

Baden-Powell on Boy Leaders



“Scouting is a game for boys, under the leadership of boys, in which elder brothers can give their younger brothers a healthy environment and encourage them to healthy activities such as will help them to develop *citizenship*.”

“Train Scouts to do a job, then let them do it.”

“Don’t do too much of what should be done by the boys themselves. ‘When you want a thing done don’t do it yourself’ is the right motto.”

“The best progress is made in those Troops where power and responsibility are really put into the hands of the patrol leaders.”

“Half the value of our training is to be got by putting responsibility on young shoulders.”

“To get first-class results from the patrol system, you have to give the leader a real freehanded responsibility—if you only give partial responsibility you will only get partial results.”

“Never do anything a boy can do.”

“The object of the patrol system is mainly to give real responsibility to as many of the boys as possible, with a view to developing their character. If the Scoutmaster gives his patrol leader real power, expects a great deal from him, and leaves him a free hand in carrying out his work, he will have done more for that boy’s character expansion than any amount of school training could ever do.”

“Expect a great deal of your boys and you will generally get it.”

“Give [the Scout] charge of something, whether temporary or permanent, and *expect* him to carry out his charge faithfully. Don’t keep prying to see how he does it. Let him do it his own way, let him come a howler over it if need be, but in any case leave him alone and trust him to do his best.”