



**CHECK OUT A WHOLE WEEK OF
THE BATTALION EXPERIENCE!**

BATTALION MISSION CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



A **Mission Guide** is a Leader's resource to unlocking the Battalion experience with your young men.

In this overview you'll find samples of the key tools needed to engage in ministry with the Battalion program.

CSB Ministries offers many programs and ministries for boys and young men from ages 4 to 18. To find out more about these and to see all our tools and resources, check out our website!

csbministries.org/how-it-works

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MISSION OVERVIEW

A quick glimpse at each Mission's meeting objective, key verses, and a space to note delegated responsibilities.

Page 2

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Each Mission begins with a Leadership Team Meeting (LTM). This spiritually fueled gathering sets the pace for the upcoming activities for your Battalion meetings.

Page 3

MEETING PLANS

These pages provide a leader with a list of preparation materials, game suggestions, skill lesson plan, and a biblically based lesson or story to share.

Page 5

SQUAD MEETINGS

Each Mission Guide contains reproducible handouts for your young men to conduct their own small group devotional and activities.

Page 7

MINISTRY MATERIALS

Our Battalion ministry is supported by many other valuable resources like Building Men, Trail Books, and our Brigade Leader eMagazine!

Page 9

FIND MORE TOOLS!



MISSION SUMMARY

A basic overview page for the upcoming Mission. Get an idea of what each meeting is about and also use the tool on the right to delegate responsibilities to your leaders.

A description of the meeting's objective that details expected outcomes.

Each meeting has it's own key verse that will be the focus of biblical discussion.

Get a glimpse at each meeting's skill topics and biblical application.

Assign roles and responsibilities to the leadership team.

Mission Summary

OVERVIEW

KNOT TYING STEADFASTNESS

MEETING 1: COMMITMENT BASIC KNOTS

Introduce fundamental knots, such as the overhand knot and its variations, while seeing how it is our responsibility to remain steadfast in our beliefs.

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." **Hebrews 10:23**

MEETING 2: DEPENDABILITY MATERIALS & HITCHES

Expanding on basic knots by learning various hitches and their purposes. At the same time, this lesson will explore God's dependability.

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." **Lamentations 3:22-23**

MEETING 3: FAITHFULNESS ROPE CARE & LOOPS

This meeting's focus is on caring for cordage while also learning about loops. The spiritual focus is on faithfulness.

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much." **Luke 16:10**

MEETING 4: ACCOUNTABILITY ADVANCED KNOTS

Take knotting a step farther with some of these more advanced knots. Our goal is to measure competency in knot tying as well as demonstrate the importance of being reliable.

"For he held fast to the LORD. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses." **2 Kings 18:6**

OPENING ACTIVITIES

NAME: _____

BATTALION SKILLS

NAME: _____

GAMES

NAME: _____

COUNCIL RING

NAME: _____

OPENING ACTIVITIES

NAME: _____

BATTALION SKILLS

NAME: _____

GAMES

NAME: _____

COUNCIL RING

NAME: _____

OPENING ACTIVITIES

NAME: _____

BATTALION SKILLS

NAME: _____

GAMES

NAME: _____

COUNCIL RING

NAME: _____

OPENING ACTIVITIES

NAME: _____

BATTALION SKILLS

NAME: _____

GAMES

NAME: _____

COUNCIL RING

NAME: _____

A reminder of this Mission's overall objective.

This Mission's theme verse. Different from the individual meeting's key verses, many groups decide to memorize this verse.

The Opening offers a short activity that encourage team development.

KNOT TYING STEADFASTNESS



OBJECTIVE

To present the importance of being steadfast while learning the basics of knotting.



THEME VERSE

"For he held fast to the LORD. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses."

2 Kings 18:6



POINT OF VALOR

LOYALTY

The man who is loyal is one who is faithful to those he owes his affections and allegiance. He is devoted to what he believes: to God and His Word, to his family, church, and the community. He will remain faithful when all others have turned their backs, no matter the cost.



