



BRIDGETOWN DISTRICT SCOUT COMMITTEE

SCOUT LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE

TRAINING SHEET

INSPECTIONS

DEFINITION

An inspection is a close examination of specific object(s), situation(s) or circumstance(s) in an effort to establish an awareness of the importance of standards, to maintain compliance to regulations or to improve existing standards.

PURPOSE

With respect to the Scout uniform, inspections are used fundamentally to encourage Scouts to be conscientious of the high value department plays in their development as worthy citizens among their peers.

FREQUENCY

This is left to the good judgement of the Scouter, however, inspections should be held as often as to be effective in achieving their primary purpose. In most Scout Troops this is at least once a week.

WHAT TO INSPECT

I'm quite sure that most of us would have been through this ordeal at some stage of our youthful upbringing, nevertheless we shall look at the following areas as a guideline rather than a listing that has to be rigidly struck to.

- » Hair (clean, properly groomed and styled);
- » Face, arms, and hands;
- » Nails (clean, clipped short);
- » Beret (green, clean, free of perspiration stains, lace neatly tucked away, pin polished and visible);
- » Scarf (clean, neatly rolled, apex centred at point between shoulders);
- » Shirt (clean, properly pressed, correct wearing of all badges, badges properly sewed to shirt, all stitching in tack, all buttons firmly sewn);
- » Pants (clean, properly pressed, all tabs, pockets, flaps and buttons properly sewn on);
- » Belt (clean, not rotting, fuzzing or stripping, buckle well polished where possible, passes through all tabs);
- » Shoes (black, properly laced, clean and well polished);
- » Handkerchief (clean, properly pressed and folded, preferably cotton); and
- » Lanyard (white, clean and correctly worn).

EXECUTION

it is important that before you carry out the inspection you consider the following items:

- » Know the required standard;
- » Make sure you understanding the purpose of the inspection;
- » Have your score sheet at hand;
- » Be aware of exactly what you are looking for;
- » Have thought out a corrective action plan;
- » Consider and/or have awards at hand;
- » Have a penalty system in place;
- » Be aware of the loop-holes in the system; and
- » Make sure that you are inspected.

During the inspection insure that all Scouts/Patrols are evenly matched rather than have some Scouts preparing themselves while others are being inspected. Also be conscious not to exercise any bias, as this will undermine the very integrity of the system.

FOLLOW UP

After the inspection make all participants aware of your findings. Be sure to recognise and penalise as appropriate. Be consistent and fair in your judgement, especially in the manner by which you communicate your findings. Remember to always exercise a calm and controlled manner, in an effort to maintain the **'GOOD SPIRIT OF SCOUTING'**.