



RETENTION BEST PRACTICES FOR TROOPS

Problem: Low Number of Youth in a Troop

Solutions:

- 1- Work with another local Troop or adopt each other as 'sister troops', attending campouts and events together.
- 2- Reach out to chartering church promoting the program as a whole, with emphasis on younger youth.
- 3- Involve the current members in an Annual Planning session (see [Troop Fundraising 101](#)). This teamwork approach will always retain current members while word spreads of the dynamic program being offered.
- 4- Search "Join the Trail Quick Start" in TLC University to learn best practices for hosting an Open House and New Parent's Orientation.

Problem: Lack of Adult Leadership ("one-man show" or very few adults involved)

- 1- Core Team leaders are just "names on paper" to fulfill the requirement; there is no expectation to take on real responsibilities.
- 2- There is no *Charter Organization* involvement (Direct Contact Leaders "run" the Troop).
- 3- The Troop Committee is weak/uninvolved.
- 4- No succession plan exists; instead, there is an ongoing "dictatorship".

Solutions:

- 1 and 2- An active Troop Ministry Liaison (TML) takes responsibility for selecting leaders best suited for each position.
- 3 and 4- Troops must have functioning and regularly-meeting Troop Committees with defined roles (such as Committee Chairman, Treasurer, Advancement Chair, Onboarding Chair, Membership Chair, Camping/Outdoor Activities Chair, Training Coordinator, etc.). No Direct Contact Leaders (other than Troopmaster) should be on the Troop Committee!

Models of Successful Troops*

Finding solutions to problems are often found in best practices of successful Troops.

- 1- Launching a Troop takes time. Successful Troops generally are the ones that took their time setting up before starting up.
- 2- Troops that participate in Area and state events are more successful than those that don't.
- 3- Ministry alignment is in sync; the Troop has the ongoing support of their Charter Organization.
- 4- The TML is knowledgeable of/involved in the Troop.
- 5- The Troop has a large enough Charter Organization facility.
- 6- The Troop has experienced leadership; leaders take training and continue with refresher courses.
- 7- The Troop holds efficient and productive monthly Committee meetings.
- 8- The Troop follows a detailed calendar of events (and gets notice out well in advance).
- 9- The Troop is always encouraging youth leadership (with adults in the shadows).
- 10- The Charter Organization/Troop makes sure that their leaders stay aligned with Trail Life USA policies.

For more information about thrivin', strivin', and surviving Troops, check out [Trail Tracks for Troops](#). "Trail Tracks for Troops" is a self-evaluation to determine where your Troop is now and where improvement is needed. It shares best practices from thrivin' Troops as a model to follow in order to make your Troop a thrivin' Troop.