover Second – Wears 1 red stripe, ½ in. wide and 3 in. long, on the right side of the left breast pocket. For hat insignia, wears a R-K pin or golden fleur-del-lis with 1 red stripe on the right side of the pin.

#### VIII. Training and Advice for Patrol/Teams

- i. Training for RMs and other Crew officers may be made available through the Crew or through outside sources, such as Woodbadge training that can be applied to Rovering. Below are a few tips for a Rover Mate/Rover Second and their Patrol/Team to keep in mind.
  - a. A Rover Mate must lead by example. Don't ask your Rover to do something you yourself wouldn't do, and help them in doing it.
  - b. You must have a firm moral ground upon which to base your decision-making. If you waver back and forth between important decisions and consistently fail to stick to plans and promises, you will lose the confidence of your Patrol/Team.
  - c. Never criticize one of your Rovers in public. If there is an issue in a Patrol/Team between members, try to resolve one-on-one. The RM/RS can act as a mediator. If it is a serious offense, disciplinary action may be taken.
  - d. The Rover Mate is a link between the RSL and the Patrol/Team. The RSL is not responsible for giving recommendations directly to non-officer Patrol/Team members. The Rover Mate relays specific information and plans from the Crew Round Table to their Patrol/Team members.
  - e. RMs need time for progression too! Make sure the RM and the RS are getting opportunities to work through the program along with other Patrol/Team members.
  - f. Appropriate games and competitions between Patrol/Teams can help build Crew spirit.
  - g. You will likely fail at some point, whether its a small failure or large failure. You can bring your failures before the Patrol/Team/the Crew Round Table to resolve issues and find suggestions to better lead in the future. This Association is intended to help adults support and mentor each other.
  - h. A Rover Mate is to work with their Patrol/Team, leading by friendship and example, and never treating one Rover above another. The Rover Mate should make it a point to understand the strengths and weaknesses of Patrol/Team members to best make use of their scouting talents.