



For a Rover Scout program to be relevant to the young people participating in it, they have to always be involved in its planning and review. The program is fundamental to the success or failure of a Unit. The program must reflect the interests, goals and aspirations of the Rover Scouts that will be participating in it. Unit Councils in a Rover Scout Unit are an essential way for youth to perform checks and balances on what level of engagement, control and direction they have over the program and Unit.

Rover Scouts are completely autonomous youth members that are capable of implementing the plan, do, review cycle over their whole program with support from an advisor or mentor only when required by the Unit. Rover Advisers and mentors are there in a position of advising rather than guiding or directing, and it is important that Rover Scouts are allowed to be independent and for their programs to focus on areas designated by the youth members themselves. The Adviser still plays a critical role and can help support the Unit Leader through programming, provide guidance on checks and balances throughout the Unit and remind Unit Leaders and Unit Council members of critical things.

The Unit Council should occur regularly so that all members maintain a feeling of engagement and direction with the creation of their program and its implementation. A good suggestion for this is having a Unit Council once every 4 to 6 weeks. The Unit Council may not be made up of the whole Unit and not all Unit Councils need to occur in a formal setting, and it is encouraged sometimes for creativity and engagement for the Councils to be held in an outdoors environment or in line with an outdoor/ creative challenge.

Take time with your Unit Council to go through the following statements and identify if the Council agrees you are on the right track:

- We do the planning and reflection on activities, programs and events. If we need support regarding a unique or specialised event then an Adviser or mentor can provide advice and guidance.
- We properly plan for our activities and our members leading and assisting in activities have detailed plans for all programmed activities in a program cycle
- We ensure that the whole Unit is following Youth Leading, Adults Supporting
- We discuss and put in place checks and balances of our Units application of the Scout Method
- We are solving problems and issues if/when they arise in a respectful way to all members involved
- We are collaboratively coordinating inter-Unit and inter-Group events.
- We support all members of our Unit in their Scouting journey and personal life
- We autonomously discuss and approve achievements and challenges, such as the Baden Powell Scout Award.
- We encourage Project Patrols to form and support other sections in our group through challenges we are all involved in
- We support our group/ other areas of Scouting and the community through engagement throughout the Personal Progression Framework
- We set a clear standard of behaviour and support all Unit members in maintaining it and act as role models for the other Sections in our Group
- We undergo a constant review of our performance as members of the Rover Scout Unit and of the Unit Executive

To help make your Unit Council as successful as possible, you could do the following:

- Have clear guidance from and for the Unit Leader
- Have access to support and advice from Advisers and mentors if we need it
- Make sure that when support and guidance is given, it does not undermine or take over the leadership of our youth members.
- Have a meeting agenda (depending on formality, age of members and location of the meeting) and a plan on execution before conclusion of a meeting
- Make sure there is engagement and participation from all members present and appropriate behavior is being demonstrated
- Record all the creativity, decisions, discussions and reviewing that occurs in our meeting

For more information about Unit Councils and programming for the Rover Scout Section please refer to the Program Manual, Youth Leading, Adults Supporting documentation and programming support documentation.