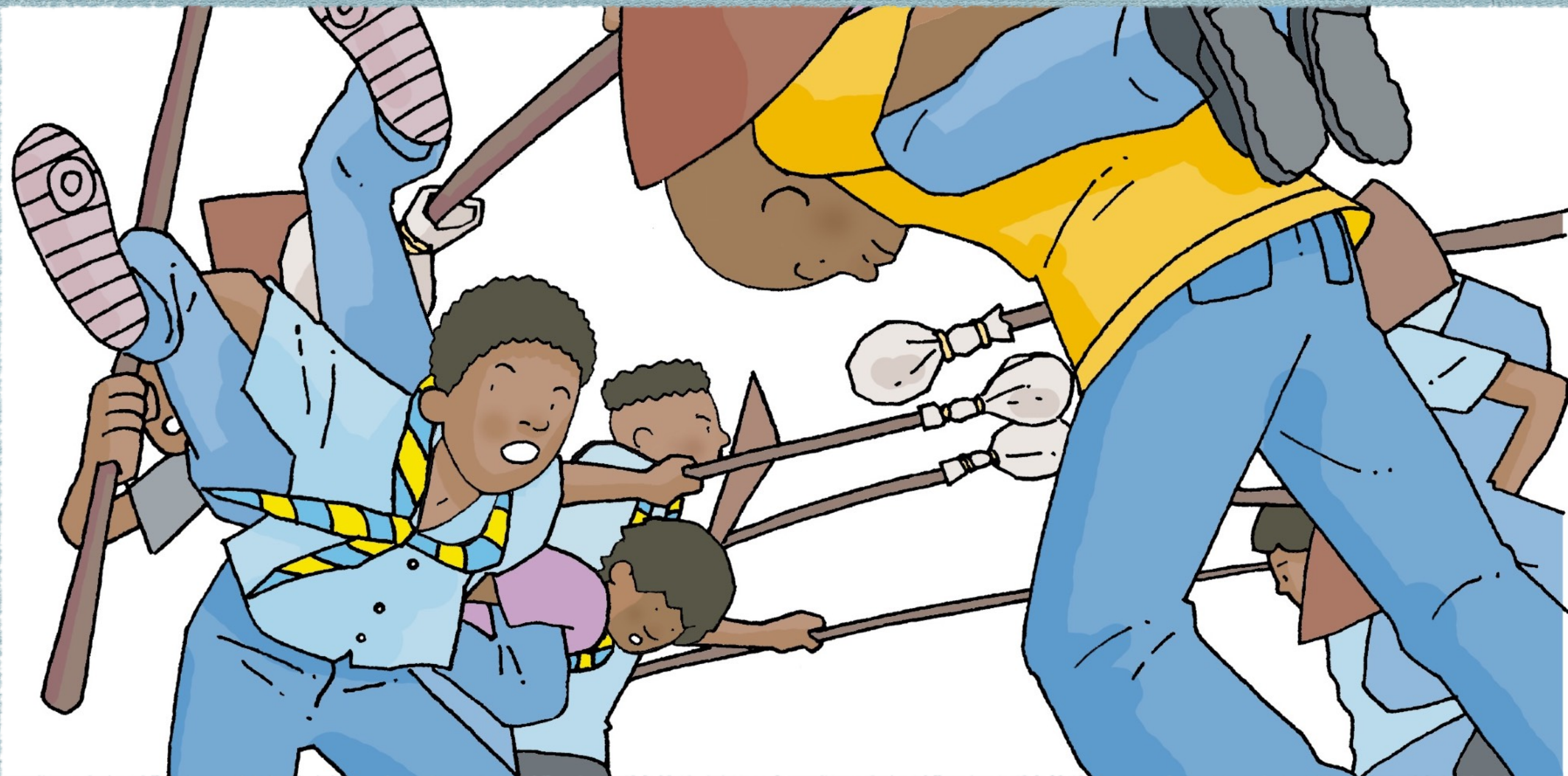




The team system

Participation and empowerment



1. Misinterpretation and confusion

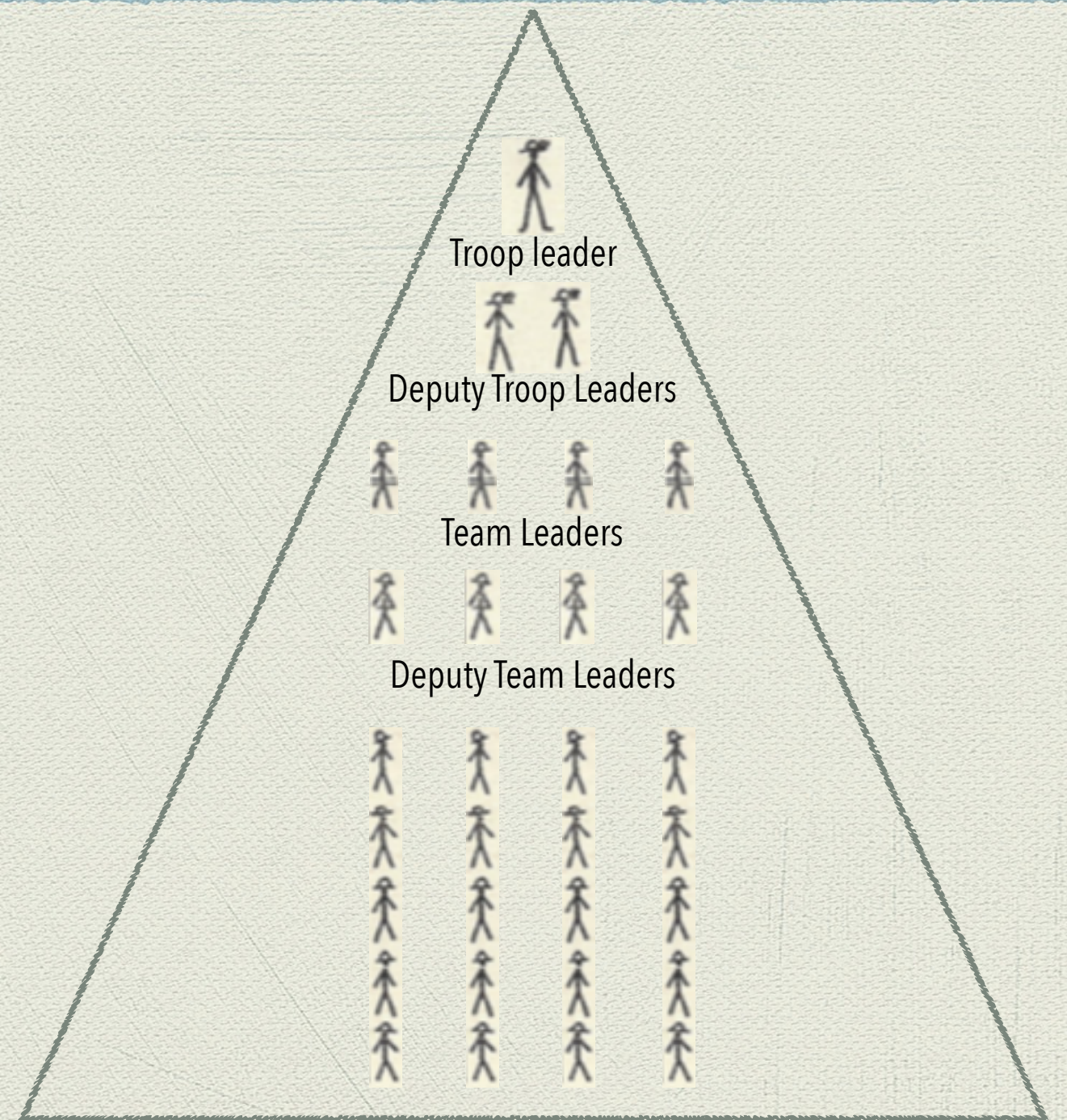
The Misunderstood Team System

- ◆ The real value of the team system is often misunderstood
- ◆ In Scout literature, it is often described as a simple system of working in small groups: for a given activity, young people are divided into small teams
- ◆ These groupings may have their educational usefulness, but they are not the team system.



The perverted team system

- ◆ In some Scout associations, the team system is perverted.
- ◆ It becomes a pyramidal system in which "team leaders" take on the role of "non-commissioned officers" responsible for transmitting the instructions of adult leaders.



