

Making Everything Easier!™

Novelty Edition

The Patrol Challenge

FOR
DUMMIES

Learn to:

- Earn early bonus clues
- Maximize your points
- Have a great time!

with hints from Paul
Oliver and Jack Fishel



Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of America



2013
PATROL CHALLENGE



THE PATROL CHALLENGE FOR DUMMIES

Your first Challenge is to figure out what your PATROL* wants to accomplish from the Patrol Challenge. You have 3 basic choices and they are your guide to having the best possible experience.

About 1/3 of the Patrols that participate just want to have a good time. Sure they may want to work on teamwork and problem solving, but they are not going for the big score. They just want to get their feet wet and/or enjoy the experience. This is a perfect level for first time participants and younger Scouts. It also works well for experienced Patrols who just want to concentrate on what they enjoy most about the event.

If this is where your Patrol is at you need 2-4 adults. Spending money of \$0 - \$15 per youth. A family to HOST THE PATROL AT NIGHT*. At least 3 PATROL MEMBERS*, 1 or more computers and 1 or 2 vehicles.

You will want to participate in the EARLY BONUS CLUES*. Those are like mini Patrol Challenges and will give your Patrol a chance to practice and start earning points for the big OCTOBER 16-18 WEEKEND*. The Early Bonus Clues start coming out in May and you can do them when you get them and at your leisure and your schedule. And you don't need to do all of the Challenges, just the ones you like. You can regard them like a practice test.

You should determine how far you want to travel and if you want to keep your Patrol together or SPLIT THEM UP*. To split your Patrol you must have at least 2 Patrol Members per group. We do not recommend Splitting Patrols for new participants and younger Patrols.

The Patrol Challenge takes place over an extremely large area. We recommend that Patrols just looking for a good time keep your travel area contained and comfortable. The cost of the event depends on several factors. You can control costs by doing sack lunches and using money only where needed for admissions. You can also eliminate anything that has an admission cost, but those can be some of the best times. You can give your Scouts a budget ceiling if you like. This will serve to keep costs down along with teaching them to make decisions about what to do.

About 1/3 of the Patrols are trying for a competitive score. If this is where your Patrol falls you will want 5-8 Patrol Members, 4-6 adults and \$10-\$20 in spending money. The only way to score big is to Split your Patrol into 2 groups. You will need enough Patrol members and adults to go in 2 different directions. Remember to follow BSA or GSUSA adult leadership rules at all times. You should plan on doing as many Early Bonus Clues as possible before the Patrol Challenge October 16-18 weekend. You should also have enough computers so the Patrol members can start RESEARCHING* and making plans when they GET THE CLUES*. You need to map out your travel so you cover as much ground as possible in the limited time allotted. Look at the clues and go for the clues that give the most points.

The final 1/3 of participating Patrols are going for the gold. They want the best possible score and they want to leave ALL competition in the dust. If this is your Patrol you will want 7-8 Patrol Members and at least 6 or more adults. (More is better.) Patrol Members will want \$15-\$25. Be prepared for a long, grueling, but incredibly FUN and rewarding weekend.

Jack and Paul's hints for winning scores

1. Do all Early Bonus Clues as soon as you can.
2. Do BONUS POOLS*.
3. Participate in clues to be JUDGED*.
4. At locations keep your eyes open for what might be in the same area. Jack and Paul are sneaky☺
5. Some things are worth big scores. Don't miss those if possible.
6. Split your Patrol.
7. Map out your travel so you can efficiently cover as much ground as possible.
8. Use your time wisely. We include far more than you can possibly do in 1 weekend, so do what gets you the most points.
9. It is impossible to do everything – don't even try. Don't waste time on something you can't solve or do. There is plenty more to take its place.

Good luck, have FUN and we will see you in October,

Jack and Paul

*** Definitions of Terms**

PATROL – Consists of 3-8 Scouts. Adults are not part of the Patrol.

HOST THE PATROL AT NIGHT – The Patrol usually works together at 1 home the first night to prepare, research and use as a base of operations. Either Friday or Saturday night the Patrol can earn points by camping in the back yard of your home.

PATROL MEMBERS – Are Scouts only. Adults are not Patrol Members.

EARLY BONUS CLUES – Once you register you are emailed Early Bonus Clues every month starting in May. The Patrol can do these as soon as you get them.

OCTOBER 16-18 WEEKEND – This is the final days of the event. You will be given all the final clues at this time.

SPLIT THEM UP – To be able to cover more ground you can split your Patrol into 2 groups to go in separate directions. There must be at least 2 Scouts in each group and the appropriate adult leadership in each vehicle. You cannot Split Up into more than 2 groups.

RESEARCHING – Scouts figure out clues using internet searches. Some clues are findable via internet searching. Some require just a phone call or an observant eye when on the road. Older Scouts should be doing their own research. Younger can and should be helped by adult leaders.

GET THE CLUES – All the final clues are available on Thursday October 15 at 4pm. You will be given a secret password to access them at Patrolchallenge.com. Scouts can start Researching them at that time. BUT they may not take any photos, do any activities or collect any scavenger hunt items until Friday at 4pm.

BONUS POOLS – An activity, location or item that is worth a lot of points. Points are evenly divided among all Patrols who do it.

JUDGED – The Patrol is given something to make and bring in to be judged against other Patrols.