PREPARATION

Plan:

- Printed copies of Squad Meetings found in the back of this Guide
- Meeting 5 Guide (optional)

LTM

Leadership
Team Meeting

OPENING

Most knots people use to fasten things are very bulky, hard to untie, and loosen under strain. That's because they keep wrapping the rope around itself and around the "secured object" with no plan or pattern. Share a few stories about the use and misuse of knots in your life—like tying down a car trunk, tying something to the top of your car, towing a car, setting up a tent, etc.

REVIEW

Discuss the needs of the boys and men in your Battalion and analyze how to meet them. Observe the growth and progress of individuals in Battalion.

- What has gone well the past month?
- What caused it to go well?
- What do we need to improve?
- What will we do to improve it? Starting when?
- Who needs special attention? How will we give it to him?

ENGAGE

Daniel is an excellent example of a man who was committed to God.

Read Daniel 1:1- 8

Daniel resolved not to defile himself.

- When do you think he resolved this?
- What do you think Daniel would have done if the chief official had said, "Absolutely not! You must eat the meat and drink the wine!"?
- What do you think motivated Daniel to take this stand instead of simply eating and drinking what was put in front of him?

Read Daniel 1:17-20 and 2:48

- What was the result of Daniel's obedience to God?

This commitment to God wasn't a one-time experience for Daniel. It permeated his life. (Have someone read Daniel 6:6-10.)

Did Daniel know what he was doing or did he pray accidentally after the proclamation was made? (Have someone reread verse 10 for the answer.) Daniel's life was worth less to him than his relationship to God.

Read Daniel 6:21-27

- Does this kind of commitment sound radical to you? It may, but this is what the word commitment means.
- If Daniel had not maintained his relationship with God in prayer but bowed to the threat of death, would he have been committed to God?

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

The LTM is the most important process to accomplishing each Mission. As leaders, you will grow as a team, review previous Battalion meetings, engage in God's Word, intentionally pray for the young men in your ministry, and plan out future meetings.

An important time to discuss previously completed Missions or recent activities and events.

The 7 Points of Valor are the core spiritual characteristics the Battalion ministry aims to nurture in each young man. A Mission ties into one of these points.

Introduce the biblical focus of this Mission. Spend some time as a leadership team discussing how this Mission's Point of Valor appears in Scripture.

Gather these resources before the LTM.

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING (CONTINUED)

Reflect on what has been discussed during this LTM through group prayer. Although you will find other times to pray at the beginning and end, this time of reflection should be of intentional prayer for the Battalion ministry.

The final element of an LTM is set aside for planning your ministry calendar. It can be easy to spend hours discussing upcoming events and activities. Instead, delegate responsibility and have small teams work on specific details outside of the LTM.

Leadership
Team Meeting

LTM

No. Commitment means that nothing else is of higher priority. If we choose to not honor our commitment, then our actions identify what was of greater importance and we choose to not act on the lower priority.

A leader must be committed to the cause for which he is a leader. For the Christian leader, that cause is Christ. • To what (or to whom) are you committed?

- Are you a Brigade leader because of your commitment to Christ?
- Can others in Brigade see that commitment by your actions and words?
- Does this commitment to Christ carry over into your home, church, neighborhood, work place, school?

If your answer is "yes," thank God for His work in your life. If your answer is "no" or you are unsure, you need to take some time to determine what you have been committed to, and then decide what you want to be committed to.

REFLECT

Give a few moments for Leadership Team members to share requests. Make sure it is known that personal requests are welcome. Encourage prayer for the commitment of the Leadership Team to Christ.

PLAN

Look through the Knots meetings. Note the featured character quality "Steadfastness." The Squad Meetings and Council Rings focus on this quality. Knots must be steadfast and dependable if they are to perform their function well. You should refer to steadfastness often as you direct your young men through the activities.

You will need the following materials throughout this mission:

- Two lengths of flexible cord, 3-6 feet (~1-2 m) long and 1/4-1/2 inches (~5-10 mm) in diameter.
- Stopwatch(es)
- Copies of Knot Tying handouts for each meeting

Many Missions will include suggested *fifth meetings*. These can be conducted as special meetings or weekend outings.