The team system abandoned

- ◆ This misunderstanding has led several Scout associations to simply abandon the system of teams considered outdated and obsolete...

Let's go back to the origins

- ◆ To understand the real value and stakes of the team system, we must go back to the origins



2. The team

What did Baden-Powell say?



- ◆ “Scouting put the boys into fraternity gangs which is their natural organization whether for games, mischief or loafing” (B.-P. Aids to Scoutmastership)

The team is a fraternity gang

- ◆ Team building should not be artificial, young people should be able to choose each other according to their affinities and everything that brings them together (same neighbourhood, same school).



The team is a small group

- ◆ The team is a small group of between 5 and 8 members.
- ◆ This allows each member to have an individualized perception of each other and to be perceived reciprocally by him.
- ◆ Interactions and interdependence among members are strong.
- ◆ Norms, common values, rites arise in the group.



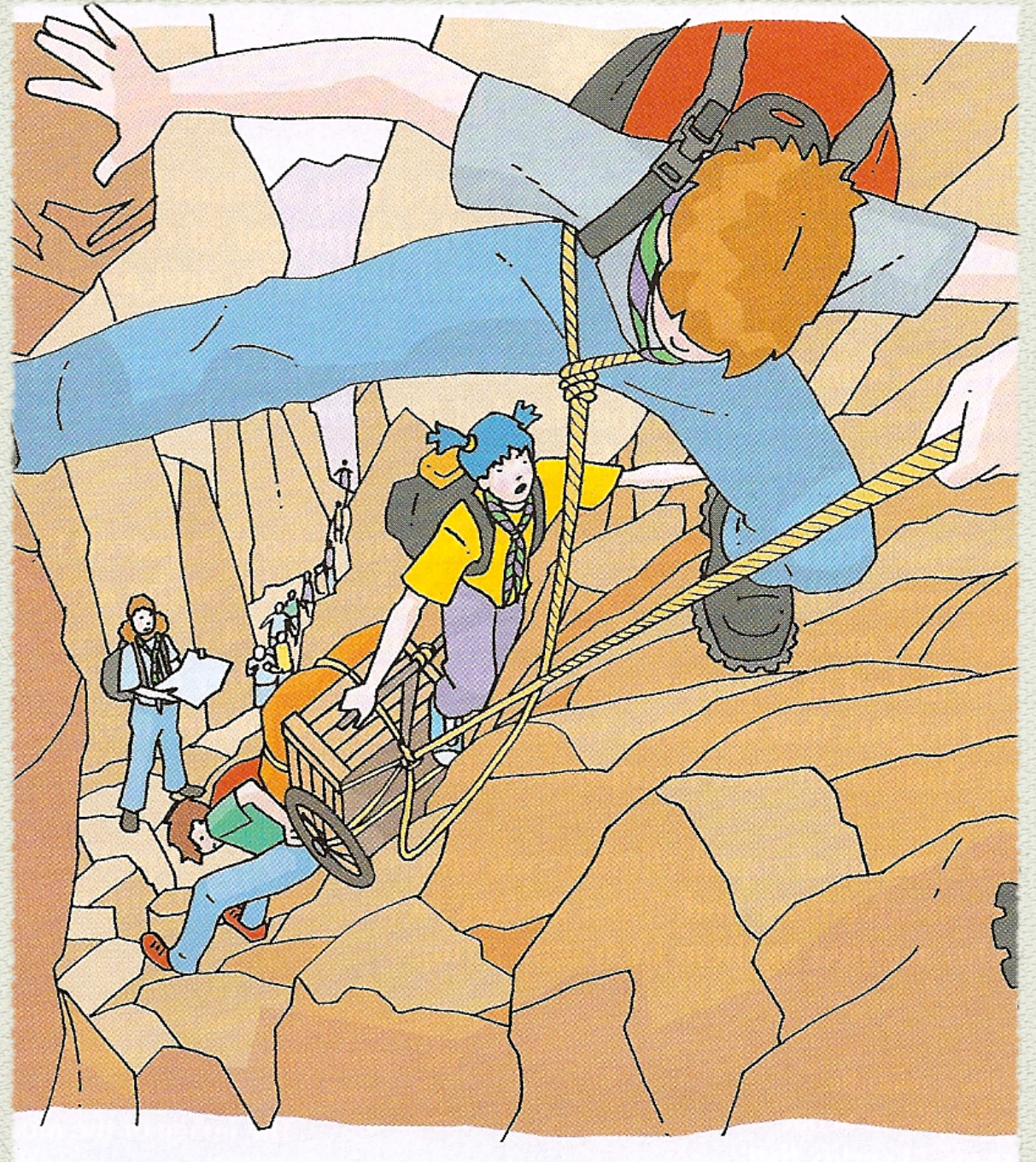
The team is a group of peers

- ◆ The team is made up of young people of the same age group.
- ◆ Within the team, the age difference between the youngest and oldest should not be too great to allow the sharing of similar interests.



The team is a stable group

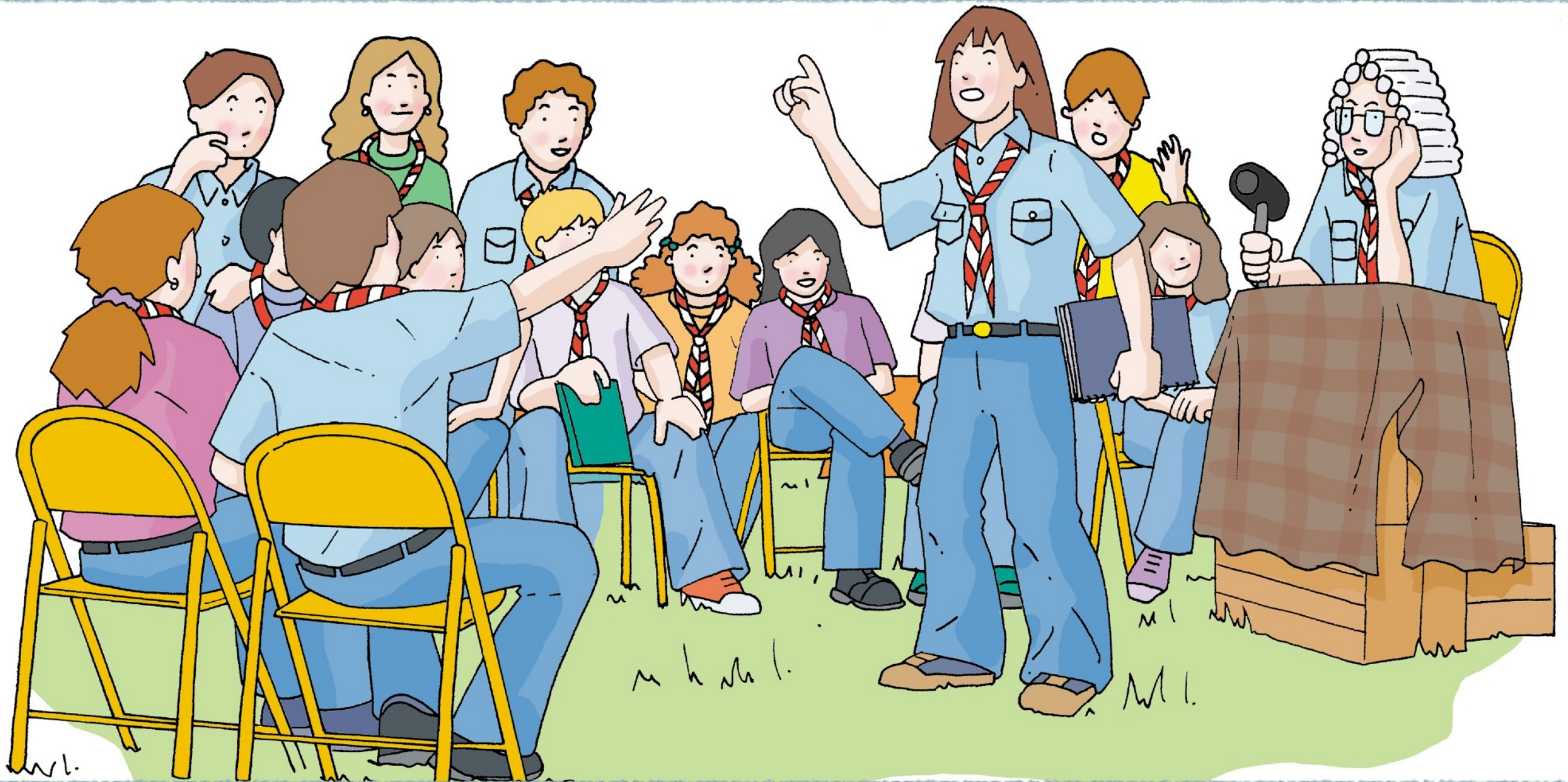
- ◆ Teams must be stable enough to meet essential needs:
 - Need for belonging, friendship, sharing
 - Need to be recognized and respected
 - Need for freedom: making choices and deciding together
 - Need to be stimulated and have fun together



