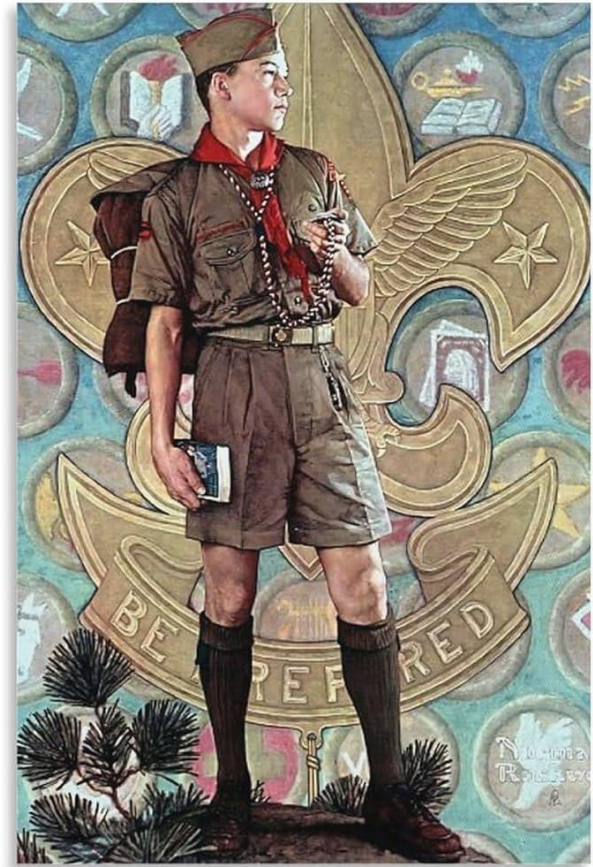




Keeping Older Scouts Engaged

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November 6, 2025





Keeping older scouts engaged

Scout-led troop

Give them purpose

Make it fun! And diverse.

Develop a culture





Scout-led troop

Characteristics of a scout-led troop

- Scout-led decision-making
- Patrol Leaders' Council
- Planning and organization
- Leadership development (ILST, NYLT)
- Patrol method

Adult roles

- Mentors and trainers
- Facilitators
- Coaches





Give them purpose

- Involve them in the mentoring of younger scouts
- Let them lead activities
- Scouting skills instruction
- Inform them of their ‘obligation’ to pass down knowledge and shape troop culture
- Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Instructors, Troop Guide, Den Chief
- OA





Make it fun! And diverse.

- **Snuff out social hierarchies within the troop**
- **Zero tolerance for bullying**
- **Special older scout-only outings such as a COPE weekend, advanced white-water rafting, high adventure camps, skiing, or backpacking**
- **Mix it up for summer camp**
- **Sprinkle in weekend camp outs without a strict agenda**
- **‘Venture Patrol’**





Develop a culture

- There is some work to keep older scouts engaged at first, but it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy over time
- Ask older scouts how to improve the troop and let them put their ideas into action
- Emphasize that participating in Scouting is not an either / or proposition
- Eagle Rank – age 16 goal

