

### **Start, Stop, Continue**

Start, Stop, Continue is a series of questions designed to help troop members assess an event or activity that has just occurred and explore some of the values that activity offers. The troop can then take the outcome and focus on reapplication and future events. Troops that use SSC are less likely to end up with an emphasis on what went wrong than when using other assessment tools. In its simplest form, SSC is three questions:

1. What should we *start* doing that would make us more successful?
2. What should we *stop* doing that is not working or is a barrier to our success?
3. What should we *continue* to do because it was a significant reason for our success?

For major events and when you are a more experienced leader, the group can explore the *why* of each question. The answers often will help to reinforce the values of the Scout Oath and Law in the experience.

Some key points for using the SSC assessment tool:

- Everyone has the right to express his thoughts.
- Each person has the choice of talking or remaining silent.
- No one may interrupt the person speaking, and there is no room for put-downs or making fun of someone.
- Gathering input here is key, but it is not always necessary to evaluate and reach consensus. The patrol leaders' council may be the right place to review the input and apply a solution.
- Do not allow the discussion to become negative or focus on individuals.

To end the discussion, summarize the most important points that were mentioned. When appropriate, the troop scribe should keep a record to be shared at the next patrol leaders' council meeting. Be positive throughout the session and as you bring it to a close.