The team is a place of mutual tutoring

- ◆ The sharing of roles within the team allows for peer-to-peer tutoring: each learns from the others.
- ◆ Using a common language, they feel free to exchange questions, opinions and risk untested solutions.
- ◆ The team leader plays an important role in facilitating coordination and mutual assistance and representing the team. He/she is a democratic leader.





3. A system of participation

What did Baden-Powell say?

- ◆ “The Patrol system is the one essential feature in which Scout training differs from of all other organisations”...
- ◆ “The object of the Patrol system is mainly to give real responsibility to as many of the boys as possible, with a view to developing their character”...
- ◆ « It leads each boy to see that he has some individual responsibility for the good of his Patrol. It leads each Patrol to see that it has definite responsibility fro the good of the Troop“. (Aids to Scoutmastership)

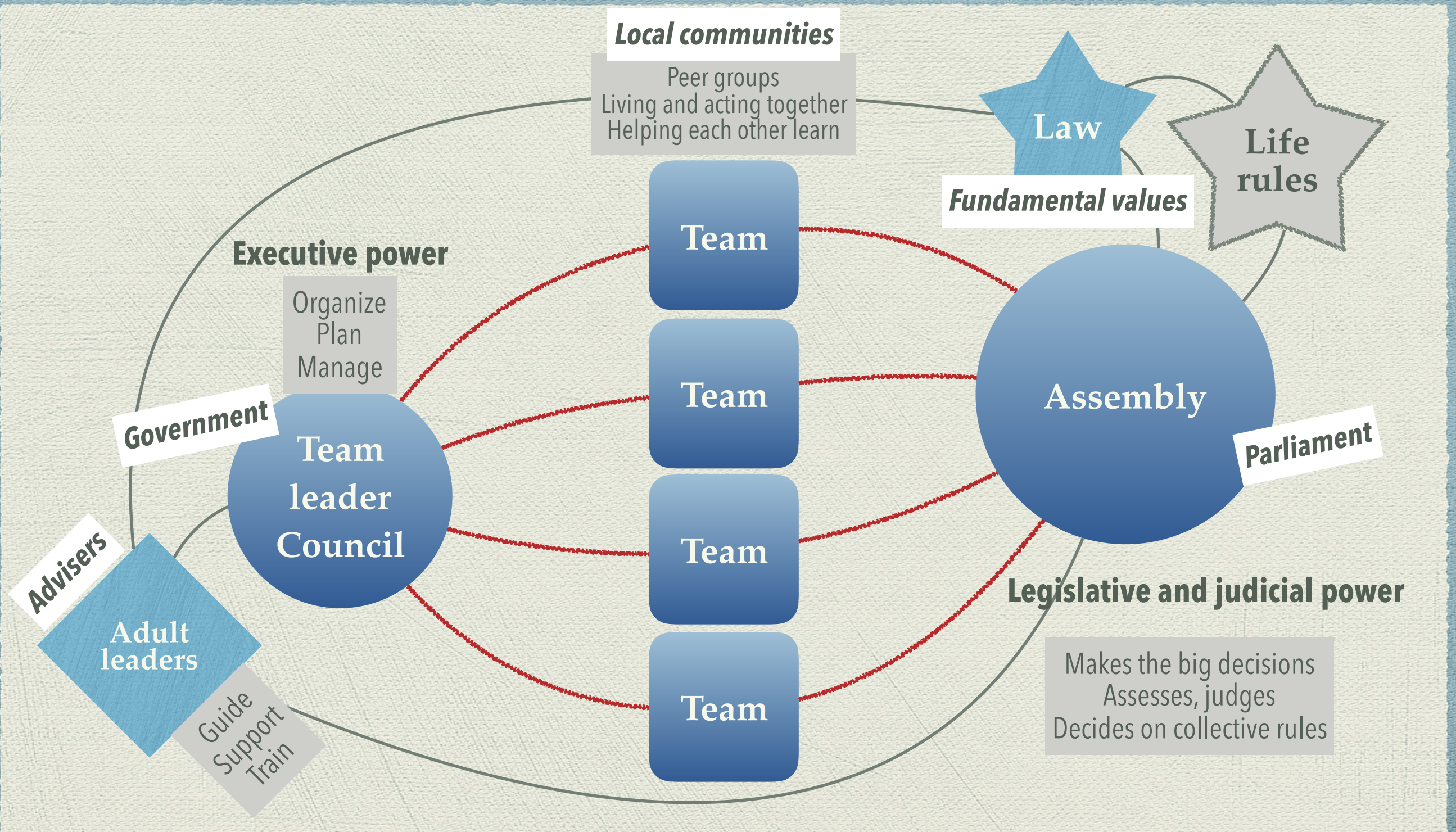
A real co-operative effort

- ◆ “Through the Patrol system, the Scout themselves gradually learn that they have considerable say in what their Troop does....
- ◆ “It is the patrol system that makes the Troop, and all Scouting for that matter, a real **co-operative effort**”.

Institutions

- ◆ The team system sets up cooperative institutions within the group. :
 - The teams,
 - The Team Leader Council
 - The assembly of all the Scouts
 - The Law and the rules of life
- ◆ It is a framework offering mediations that allow adults to avoid both authoritarianism and laissez-faire and to empower young people.

A Youth Republic



A tool for citizenship education

- ◆ Through the team system, young people learn to evaluate the life and activities of the group, to experiment with values and collective rules, to set goals and plan projects to achieve them.



Cooperative education systems

- ◆ In cooperative school education, such as the Freinet method, there are group institutions identical to the Scout team system:
 - ◆ The teams,
 - ◆ The Council
 - ◆ The Assembly
 - ◆ The law and the rules of life
- ◆ Scouting is part of the family of cooperative education systems

Investing spaces of freedom

