Session Two
Start, Stop, Continue Assessment Tool

Time Allowed

15 minutes

Teaching Objectives

- Model an effective Start, Stop, Continue experience.
- Emphasize that in a variety of formal and informal ways, Scoutmasters can use Start, Stop, Continue to bring out the deeper meanings of Scouting experiences.
- Discuss ways that the Start, Stop, Continue assessment process can help reinforce the values of Scouting.

Materials Needed

- The Scoutmaster Handbook, No. 33009C
- PowerPoint® slides or overheads from CD, if desired
- Flip chart or other means of writing discussion notes

Recommended Facility Layout

- Session meeting area. Each participant should have a comfortable place to sit, take notes, and organize written materials. That setting most often consists of tables, each accommodating six to eight participants forming a patrol, and enough chairs for all participants.

Delivery Method

- Instructor-led discussion
Instructors' Note

The discussion on Start, Stop, Continue can be presented, in part, by involving participants in a reflection of their experience so far with Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training. For greatest effect, do not explain the format of the presentation; simply ease into an easygoing visit about their experience, shaping the discussion to highlight some of the key aspects of leading Start, Stop, Continue in any Scout setting.

Experiencing Start, Stop, Continue

Open an informal discussion with participants, inviting them to share some of their reactions to their experience with Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training. Ask the questions: What should we start doing that we currently are not doing in the training? What should we stop doing? What should we continue doing that is working well? Guide participants toward thinking through what they have experienced in this training, the effect of that experience, and the lessons they can draw from it.

Allow the conversation to flow for a few minutes, guiding the discussion as if it were a reflection. Use some or all of the following pointers for making the most of an opportunity for reflection:

1. Avoid the temptation to dominate the conversation. Nondirective questions can inspire others to share their understandings, concerns, and vision.
   - What should we start doing that we currently are not doing?
   - What should we stop doing that is not working?
   - What do we need to continue to do?

2. Be positive. Start, Stop, Continue can be enlightening and often fun.

3. Remind everyone that the environment of Scouting is a "put-down free zone"—we want to build up others, not put them down.

4. Encourage the group to determine the value of the experience they just had, focusing first on positive aspects.
5. Generalize the experience. A frequent goal of Start, Stop, Continue is to help participants make the connection between the activity they have just completed and regular troop experiences. "How could we use the ideas we learned today in our troop?" "How can we use what we just learned about decision making when we’re on our next campout?"

6. Steer participants toward setting goals based on what they have learned about their recent experience. Begin with the positive but leave the door open for discussion of changes that will improve activities in the future.

**Exploring Start, Stop, Continue Assessments**

Reveal to participants that they have been involved in a form of assessment. Based on what they have just experienced, ask them to describe their understanding of the SSC assessment process and how it can be used to enrich the Scouting experience for the boys.

Ask participants if they can see how the SSC process looks toward the future rather than on what or who went wrong. Ensure they understand that the simplicity of the questions ensures the ease of facilitation, and enhances a complete thoughtful and focused look back for the purpose of building future success. SSC can be conducted easily and should help prevent rambling or off-subject discussions.

**Opportunities for Start, Stop, Continue**

Start, Stop, Continue can happen at any time during a Scouting experience and can take any number of shapes.

**FORMAL**

Perhaps the most formal use of SSC is a Scoutmaster’s conference with a Scoutmaster guiding a boy in exploring the meaning of his completion of requirements for a higher rank. A board of review can also serve as an opportunity to use SSC; so can a Scoutmaster’s Minute at the close of a meeting.

SSC can be used to provide one-on-one feedback to a Scout. It is nonthreatening and can very simply help a Scout see opportunities without negative connotations.

An organized SSC can also be important at the end of an activity or it may take place in the middle of an event, especially if Scouts are struggling to solve a problem or need to stop and work through a disagreement. One example of an SSC that you have seen is the video segment “Activity Review,” which showed the patrol leaders’ council discussing a failed service project.
INFORMAL

SSC can be very spontaneous. Scouts and adult leaders visiting around a campfire, under a tree during a sudden rainstorm, or on the sidelines during a troop interpatrol game may find tremendous value in sharing thoughts on the recent events and finding the fuller meaning of their experiences.

**Start, Stop, Continue and the Values of Scouting**

Regardless of the form it takes, SSC is also a means by which Scoutmasters can instill the values of Scouting. Boys may not always realize when they have behaved honorably, been trustworthy, or acted in service to others. Encourage them to think through their experiences so that they can recognize how the Scouting ideals are serving as guidelines for the decisions they are making.

**Summary**

The ease Scoutmasters feel in leading Start, Stop, Continue will increase as they gain experience. Scouts becoming accustomed to taking part in SSC will also become better at participating, and can lead similar discussions in the future.