

How can your Rovers have an effective Crew Leadership Team?

The Crew Leadership Team (formerly known as the Crew Executive) is a forum for Rover Scouts to make decisions regarding their program and adventures. In Roving, the program is determined by the Rover Scouts themselves, with the support of the Crew Scouters.

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The Crew Leadership Team is made up of elected members (such as Secretary, Treasurer and Quartermaster, as determined by the Crew), Team Leaders and Scouters, and is chaired by a Crew Leader. The size will vary depending on the size of the Crew and the number of Teams the Crew has, but Crews in an Area are encouraged to be made up of at least 12 Rover Scouts. If your Crew is smaller than this, encourage your Rovers to contact your Area to find out how Crews can unite to offer a better program.

The Crew Leader (formerly known as the Crew President) is a Rover, and should not be confused with the Crew Scouters. The Crew Leader should be an experienced and accomplished Rover Scout, but not necessarily the oldest member of the Crew. Ideally, a Crew Leader will have served as a Team Leader for more than one project or adventure, so he or she will be well prepared for the role of Crew Leader. He or she can also prepare for the role by taking part in Scouts Canada's **FOCUS leadership training** for Rover Scouts. The Crew Leader is selected early in the Scouting Year (that is, in the fall) by all of the Rover Scouts in the Crew. It is his or her responsibility to chair Crew program planning meetings, ensuring there are opportunities for all of the Crew's members to contribute their thoughts and ideas.

As a Crew Scouter, it is important to support the Crew Leadership Team so that the Crew is effectively led by the Rovers themselves.

Be patient, and let the Rovers on the Crew Leadership Team grow into their roles. Give the Crew Leadership Team plenty of time to make reports to the Crew and pose questions to one another. Offer good advice and coaching as necessary.

The Crew Leader and the Crew Scouters should support Team Leaders, ensuring they are effective coordinators of projects and adventures. Team Leaders report to the Crew Leadership Team on the progress of planned activities, and these reports should be viewed as opportunities to get good advice from the Crew Leadership Team. Encourage members of the Crew Leadership Team to be supportive of Team Leaders. Everyone should keep in mind that serving as a Team Leader may be a first-time experience for a Rover Scout. The role can be a significant challenge, but the experience represents an excellent opportunity to grow as strong leaders with the Crew – perhaps even growing into the role of Crew Leader.

The Crew Leadership Team should ultimately serve as a resource to support the Patrol (Team) System, ensuring great, safe Scouting adventures for the Crew.

