

SPL/ASPL Annual Elections - Troop Guidelines

December 2012

SPL and ASPL Quantity

- Four leaders (one SPL and three ASPL's) per year is about right for a troop size of 70 boys and 9 patrols. The method used by Mesa PD is each assistant patrol leader is assigned 3 patrols. A senior patrol leader then resides over the top. The troop will mirror this approach.
- The two scouts with the top vote count will be SPL, although only one SPL will serve at a time, each serving for half the year. The SPL position will rotate after summer camp. It is required that the first SPL should plan to attend summer camp and use the leadership knowledge they have gained during the first half of the year to lead during the rigors of summer camp. That SPL will then rotate to ASPL. The second elected scout will then rotate to SPL after summer camp. The second SPL is required to lead during Maverick Camporee. The second SPL will remain SPL through the remainder of the calendar year.

Eligibility

- ASPL's from the current year are eligible to run for the following year
- Have served as a patrol leader for at least 6 months. This would be typical of a scout at Star rank or greater. Other positions of leadership should be considered but experience leading other boys is the key consideration
- Solid attendance record (>80% guideline)
- No concerns or issues from the SM or ASM's (i.e. discipline, not engaged, attendance)
- Criteria are: Good communicator, organized, helpful to other scouts and leaders, stays constructively engaged at troop meetings, participates in outings, good role model to others. NYLT trained is a plus, but not required.

Elections

- Scouts elect the SPL and ASPL in December for the following year
- An announcement will be made 2 weeks in advance that elections will be held. Each interested scout will let the SM know in advance they want to run for election. No last minute "night of the election" walk-ons will be allowed.
- Interested candidates are allowed 2-5 minutes in front of the troop for a campaign speech. It should cover their scouting history, why they would be a good troop leader, etc. Creativity and visual aids are encouraged.
- The scouts will be encouraged to vote for the scouts who will make the best leaders for the troop. This is not a popularity contest.
- The scouts voting will be handed a ballot to right in their top 3 choices. The ballot should be kept discrete, folded and handed to the leaders for counting.

- The four selected leaders are elected by a majority vote.

Note: Scoutmaster has veto authority on candidates if they feel the scout is not ready. This would include, but not limited to, the ability to lead, behavioral issues, poor attendance, troop meeting participation, etc.

Mark Knowles

Troop 653 Scoutmaster