



















Terminology



This quick reference sheet was developed to help familiarize you with common terms and acronyms used regularly within the contexts of Troop 640 and Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Please also reference the troop website (www.bsatroop640.org) and Troop 640's Bylaws for further information and explanation.

| | Term | Acronym (if any) | Definition |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Youth Leadership | | | |
|  | Patrol Leader | PL | The PL is elected by his patrol and is responsible for organizing, motivating, and managing his patrol. He represents the interests of his patrol mates when planning activities and relays information to his patrol as needed. |
|  | Assistant Patrol Leader | APL | The APL helps the patrol leader with patrol duties. The APL fills in for the PL when needed and is second in command. The APL is elected by the patrol. |
|  | Senior Patrol Leader | SPL | The SPL is elected by the troop and has ultimate responsibility for all scouts in all patrols in the troop. He runs all troop meetings, delegates responsibilities, and interacts with adult leadership. The SPL is at least a First Class rank scout who has completed BSA National Council's "Bighorn National Youth Leadership Training" course. |
|  | Assistant Senior Patrol Leader | ASPL | The ASPL is appointed by the SPL and supports the SPL by assisting with planning and execution of troop outings and meetings. The ASPL fills in for the SPL as needed. The ASPL is at least a First Class rank scout who has completed BSA National Council's "Bighorn National Youth Leadership Training" course. |
| | Patrol Leaders Council | PLC | The PLC consists of the SPL, ASPLs, PLs, APLs, and all other elected troop leadership positions (such as scribe, librarian, etc.). The PLC meets monthly to review activities, plan events, and delegate tasks to patrols as necessary. This is the main youth organizational body in the troop. |
| | Executive Patrol Leaders Council | Exec PLC | The exec PLC is comprised of the SPL and ASPLs. This group meets weekly with the Scoutmaster to finalize the details of plans made at the PLC. |
|  | Bugler | | The Bugler blows Reveille at campouts, calls meetings to order, and blows Taps during closing flag ceremonies. |
|  | Chaplain Aide | | The Chaplain Aide works with the troop chaplain/religious leader and/or Scoutmaster to meet the religious needs of the troop (e.g., keeps scouts and troop leaders apprised of religious holidays when planning activities). |
|  | Den Chief | | A den chief is a boy scout who assists the leaders and scouts of a cub scout den by promoting cub scout rank advancement, planning and executing den/pack meetings, etc. |
|  | Historian | | The historian collects, maintains, and/or creates troop memorabilia such as photos, news, stories, awards, and audiovisual records and presentations of troop activities. |

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|  | Librarian | | The librarian maintains the troop's written and electronic materials such as books and pamphlets, and also maintains a check-out system for those materials. |
| | Newsletter Editor | | The Newsletter Editor assists Scoutmaster with gathering content and information for the monthly troop newsletter, and drafts/reviews/edits newsletter articles upon request. |
|  | Order of the Arrow Representative | OA Rep | The OA Rep attends a majority of the OA Chapter Meetings, updates the troop on OA activities, and coordinates troop participation in those activities. |
|  | Scribe | | The Scribe keeps record of attendance at meetings and activities and provides minutes from each PLC meeting. |
|  | Troop Guide | | The Troop Guide is a scout who introduces new scouts to troop operations such as teaching basic scout skills, mentoring new PLs and APLs, and assisting new scouts in their interactions with older scouts and troop adults. |
|  | Webmaster's Aide | | The Webmaster's Aide assists the troop webmaster by proposing updates to the troop website and ideas for new subpages that would be helpful or informative to the troop membership. |
|  | Youth Quartermaster | QM | The QM Works with the troop's adult Quartermaster to ensure patrol equipment is accounted for and functioning properly. |
| Adult Leadership | | | |
|  | Scoutmaster | SM | The SM is an adult volunteer who is responsible for overseeing the troop's scouting program. The SM trains the troop's youth leadership and helps the scouts put into place the right plans and resources to execute the troops scouting activities/opportunities on a weekly basis. |
|  | Assistant Scoutmaster | ASM | An ASM is an adult volunteer who supports the SM. While a patrol will typically have 1 or 2 ASMs assigned to it, all patrols share ASM resources. |
|  | Committee Chair | CC | The Committee Chair collaborates with troop committee members and the SM. The troop committee oversees the administrative side of the troop (e.g., troop finances, troop policies, etc.) and is comprised of adult volunteers, typically current and former troop scouts' family members. |
|  | Chartered Organization Representative | COR | The COR is an adult volunteer who is affiliated with the chartered organization and who serves as a liaison between the chartered organization and the troop. The chartered organization is an organization that has been granted a charter by BSA to use the Scouting program. Troop 640's chartered organization is Genesis Presbyterian Church. The chartered organization approves the leadership of the troop, provides a meeting place, and makes certain the troop operates within the guidelines and policies of Genesis Presbyterian Church and BSA. |

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| Other Terms | | | |
| | Scoutmaster's Conference | SMC | The SMC is the first step a scout takes in completing a rank advancement once all the requirements for a particular rank have been achieved. This is a meeting between the rank candidate and the SM to discuss scout skills and other material in preparation for the Board of Review. |
| | Board of Review | BOR | The BOR is the second and last step a scout takes in completing a rank advancement once the SMC is complete. This is a meeting between the rank candidate and select troop committee members to discuss skills and other material prior to granting a scout with a new rank. |
| | Court of Honor | COH | A COH is held in lieu of a regular troop meeting three times per year. The COH recognizes the achievements and advancements of the troop's scouts in the 3-4 months since the most recent COH. |
| | Merit Badge | MB | An MB is an award a scout can earn for attaining knowledge in certain BSA-established topics through performance of specified tasks and activities. Earning merit badges is required to attain the scout ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle. |
| | Order of the Arrow | OA | OA is scouting's honor society that recognizes those who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law, encourages responsible outdoor adventure, and further develops leadership qualities. Scouts are elected to OA by their peers after meeting certain qualifications. |
| | Patrol | | A group of 5 to 12 boys of similar age and/or rank to which a scout is assigned. |
| | Troop Meeting | | Troop Meetings which are held 3 to 4 times per month. In troop meetings, scouts learn skills, present skits, play games, and prepare for monthly campouts |
| | Denver Area Council | DAC | The DAC is the division of BSA that covers the Denver Metro Area, including the counties of Arapahoe, Adams, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Jefferson, Clear Creek, Park and Gilpin. |
| | Timberline District | District | The Timberline District is the division of the DAC covering Jefferson County, Park County, and parts of Clear Creek County. |
| | Roundtable | | This is a meeting hosted by the Timberline District on the first Thursday of every month that is a valuable informational resource for all scout leaders. |
| | Running Antelope Chapter | RA Chap or RA Chapter | The Running Antelope Chapter is part of Denver Area Council's Tahosa Lodge 383, and is the Timberline District's OA Chapter. |