Roundtable Scouts BSA Breakout

Youth Led Leadership

In Scouts BSA, youth leadership is one of the eight methods of Scouting. Real leadership by young people in real situations. Trusting a Scout to plan a campout or run a meeting takes courage, patience and a whole lot of letting go. But when we trust them, and let them lead, we see growth in rank, character, confidence and responsibility. This is the kind of growth that sticks with them long after they leave Scouting.

Training

Scouts need to be trained before they are ready to lead. Training includes things like teaching the agenda, showing how to delegate jobs, or modeling how to run a flag ceremony. Training can happen side by side during troop meetings and PLC's when Scouts are watching you lead. Training follows the EDGE method.

- Explain
- Demonstrate
- Guide
- Enable

Like learning to tie a knot, you show them, then you guide them, then you step back and let them teach someone else.

Trust the Scouts

It's hard to watch Scouts struggle or even fail. It's hard to stay quiet when the plan is not perfect. When you trust a Scout with real responsibility, you are telling them you believe in them. That vote of confidence can change everything for the Scout. Leadership might include stumbles, but because we trust them to lead, it doesn't mean we abandon them. We stand on the sidelines to cheer and guide,

and only step in if safety or values are at risk. Growth doesn't happen in our shadow, it happens in the light we give them to shine.

Let Scouts Lead

Scouting is one of the few places where young people get to make real decisions, with real outcomes. When we let them lead, we give them a safe space to experiment and to problem solve. They become the leaders we know they can be.

When we let them lead, we tell them that they matter, their voice counts and that they are capable of leadership. That's powerful!

What does it mean for adult leadership?

We are here to do the job with them, not for them, until they can do it without us. We create an environment where mistakes are seen as part of the process. Leadership is earned, not assigned. It means letting go of the need for perfection and embracing the glorious, messy, awkward and awesome beauty of youth led growth.

Every Scout deserves the chance to lead in a meaningful way.

Here is your challenge.

Have you trained your Scouts?

Do you trust them?

Are you truly letting them lead?

The more you let go, the more they grow. We are not just building Scouts. We are building future leaders. Let's train them, trust them, and let them lead.

Discussion Questions

1. How can we improve the "train them" part of our role?
2. How do we calmly intervene when a Scout does something unsafe, or outside Scouting values?
3. How can we create a troop environment that allows "train them, trust them, let them lead" to work?