

Expedition Council

The Adventure Guides expedition is lead and managed by the Expedition Council. The expedition council consists of a number of council positions, lead by the expedition navigator, and the navigators from all circles in the expedition.

Please note that the Adventure Guides positions are similar, if not identical, to council positions in the Indian Guides program. The mapping of Indian to Adventure positions can be found in Table 1 of this document.

It should be noted that the positions listed in Tables 1, 2 and 3 reflect the suggested positions on an expedition council and your expedition can have more or less members. It is necessary that all circles are represented by at least one council member in addition to their circle navigator. This will make sure that each circle is represented at base camp meetings. It is important to have veteran leadership on council and in many cases positions can be created to have these individuals remain on and participate in expedition leadership.

The purpose of the council is to make sure that the explorers and princess in your expedition build great relationships with the parents (the guides) and with other children in the expedition. In order to do this, the expedition council must guide the expedition through the current year, plan for the coming year (events and budgets), and to make sure that expedition finances are manage properly.

The council positions are broken into three categories (and listed in tables 1, 2 and 3):

1. Primary expedition officers – required to attend all base camp meetings or have an able representative attend in their stead.
2. Secondary expedition officers – not required to attend all base camp meetings, but there attendance is welcome. These officers should be available, with prior notification, to deliver a report if requested.
3. Expedition support – support the expedition council at events.

Officers and Responsibilities

Table 1: Primary expedition officers – required to attend all base camp meetings

| Adventure | Responsibilities |
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| Expedition Navigator | Communicates with leadership and the YMCA. Plans schedule for council at campouts. Leads base camp meetings. Leads Campfire. |
| Compass Bearer | Plans and leads chapel at campouts. Opening and closing prayers at meetings and campouts. Plans schedule (with Navigator) for next year. Safety officer. Partner with you campaign. |
| Treasure Keeper | Reports on financial status of expedition and events. Manages |

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| | event pricing and budgets for next year. Coordinates w/ YMCA staff on financial requirements. Manages circles hosting events budget. |
| Log Keeper | Base camp meeting minutes. Council roster. Roll call at camping events. |
| Circle Navigators | Responsible for expedition circles. Coordinates hosted events. |
| Wizard | Promotes compass journey participation. Coordinates compass journey activities at campouts. Compass direction patch and event pin distribution. |
| Scout | Coordinates recruiting efforts with Adventure Guides program director. Communicates with new recruits. Helps to place new recruits. Coordinates with Federation regarding events through YMCA as potential recruiting events. |
| Elders | Wisdom. Aids navigator with campfire entertainment. Runs or helps run membership and council induction ceremonies. |
| Y's Guys | Wisdom. Guidance. |

Table 2: Secondary Expedition officers – Not required to attend all base camp meetings, but should be avail to report if necessary.

| Adventure | Indian | Responsibilities |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|
| Patch Keeper | Patch Keeper | Event patch ordering. End of year council plaques, graduation awards and compass journey completion awards. |
| Explorer | | Coordinates council hosted events. |
| Fire Starter | Fire Starter | Starts campfire at campout campfire. Responsible for wood or alternatives for campfire. |
| Storyteller | Storyteller | Story teller. Rock star. |
| Dream Catcher/Historian | Dream Catcher | Year-end slide show. Coordinates collection of pictures throughout the year. Photographs all groups at events (should not replace photographer of circles). |
| Assistant Scouts | Assistant Scouts | Assist expedition Scout. |
| Outfitter | | Collects information on, orders, distributes council gear. Special projects (banners, flags, etc.) |
| Stargazer | Stargazer | Coordinates regalia theme with council and host circle. |

Table 3: Expedition support – support expedition council

| Adventure | Indian | Responsibilities |
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| Campfire Director | | Keeper of the sound system. Assists |

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| | | navigator with campfire entertainment. |
| Roadies | | Responsible for transportation and setup of campfire equipment at all campouts. |
| Music Man | | Plays music at campfire. |
| Cheer Director | | Coordinates cheers at campfire. |

Council duties and responsibilities

The following is a list of duties and responsibilities of the expedition council. As with the list of expedition officers, this list may have more or less items and is dependent on the needs of your expedition.

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| Campfire | The expedition council should be responsible for the production and performance of the campfire on Saturday evenings (during campouts). Discussion of campfires can be found on page XX of this Adventure Guides members' guidebook. |
| Chapel | The expedition council is responsible for the production and performance of the Sunday morning Chapel (during campouts). Discussion of chapel can be found on page XX of this Adventure Guides members' guidebook. |
| Regalia | The council should come up with a theme for Regalia and is responsible for the distribution of assignments to each circle. |
| Induction | Council should plan and perform the new member induction as well as the council induction. For more information on Induction, please review the section on Induction beginning on page XX of this supplement. |
| Events | While most events should be planned and hosted by individual circles, the council may elect to plan and host particular events such as Regalia and/or Family camp. Council may also plan events if there are not enough circles to handle the 10 events throughout the year. |
| Graduation | Council should perform the graduation ceremony. They should also acquire any gifts to be given to graduating explorers or princesses but are not required to finance such gifts. |
| Safety briefing | The safety officer of the expedition council should create a safety plan for the expedition and for each event. He should then provide a safety briefing prior to or at each event. |
| Recruiting | The council is not necessarily responsible for recruiting for the expedition; this responsibility lies primarily with the circles. But, the expedition can bring resources and ideas together for the entire expedition's benefit. |
| Base camp | The expedition navigator is responsible for the preparation and hosting of the monthly base camp. All council members should attend the base camp. Circle navigators should have their compass |

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| | bearer attend in their absence. |
| Compass Journey | The expedition wizard should provide support and direction for the circles (and their circle wizard if they have one) with regard to the Compass Journeys. The expedition can provide compass activities as the monthly events as a supplement to what the circle and families should be doing. For more information, please see the section on the Compass Journey starting on page XX in this supplement |
| Budget | The expedition navigator and treasurer are responsible for the creating and adherence to an annual budget for the expedition. Both should work closely, and meet regularly, with their YMCA staff. |
| Event Planning / Calendar | The entire expedition council is responsible for the planning of the next year's event calendar. It is not likely that all events can be booked for the coming year, but the type of event – campout, day-event, etc. – should be determined as well as the intended date. Care should be taken to be observant of holidays and common seasonal activities (soccer, for example) that may conflict with an event and make it difficult for membership to attend. Location may also be important with regard to the previously mentioned seasonal activities. |
| Video | While not required, having a video or slideshow produced for the expedition is a nice thing for families to have to record the time they spent with the group. It is also a nice recruiting tool. |
| Transition dinner | While not a requirement, a transition dinner honoring the outgoing council and introducing the incoming council is a great way to close the year and start the next. |

Comments

The expedition council is responsible for providing support to their circles, interfacing with the YMCA, establishing rules and the creating ceremonies and traditions unique to the expedition. But more than this, this group is responsible for the safety, education and entertainment of the explorers and princesses within the expedition.

Making sure that each parent (or guide) is one of a hundred parents (or guides) is primary to the safety of our children. The dedication and creativity of the members of the council is what makes the events that bring us together fun and educational.