KNOT TYING STEADFASTNESS

5TH MEETING (OPTIONAL)

A fifth meeting is an opportunity to go beyond the MISSION guide. Present your Battalion with an exciting challenge. The Leadership Team should develop the plan for what this meeting will look like, but here are two ideas to get you started:

- **Multi-Battalion Knots Competition** Invite at least one more Battalion to come to your church for a knot tying competition. The knots being tested must be predetermined and each group must be informed a few weeks prior to the event. It works best if all groups worked on the Knot Tying Mission simultaneously.
- **Rope Obstacle Course** Construct a rope obstacle course. This can be at your church or another location. It will take careful planning and execution. The course main contain knot speed tying, a spider web, rope swing, slack lining, etc.

A reminder of this meeting's overall objective.

A meeting's key verse will often be discussed during the Squad Meeting and Council Ring. For an added challenge, encourage each Squad to memorize and recite these passages.

Battalion Skills is a time when a skill is demonstrated for the Battalion. This part of the meeting often requires the leader responsible to prepare ahead of time and bring materials.

KNOT TYING STEADFASTNESS

OBJECTIVE

Introduce fundamental knots, such as the overhand knot and its variations, while seeing how it is our responsibility to remain steadfast in our beliefs.

KEY VERSE

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."

Hebrews 10:23

PREPARATION

Battalion Skills:

- Two lengths of flexible cord per person, 3-6 feet (~1-2 m) long and 1/4-1/2 inches (~5-10 mm) in diameter.
- Knot Tying Handout 1

Game Suggestion

- Large rope tied into a circle.

SQUAD MEETING

- **Devotional:** Hebrews 10:23
- **Squad Skills:** Double Overhand Knot

GAME SUGGESTION

Rope Square

The purpose of rope square is to work as a team under a confusing situation. Tie a piece of rope so it forms a circle and so that everyone in a group can hold onto the rope with both hands. Lay the rope in a circle on the floor, and ask the group to stand around the circle, pick up the rope circle with both hands, and close their eyes. Instruct them to walk in a circle a couple of times so they're good and dizzy, and then ask them to form a square using the rope without opening their eyes.

MEETING 1

Commitment



BATTALION SKILLS

BASIC KNOTS

Knot tying is not only a valuable skill, but an enjoyable pastime. Learning to tie knots is not difficult and anyone can easily become a master. There are literally thousands of knots and even more variations of them. Every year, new knots emerge from innovative knot tyers around the world. Knots are most commonly used in the following fields: fishing, boating, climbing, outdoor pursuits, and others are simply for general purpose.

"Knot" is generally used to refer to any kind of cordage entanglement, however it technically refers to a specific kind of knot. In knotting, there are three main kinds: knots, bends, and hitches. A hitch attaches a line to a post, rail, ring, spar, or another rope; a bend joins two ropes together; and a knot is anything other than a bend or a hitch (including stoppers, bindings, and loops).

To learn how to tie knots, see Handout 1.

Basic Terms:

Working End: the end that is actively involved in the tying process

Standing Part/End: the end that is inactive in the tying process

Bight: doubling a line so that two parts are brought close together

Middle: when a bight is used to identify the middle of a line

Locking tuck: prevents the knot from collapsing or unraveling

Basic Knots

Double Overhand Knot

The double overhand knot makes a good stopper knot to tie at the end of a rope. It is easy to tie and makes a fairly bulky knot.

Square (Reef) Knot

The Reef Knot or Square Knot is quick and easy to tie; it is a good knot for securing non-critical items. It is not to be trusted to join two ropes together. This knot was used for centuries by sailors for reefing sails, hence the name Reef Knot, and tying things aboard ship.

Slip Knot

This version of a slip knot is very quick and easy to tie. It is technically a "slip noose."

Half Hitch

Although the half hitch is a knot in its own right, it is rarely used alone, as it is unsafe when used alone. Two half hitches can be used to tie a rope to a tree, boat or any object. It is often used in a supporting

MEETING PLANS

Similar to the layout of the LTM, each Mission's meeting is delivered in an easy to read format. You will find a sidebar with quick overview information, a preparatory list, and a game suggestion. The main body of the lesson plan will contain the content for that meeting's Skill as well as a Council Ring.

