Scout Section:

How to run a Patrol Leaders Council Online

What is a Patrol Leaders Council?

A Patrol Leaders Council are made up of PLs, APLs and Scouters.

Each PL and APL takes ideas from their patrol and are responsible for introducing a code of conduct for the councils, their own patrols and completing badgework.

Key Areas of Responsibility

Meetings should be regular, possibly every 3-4 weeks. These should be separate from regular troop meetings. These could be held on the same evening or even another day entirely. The meetings should only be 20-30 minutes long.

Discussion Suggestions

1. **Patrol Reports**

    Patrol Leaders should update the rest of the Patrol Leaders Council on how the patrol is progressing. This should include a review of patrol activities, update on progress in regard to badgework, any issues arising in the Patrol and any suggestions for future programme that come from the Patrol.

2. **Troop Report**

    The PLC should discuss how the troop is doing in general.

3. **Scouters Report**

    Any Scouters in attendance should pass on relevant information from group or county meetings   They should also update PL and APLs on Scouter meetings.

4. **Planning and Reviewing**

    PLs and APLs should review the previous programme cycle completed and plan for a new programme cycle for the following month or year.

    PLs should also write a report to bring back to their Patrol at end of meeting

5. **AOB**

AOB or 'Any Other Business' is a time at the end of the meeting when any other topics (that weren't already discussed during the meeting) can be discussed, even if it wasn't written in the agenda.

Running Online Meetings

In order to run an online meeting with the whole unit, a Patrol Leaders Council should be run prior to the Unit meeting in order to organise programme, adapting to the current climate and to figure out how to effectively run a Unit meeting online.

There are many different video conferencing platforms available for online meetings, including Zoom, WhatsApp, Microsoft Teams, Facebook and Skype. Prior to the meetings, Scouters should risk assess each platform and make a decision on which one would suit their Unit's needs best. Parental consent must be given for each youth member attending a video call, and parents must have prior knowledge of the details and content of the meeting. The waiting room feature (available on certain platforms such as Zoom and Teams) can be used for participants while waiting for people to join the call, this means no one-to-one calls. These meetings must comply with Safeguarding and Scouter to Youth Member Policies. Further information can be found on the link below:

Disclaimer - Online Safety Guidelines should be adhered to and can be found in the link below:

https://www.scouts.ie/Parent/Safety/Guidance-on-How-to-Run-a-Virtual-Scout-Meeting-08-04-2020.pdf

Running a Programme Night Online

There are many activities that can be adapted to an online platform. The group should look at the programme they had planned and see if any of it can be adapted to become part of an online meeting.

Other programme ideas for online meetings may include:

- Quiz
- Covering theory for any relevant badge work eg. first aid theory
- Planning for future camps / meetings
- Reviewing previous camps / meetings
- Special interest badge work and updates
- Chief Scout Award work and updates