



THE ROLE OF THE TROOP MINISTRY LIAISON (TML)

The Charter Organization owns and operates the Trail Life USA Troop. The top decision-maker is called the Senior Ministry Leader (SML). In a church, the SML would normally be the Senior Pastor. He either serves as TML or appoints one. This person is the liaison between your Church and the Troop.

The Troop Ministry Liaison (TML) will:

- Be selected by, and remain accountable to, the organization's Senior Ministry Leader. The TML is to be a respected member of the Charter Organization (church). It is highly recommended that he be a Staff member (such as a Youth Minister), or leading layman (Chairman of the Deacons, Elder, etc.) He should be empowered to speak and act on behalf of the church.
- Be the SML's designee to approve all decisions made by the Troop Committee. [The Troop's Committee Chairman oversees the Troop's regular operations and presides at Committee meetings—but that does not reduce the TML's role as the final authority.]
- Monitor Troop operations, assuring that Troop decisions are aligned with the wishes and plans of the Charter Organization.
- Approve all potential Troop leaders. Ideally, he will help select the leaders; but if a leader is recommended by the Troop Committee, it remains the TML's responsibility to make sure that leader has the Christian character and abilities to successfully carry out the role.
- Ensure that the Trail Life USA Troop is—and is recognized as—a vital ministry of the church, much like the church's choir or Sunday school department (rather than being considered an "outside group that uses our building"). [What that looks like: church secretaries will have Troop leaders' contact info, and be able to potential members to the TML or to the Troop website (in fact, the Troop website should be linked to—or even exist within—the church website). Church staff will be able to invite families in the Troop to attend church; Troop and church should consistently help grow each other's membership.]
- Be the Charter Organization's voting member of Trail Life USA on matters of national importance to Trail Life USA.
- Become a member of the Area (volunteer support) Team. The local Point Man, who is the Chairman of the Area Team, will contact the TML to invite him to serve. There is no better way to stay plugged in to Trail Life USA! The TML's God-given skills will benefit Troops families far beyond his own church community. The TML is the only "dual-role" in Trail Life USA (the only Troop leader who is encouraged to also be a member of the Area Team).