Get ready for this meeting by gathering the resources listed in this section.

Each meeting contains a Squad Meeting where the Battalion breaks out into small group discussion and a brief activity.

The Game Suggestion is a simple game that your Battalion can try. It typically has an easy way to relate to this meeting's topic. You should feel encouraged to attempt the game, but feel free to improvise or play something else.

MEETING PLANS (CONTINUED)

The Council Ring is typically a story or bible lesson that encourages discussion. These are to be used as tools, not scripts. When leading a Council Ring, read the lesson plan thoroughly and then make it your own!

Each Council Ring will end with a short application or discussion based questions. Feel free to expand these questions to meet the spiritual needs of your Battalion.

At the bottom of each Meeting Plan page you will find a helpful reminder of the meeting's structure. For a more detailed overview, check out the Battalion Meeting Structure page at the beginning of any Mission. You can also read about it in the Battalion chapter of *Building Men*.

Commitment
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MEETING 1

KNOT TYING STEADFASTNESS

role, for example to increase the security of a primary knot.

COUNCIL RING THE LOWER LIGHTS

Based on the hymn, Let the Lower Lights be Burning by Phillip Paul Bliss.

In the old days, mariners used navigational systems to guide them as they sailed upon the open waters. Most ancient sailors used the "Upper Lights," which were the stars, moon, and the sun. These early sailors believed that God provided these lights, especially for sea travel.

Using the stars worked well for short, mid-ocean voyages, but as boats approached the shore, they had nothing to help them make their way into the harbor. Typically, one could use the lights of the nearby towns to tell them where they were. Lighthouses were built to cast long arms of light across the water to warn the sailors of obstacles and other dangers on shore, which, if unknown, would bring disaster to the ship, crew, and cargo. Many times, these lighthouses served as entryways to safe harbors. The captains or pilots of the ship would search intently for these beams of light, knowing that if followed, they would provide a clear route.

Eventually, these lights were called the "Lower Lights" as opposed to the "Upper Lights" of which God operated. The light sources were commonly quite small compared to the lighthouses you might see today, but using a focusing lens concentrated the light beam so that it traveled long distances. During storms, it was even more important that the captain or pilot saw those beams to ensure safe passage to shore.

And it was on such a night that our story begins, a dark and stormy night where the waves rolled like mountains and not a star shone in the clouded sky. A small freight barge rocked violently as it made its way across the waters of Lake Erie. The Captain peered through the darkness for a sight of signal light by which to guide his vessel to safety.

It hadn't been a long journey, but it had been a treacherous one. They had gathered their shipment in the north, at Baie-Comeau on the Saint Lawrence River. It was as they meandered down the Welland Canal that the storm rolled in. With each lock they passed, the weather only became worse. The entire trek down the long Lake Erie seemed like weeks. Wave after wave crashed against the tiny vessel's thin walls. There were many times where the captain

thought he'd lose his cargo, but somehow his pilot was able to pull them through.

The pilot was an older man, worn with age. He had confidence on the water that would take a lifetime to muster. In his view, the lack of stars meant nothing. Soon they would be reaching their destination. He began to steer the barge toward land.

On the shore, the lighthouse stood tall and dark—no light emitted from its lantern. Its service room had been unattended for hours, the man who was responsible for keeping the lighthouse burning had left. As the storm raged on, the serviceman retreated into his home which was a short distance from the tower. There, he lay in his bed with his chambers warmed by a cozy fire while the struggling sailors made their way to a dark and dreary shoreline.

"Are you sure this is Cleveland Harbor?" asked the captain.

"Quite sure, sir," the pilot replied, "I could navigate these waters with my eyes closed, let alone on a night like this."

"But I don't see the lower lights, where are they?" the captain persisted.

"Most likely they have gone out, sir," the older man answered.

"Do you think you can make the harbor?" the captain asked anxiously.

"We must, or this storm will take us, sir," the pilot replied.

