

## Group System - Group Council, Group Committee and Group Finance

The system of maintaining the Bulbul, Guide and Ranger Units in one locality or institution, in order to offer progressive training suitable to the members of different age groups is known as the Group System.

### Objectives

At the end of this Module, you should be able to:

1. Explain the purpose of the Group System.
2. List functions of the Group Committee and Group Council
3. State the responsibilities of Group Leader/Guides

### Thought for Reflection

To get the most out of the Guide training, a girl should pass progressively through the stages of Bulbul, Guide and Ranger.  
- Baden-Powell

Guiding aims at preparing the individual for life in society and for good citizenship.

BULBULS	Girls who have completed 5 years of age but not more than 10 years of age
GUIDES	Girls who have completed 10 years of age but not completed 17 years of age
RANGERS	Young women who have completed 15 years of age but not completed 25 years of age. One can continue as a Service Ranger up to the age of 35 years.

The Bulbul, Guide and Ranger training all have the same basic aim and object. They all address themselves to the task of preparing the individual for life in society and for good citizenship.

In each stage we have the same principles adapted to the changed psychology of the pupil, i.e. in each stage we develop her:

1. Character and Intelligence
2. Handicraft and Skill
3. Health and Strength
4. Service for others

All these emphasise the need to have all the three sections namely the Bulbul Flock, the Guide Company and the Ranger Team.

A Guide Group consists of one or more of the three sections. Thus a Guide Group could comprise of a Bulbul Flock and Guide Company only, or a Guide Company and Ranger Team only. A full-fledged Guide Group will consist of all the three sections, Bulbul, Guide and Ranger. It must, therefore, be our aim to get our Groups complete, where this is not already the case, and to make them real family Units, self-supporting and self-contained.

The importance of the Guide Group is that:

- It provides a happy family Unit in which the boy is continuously trained from entry as a Bulbul;
- It ensures that such training is progressive, that the girl's widening interests are catered for, and that each girl is continually increasing her knowledge and skill and particularly her realization of the full meaning of the Guide Promise and Law;
- It avoids overlapping between the various sections;
- It helps the girl to proceed happily from one section to another when the time comes, as she proceeds from class to class in a school;
- It makes all the Guiders friendly colleagues.

### **Group Leader/Guides (GL/G)**

Where a Group consists of more than one Unit, a person other than the persons in charge of those Units, preferably (and if available) one having training and experience in all the 3 sections, is appointed as the Group Leader/Guides. But when such a separate person who is not holding charge of Unit is not available, the most experienced of the Unit Leaders of that Group can be appointed as the Group Leader/Guides (e.g. if there are only a Flock Leader and a Guide Captain in a Group, one of them can be appointed as the Group Leader/Guides).

### **Functions of the Group Leader/Guides**

1. To develop in due course a complete Group.
2. To exercise general supervision over all Units of the Group and to coordinate their activities. Provided, she may delegate responsibility in the actual management of the Guiders in charge of the respective Units.
3. To act as the Chairman of the Group Council.
4. To encourage co-operation between the Guiders of the Group.
5. To ensure formation of a Group Committee of which she shall be a member.
6. To deal with matters concerned with the Group not specifically provided for herein.

### **Group Registration:**

A Group has to be registered with the State Association through the District/Local Association and on such registration; the State Association shall issue a Charter signed by the State Chief Commissioner and the State Secretary. The registration needs to be renewed annually.

### **Group Council:**

- Where a Group consists of two or more Units the Guiders of the Units shall form the Group Council. The Group Leader/Guides shall be the Chairman of the Group Council.
- The Group Council will be dealing with all matters of the Group such as training, testing, programmes, camps and hikes. A report of the activity will be submitted to the District Commissioner. The Annual report of the year when due shall be sent along with census report of each year to the District Secretary or Local Association Secretary.

### **Group Committee:**

- There shall be a Group Committee for each Group. The Group Committee will consist of parents of Bulbuls, Guides, Rangers, former Guides and other persons interested in the welfare of the Guide Movement. The person elected by the Group Committee shall be the Chairman.
- The Group Leader shall be Member Secretary of the Group Committee.
- The Group Committee will take care of the Group Management except training and testing of Guides.
- The Group Committee shall be responsible for the property movable and immovable of the Group.
- The property of a Group shall vest in Trust or Trusts under a deed of Trust and shall be administered by the Group Committee in the event of a disbandment of the Group Committee. The property movable and immovable shall vest in the Local or District Association as the case may be.

### **Group Finance:**

- The Group Finance shall consist of subscription, raised from among the members. There shall be no general appeal for funds outside the area of Group and without the permission of the Local or the District Association as the case may be. Money shall not be solicited but shall be earned. Grant-in-aid is permissible.
- The Group Committee shall administer the Group Finance.

### **An Attempt to Recollect**

Try testing your memory by answering the following questions:

1. What are the four areas we develop in our members in whatever stage they are in, i.e. Bulbul, or Guide or Ranger?
2. Who is the member secretary of the Group Committee?
3. Who signs the Charter of a Guide Group?
4. Which are the ceremonies of the Bulbul Flock and the Ranger Team a Group Leader/Guide is expected to attend?

Fill in the blanks:

1. A complete group consists of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ sections.
2. The person in-charge of a Group is known as \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Group Finance is administered by \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Charter of the Group is issued by \_\_\_\_\_.

### **For further Reading:**

1. A Complete Handbook for Flock Leaders\*
2. Rules\*

\* Books published by The Bharat Scouts and Guides, National Headquarters, New Delhi.

### **Suggested Activity**

1. Visit a nearby Guide Group and observe how the Group functions and how they coordinate between all the three sections.
2. Discuss with the Group Leader/Guides about his experience in working with the Leaders of other sections (Guide and Ranger).

## How much have I got it right?

Here are the answers to your memory test:

1. What are the four areas we develop in our members in whatever stage they are in, i.e. Bulbul, or Guide or Ranger?

*Character and Intelligence; Handicraft and Skill; Health and Strength; And Service for others*

2. Who is the member secretary of the Group Committee?

*The Group Leader.*

3. Who signs the Charter of a Scout Group once?

*The State Chief Commissioner and the State Secretary.*

4. Which are the ceremonies of the Bulbul Flock and the Ranger Team a Group Leader/Guide is expected to attend?

*Going-up Ceremony and Leave Taking Ceremony.*

Fill in the blanks:

1. A complete group consists of Bulbul, Guide & Ranger sections.
2. The person in-charge of a Group is known as Group Leader/Guide.
3. The Group Finance is administered by the Group Committee.
4. The Charter of the Group is issued by the State Association.