



## TRAIL LIFE USA®

### EFFECTIVE TROOP MEETING PLAN

This is a *recommended* weekly Troop Meeting Plan. This proven formula contains best practices from some of the most successful Trail Life Troops. The order and steps outlined on the Agenda are simply *recommended*, not *required*.

#### Planning for the next week's meeting (3-4 days beforehand):

- Physical arrangements of meeting location
- Reminder sent to all members (outline any expectations—what to bring, how to dress, etc)
- First Officer mentoring (Troopmaster coaches him to lead the meeting well—go through each step)

#### Meeting night:

- Set up (Adult and Youth Leaders arrive 20-30 minutes early)
- Gathering (15 minutes)...have a pre-meeting activity planned for boys/families who arrive early

#### TROOP MEETING AGENDA (total time is approx. 75 minutes)

1. Opening ceremony (start on-time, every time—7 minutes)
  - Presentation of the colors/pledge, led by a different patrol each time (with AHG sister Troop)
  - Recite the Trailman Oath
  - Prayer (select a different Trailman each time)
2. Announcements (4 minutes)
  - Made by First Officer (only RARELY by the Troopmaster)
  - Describe what we are doing tonight (and why); highlight next 2-3 big activities coming up
3. Chaplain mentoring moment (2 minutes)
  - Inspirational and faith-building; sets the tone for the rest of the meeting
4. Patrol breakouts (40 minutes)
  - Outdoors (weather permitting)
  - Hands-on and action-oriented—focused on your purpose
  - Advancement work for Woodlands Trailmen
  - Skills training for Navigators and Adventurers (youth led)
5. Regather in main room for Troop-wide game (15 minutes)
  - Fun, physical release; make sure younger boys have a chance to succeed
6. Wisdom for the Wild (keep it to ONE minute); AHG Leader minute (same for her)
  - Recognize special achievers
7. Closing ceremony—3 minutes

#### WHAT ELSE?

- Always emphasize an informed, empowered youth-leader culture
- Involve parents and your AHG sister Troop (while recognizing that there are limitations for those who are not registered members of TLUSA)
- Chaplain: remain available to speak with uninvolved parents who stay for the meeting