

# FIFTEEN THOUGHTS FOR SCOUT LEADERS

## **1. Trust the Program.**

100 + years of proven results - Follow it! Understand and embrace the program as it is and accept changes when they come.

## **2. Conduct Activities that are Age Appropriate.**

Respond to the needs of each developmental stage: don't push Scouts into activities for older, or hold them back in activities for younger Scouts

## **3. Work with different family standards and expectations.**

The way you were raised and the way you raise your children aren't the only 'right' way. Never complain to a Scout about his parents or disparage his family .

## **4. Avoid Disagreements. - Run to the Resource.**

Disagreements and difficulties are inevitable, seek resolution with as little disruption as possible. Policy and procedures are written down for a reason - know these resources and use them.

## **5. Accept Help.**

You will need help, it will come from many directions (even a few you don't like) accept it gracefully and always say 'thank you'.

## **6. Be Professional.**

"I am just a volunteer" is never an excuse for being unprepared.

## **7. Maintain Perspective and Proportion.**

You are important, your work in Scouting is important, so are your Scouts - but so are a lot of other things in life.

## **8. Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.**

## **9. Scouts are measured individually based on their effort.**

B.P. said: *the standard of performance is purposefully undefined* to give every boy the opportunity to grow according to his own abilities and interests.

## **10. Keep Your Commitments.**

Don't over-extend your volunteer roles, be realistic about what you can and can not do.

## **11. Focus on success of your Scouts.**

Individual success is prerequisite to the success of the group.

## **12. Understand your role and maintain your Scouting education.**

Be inquisitive, get training - don't wait around for someone to bring you knowledge - seek it out.

## **13. There will be problems.**

You are not likely to encounter a new problem or difficulty – ask more experienced Scouters for help.

## **14. If something doesn't work...**

It's either not a part of the Scouting program or you may have misunderstood or misapplied something. It is not the Scouts fault or some shortcoming in the program.

## **15. It's not just about your boy but all of the Scouts.**

For an hour a week you are a Scout Leader first and a parent second.

