

Scouts BSA 3x3 Troops

You may have seen some minor updates to existing policies that offer additional flexibility when starting new troops. These small adjustments were made to allow districts and councils to quickly establish more troops and open opportunities for all to participate in Scouting. The update allows troops to start with just three Scouts and three adults (a Scoutmaster and two Assistant Scoutmasters).

The original informational flier is found at <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:65f242f6-359a-48eb-aa11-07e65246305f>, but here are some answers to common questions regarding 3x3 troops:

Question: What is the purpose of 3x3 troops?

Answer: These troops simply increase the flexibility of starting troops. The requirements will be addressed in the next update of the Registration Guidebook, which our council registrars use. The increased flexibility can help councils, and districts capitalize on existing interest in Scouting before that interest fades away and people get pulled in other directions.

Question: If I start a 3x3 troop, do I really need my Council's permission to open a bank account?

Answer: 3x3 troops with traditional chartered partners may open bank accounts as permitted by the chartered organization. We note that the one-pager circulated states that council permission was required. This permission is still required for council-chartered troops.

Question: I'm ready to open a 3x3 troop, but my district and council are unclear on what role they should play in the recommended "committee-like" actions. What should they do?

Answer: 3x3 troops enjoy the same independence as any other troop. Councils and districts should seek to support new 3x3 troops the same way they would support any other new troop. Topics like training, access to resources, planning support and ideas, programs, etc., will be opportunities to coach and mentor these new leaders. The council/district should not control the troop. The reference to "committee-like" in the one-pager was intended to indicate that 3x3 troops might need more partnership and collaboration with commissioners than troops with more adults.

The best way to think about 3x3 troops is as very small troops. They need support.