But despite his strong heart and brave hand, in the darkness, he missed the channel. With a resounding crash, the boat piled up on the rocks and then settled slowly to a watery grave.

Read Hebrews 10:23

- How does our steadfastness and dependability affect our witness to others?
- Is your personal testimony impacted by steadfastness?

10

OPENING ACTIVITY LINE UP SQUAD MEETING BATTALION SKILLS GAMES COUNCIL RING LEADERS' HUDDLE
Battalion Mission | Christian Service Brigade™

→ A short description of the purpose of this Squad meeting. As well as an overview timeline of the Squad meeting's structure.

→ Remember to take attendance, make any important announcements, check in with each member of the Squad and ask for shares (if applicable).

KNOT TYING BASIC KNOTS

SQUAD MEETING 1

Date: _____

REPORT → DEVOTIONAL → PRAYER → SQUAD SKILLS → ACHIEVEMENT OBJECTIVE

Study tonight's theme verse and learn the Double Overhand Knot

REPORT

☐ Attendance ☐ Announcements ☐ Check-in ☐ Shares

DEVOTIONAL

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

What is the "confession of our hope?"

Why must we "hold fast" to it?

Ask your own question:

SQUAD SKILLS

Double Overhand Knot

1. Tie an overhand knot at the end of a rope but do not tighten the knot down.
2. Pass the end of the line through the loop created by the first overhand knot.
3. Tighten the knot down while sliding it into place at the end of the line. Be sure to leave some tail sticking out from the end of the knot.

SQUAD MEETINGS

The Squad Leader organizes a small group meeting with his Squad. The Squad Meeting often consists of: taking attendance, a devotional, illustrating a skill or engaging in an activity. You will find these under the Resource section of the mission. These can be reproduced and cut.

→ A brief devotional consisting of a passage of scripture and discussion based questions.

→ Squad Skills can serve as a precursor to the Battalion Skills or team-building activity.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

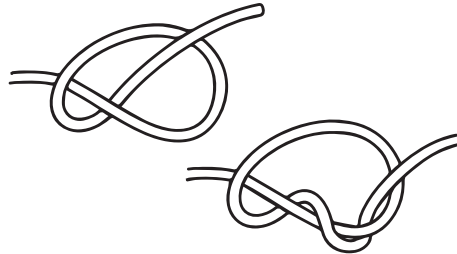
In addition to the Squad Meetings, the Resources section will contain any additional handouts needed for the mission. These are intended to be printed or copied.

NOTE: Please be aware that only the pages in the resources section are intended to be reproduced. If you need multiple copies of a Mission Guide for other leaders, please purchase them from our Brigade Shop.

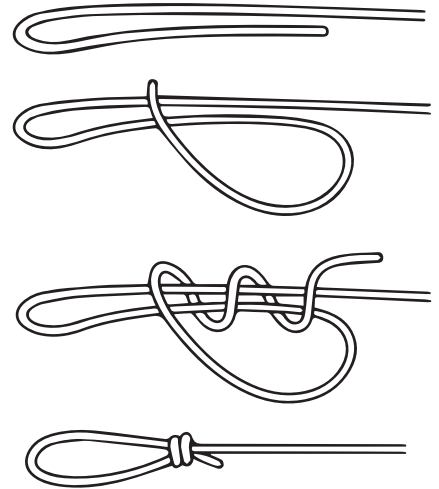
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KNOTS HANDOUT 1: BASIC KNOTS

