

SCOUTS-L

SWITZERLAND

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Reply-To: jacobi.parc@XEROX.COM
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: jacobi.parc@XEROX.COM
Subject: Re: Unit Committees in Other Countries?
X-To: Scouts-L@tcu.edu
X-cc: Christian_P_Jacobi.PARC@xerox.com
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
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Comparing the duties of unit committee's with similar structures in an other country is very difficult. I can give you some information about Swiss organization. However, almost any one on one comparison tends to become absurd, as you will see.

The combination of troop and pack, or a few troops and a few packs is called "Abteilung". I will call it group, because I believe the Canadian concept of group might have some similarities with a small Swiss "Abteilung".

The scoutmaster or cubmaster does NOT report to the committee but to the division chief in a large group, or, the group chief in a small group. The committee oversees the operation and bears long term responsibility for the group. While committee members typically are the people which do lots of work, the committee as organization is not involved in program activities of troops or packs. The committee is more like a board of directors.

>What things are done together and what are done separately?
There are no rules; this is decided on "thing by thing" basis and handled differently in different units. Typically high adventure is done by scouts without cubs; family show might be done together.

>Is fund raising done together?
See above.

>Is there one unit treasure?
The group is a legal entity and must have a treasure. Troops, packs, dens

and patrols typically have a treasure too, but it is dealt with substantially less formal the smaller the unit.

>Are there joint campouts or picnics?

Yes, as well as separate campouts or picnics.

>Is there one person that tracks advancement for both groups; or, does each

>group have its own person?

Boys advancements are not seriously tracked. Leader advancements are tracked at council level and above.

Will your experiment on putting troops and packs together into one unit work? I don't think I'd dare a prediction as I believe it will all depend on the details. In general I think group organization makes lots of sense, but applied to certain packs (i.e Pack 6) and certain troops it would probably lead to disaster unless committee responsibilities were deeply changed.

Chris