

Planning for Success: Quartermaster





Overview of the Role

- Keeps records on patrol and troop equipment
 - Makes sure equipment is in good working condition
 - Issues equipment and makes sure it is returned in good condition
 - Makes suggestions for new or replacement items
 - Works with the troop committee member responsible for equipment
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- Sets a good example
 - Lives by the Scout Oath and Law
 - Wears the Scout uniform correctly
 - Shows Scout spirit



Steps to Train Youth for the Role

- Orientation: Explain role importance and procedures
- Shadowing: Mentorship as Asst QM, before taking on the role.
- Practical Training: Teach hands-on inventory and repair skills
- Leadership Training: ILST and NYLT
- Ongoing Support: Regular reviews and feedback



Equipment Inventory Management

- Maintain an updated inventory log (digital or paper)
- Track the location and condition of all items
- Include fields like name, quantity, condition, location, and last-used date
- Regularly update logs after every trip
- Utilize labeling systems for easy identification
- Organized storage plans (closet, trailer, bins)



Equipment Maintenance Best Practices

- Inspect items for damage after each use
- Facilitate routine cleaning and repairs
- Schedule preventive maintenance (e.g., waterproofing tents)
- Label and store gear to prevent loss or damage



Youth Responsibilities

- Be proactive in keeping inventory logs updated
- Conduct regular inspections of equipment
- Seek help when unfamiliar with maintenance tasks
- Communicate needs or shortages with leadership promptly
- Take ownership and delegate tasks to others when necessary
- Troop QM should mentor Patrol Quartermasters



Adult Assistance Opportunities

- Pair the QM with an Assistant Scoutmaster
- Help create resources like repair kits and maintenance tools
- Create an inventory system that's simple and accessible
- Encourage and recognize the Quartermaster's efforts
- Assist in acquiring new equipment or funding repairs
- Foster a supportive environment for problem-solving



Discussion Questions

- 1. How can troops motivate Scouts to take ownership of their responsibilities?
- 2. What tools or methods have you found effective for managing troop inventories?
- 3. How can adult leaders balance oversight with letting Scouts learn from mistakes?



Additional Resources

- <https://troop846.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/T846-POR-QM1-Manual-for-Quartermasters.pdf>
- <https://www.woodlandscubscouts.com/uploads/5/1/1/4/51144117/scoutersguide-quartermaster.pdf>
- http://www.troop17bsa.com/uploads/4/5/8/4/4584404/quartermaster_handbook_troop17.pdf