

SCOUTS-L

HOLLAND

Date: Fri, 13 Dec 1996 12:23:19 +0100
Reply-To: J.H.J.Gooijen@STUD.TUE.NL
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: John-Bill <J.H.J.Gooijen@STUD.TUE.NL>
Subject: Re: Unit Committees in Other Countries?
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO
X-Status:

Thomas Turba wrote:

> From my travels to other countries, I know that it is common to have a
> unit structure that covers both younger and older boys, or boys and
> girls, and possibly even Rovers. What I would like to know is how a
> committee of such a joint unit is run?

I'm a leader of a typical Scouting Group in Holland.

** This might seem strange but with us the words Group and Unit have just

** the other meaning than yours!

Our "Group" consists of seperate units for Beavers, Cubscouts, Brownies, Boy

Scouts, Girl Guides, Explorers and Pioneers.

Each unit is responsible for it's own program and activities. Once a month all leaders (at least one from each unit) meet in the Group-meeting. Then decisions that are made on topics that are of interest to all units.

For instance on joined meetings.

> Is there one unit treasure?

There's a seperate committee that own's our scouting home, most of the scouting property (which is shared by all unit's) and takes care of finances.

Each unit receives a fixed amount of money from the treasury.

> What things are done together?

Our Group has many joined activities: Carnaval (traditional holiday), National Scouting Day, jumble sale, Opening of new Scoutingyear, Fly-Over ceremony (oldest kids go to the next unit) and Christmas.

Also some activities are organized by two units (eg Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) or by our District.

> Is fund raising done together?

Yes, most fund raising is.

> Are there joint campouts or picnics?

Yes, usually one joined campout each year. The units have separate campouts as well.

> Is there one person that tracks advancement for both groups?

No, we don't have anyone that does specially do this. Over here the kids can earn badges too, but it's not nearly as important. We don't have ranks you can reach.

> Any advice or reference you have would be appreciated.

The most important thing is that there's good communication between the leaders of the separate units!

We're all good friends, that clearly helps...

YiS,

John Bill Tro.
Scouting Bekkerveld
Heerlen, Holland

From <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU> Sat Dec 14 10:35:53 1996

Return-Path: <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

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Received: from PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU by pucc.PRINCETON.EDU (IBM VM SMTP V2R2)

with BSMTP id 4354; Sat, 14 Dec 96 10:31:56 EST

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (NJE origin MAILER@TCUBVM) by PUCC.PRINCETON.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 8759; Sat, 14 Dec 1996 10:31:56 -0500

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (NJE origin LISTSERV@TCUBVM) by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 1871; Sat, 14 Dec 1996 09:30:05 -0600

Received: from TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LISTSERV release 1.8b)

with NJE id 1862 for SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU; Sat, 14 Dec 1996

09:29:26 -0600

Received: from TCUBVM (NJE origin SMTP@TCUBVM) by TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU (LMail

V1.2a/1.8a) with BSMTP id 1861; Sat, 14 Dec 1996 09:29:25 -0600
Received: from ssnet.com by tcubvm.is.tcu.edu (IBM VM SMTP V2R2) with
TCP; Sat,

14 Dec 96 09:29:22 CST

Received: from gaelwolf (ip25.dover.dmv.com [206.25.190.125]) by
ssnet.com

(8.8.3/8.6.12) with SMTP id KAA13726 for

<SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>; Sat, 14 Dec 1996 10:28:33 -0500

(EST)

X-Mailer: Mozilla 3.0Gold (Win95; I)

MIME-Version: 1.0

References: <32B08D87@rsvl_gw.rsvl.unisys.com>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit

Message-ID: <32B2C765.4936@ssnet.com>

Date: Sat, 14 Dec 1996 10:27:34 -0500

Reply-To: "Norman J. MacLeod" <gaelwolf@SSNET.COM>

Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>

From: "Norman J. MacLeod" <gaelwolf@SSNET.COM>

Subject: Re: Unit Committees in Other Countries?

To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Status: RO

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Thomas -

You are describing the Group Committee structure, which is the standard for many Scout Associations around the world. In actual practice, there are many Groups that have more than just one Pack and Troop. For instance, when I was with the 1st The Hague Scout Group (UK Scout Association Group in The Netherlands), we had one Beaver Colony (looking for new Leaders when I left, so that a second could be formed to deal with the waiting list), two Cub Packs (one co-ed), two Troops (one co-ed), and one Venture Scout Unit (co-ed). Even with two Packs, we always had a long waiting list for Cubs.

These were all under one Committee, which had the usual positions you probably have in the BSA, with the Leaders from each Section also included for meetings.

Works very well. The UK Scout Association has printed guidance on Committee operation, but you would probably find the Committee guidance provided by Scouts Canada to be more easily available to you (phone any

Scouts Canada office - ask Directory Assistance for the number in the city of your choice).

We had an annual Christmas (winter holidays) party for the entire Group, as well as an annual Group camping trip to which parents were also welcome in some years.

In addition to periodic Group Committee meetings, we had an Annual General Meeting, to which all the parents of the Group were invited, encouraged, and cajoled into attending. (The wine and cheese tasting that went along with the AGM helped draw them in...) During the AGM, we always had a massive wide game for the Scout Troops.

Fund raising was done as a Group, with funds going to the Sections on a per-capita basis, with a larger share going to those Sections who actively participated in the fund-rasiers (if you helped, an extra share would go to the Sections your child(ren) belonged to). One of hte major fund-rasiers was an annual crafts and jumble sale, held in late November to hit the holiday trade. We would have people from all over Den Haag and the surrounding vicinity coming in to buy things.

Working as Scout Groups instead of independent Packs and Troops is vvery beneficial when it comes to keeping members between sections (i.e. Cub links from Pack to Troop), since the kids all know each other from periodic contact throughout the year.

I'm glad to see the BSA is starting to try this out on a formal basis.

Norman

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Try this Scouting Link in your WWW browser:

<http://www.win.net/~gws/gaelwolf/home.htm>

Includes "The Serious Side of Scouting" pages where we take on subjects such as ADD and survival training courses for Scouts and Leaders, along with much, much more!

All pages optimised for use with the Netscape Navigator.