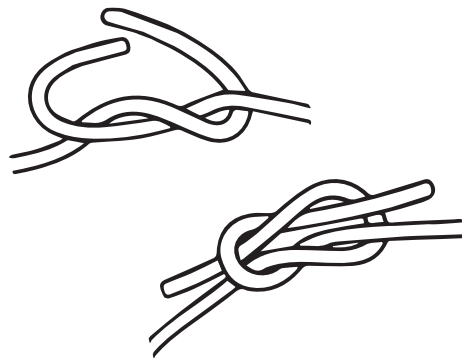
DOUBLE OVERHAND



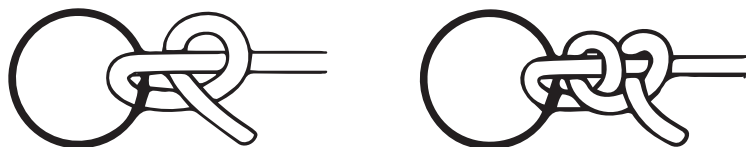
SLIP KNOT



SQUARE (REEF) KNOT



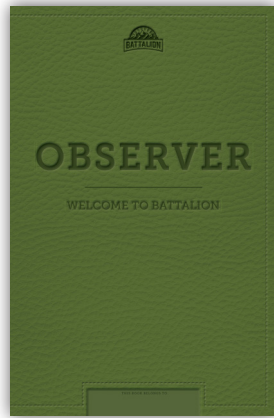
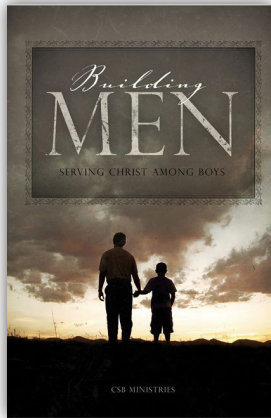
(DOUBLE) HALF HITCH



BATTALION MINISTRY MATERIALS

Find all these great resources and more on the Brigade Shop!

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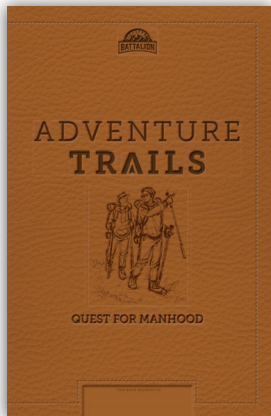


BUILDING MEN

Building Men is the core training resource for leaders of all CSB programs. Each leader should use the Building Men book either on their own or as a group to gain the knowledge they need to effectively lead boys and young men.

OBSERVER

The Trail Head of the achievement path starts at Observer. This updated version of the tried and true introduction to Battalion has been refreshed.



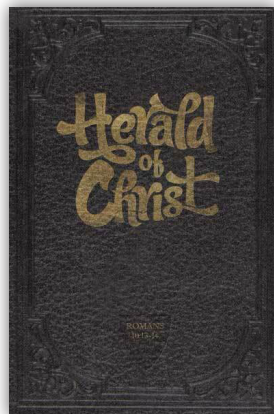
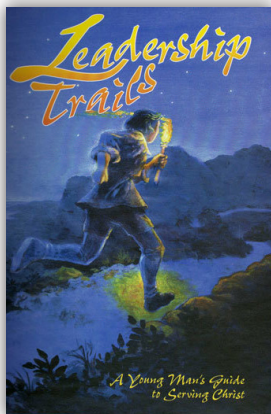
ADVENTURE TRAILS

Quest

With a greater emphasis on connecting with a mentor and connecting learning to activity, the Quest is a fresh update of most recent edition of Adventure Trails.

The Guide

This approach to helping the young man grow draws from classic editions of Brigade and Adventure Trails features self-setting and accomplishing discipleship goals.



LEADERSHIP TRAILS

A challenging and purposeful guide for leadership development of young men. This is an indispensable tool for continuing the discipleship of a young man who displays leadership potential.

HERALD OF CHRIST

The culmination of Battalion achievement, this is the highest achievement in CSB. Training includes Bible exploration, Bible doctrine, ministry project, community service, Scripture memory and a personal growth essay.

BRIGADE LEADER E-MAGAZINE

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BRIGADE LEADER E-MAGAZINE

A very useful website developed for leaders and filled with helpful articles, written by experienced Brigade leaders on how to make every aspect of the meeting effective.

brigadeleader.csbministries.org

CHRISTIAN SERVICE BRIGADE

A component of CSB Ministries

P.O. Box 1010
Hamburg, NY 14075
tel: 800.815.5573
office@csbministries.org
www.csbministries.org

1000 Stormont Street
Ottawa, ON K2C 0M9
tel: 613.225.3689
office.ca@christianservicebrigade.ca
www.christianservicebrigade.ca