- ◆ “To allow children to enter into cooperative approaches is to invite them to invest spaces of freedom and to practice an evolved form of democracy taken from the perspective of fraternity..”

– Sylvain Connac *Apprendre avec les pédagogies coopératives*

Two educational systems

“The two main methods of training are:

- ◆ 1. **By education:** that is by “drawing out” the individual boy and giving him the ambition and keenness to learn for himself.
- ◆ 2. **By instruction:** that is by impressing and drumming knowledge into the boy.

Number two of these is still too often the rule. In the Scout Movement we use Number 1”

Baden-Powell, *Aids to Scoutmasterhip*

A quote from Jean Piaget

Jean Piaget, the famous Swiss psychologist wrote:

“By developing the laws themselves that will regulate school discipline, by electing the government themselves to enforce those laws, and by establishing the judicial power to punish offences themselves, children acquire the opportunity to learn through experience what is obedience to the rule, attachment to the social group and individual responsibility.” (Jean Piaget “De la pédagogie”)

A quote from Célestin Freinet

Celestin Freinet, the famous French pedagogue, wrote:

“The cooperative school is, instead of the sitting school, living in the buzzing of empty words, the active school... It is a politically transformed school where children who were nothing have become something, it is the school passed from absolute monarchy to republic and where children learn the game of our institutions and practice the practice of freedom... It is finally the school where education is no longer the exclusive goal, but where one aims to form the thinking being, who knows how to listen to the voice of reason, the moral and responsible being, the social being attached as much to the fulfilment of his duties as to the claim of his rights.”

A quote from Paulo Freire

Paulo Freire, the famous Brazilian pedagogue, wrote:

“Education functions either as an instrument that is used to facilitate the integration of the younger generation and its conformity to the logic of the current system; or it becomes a liberating practice by which men and women confront reality in a critical and creative way and discover how to participate in the transformation of the world.”

The logic of integration

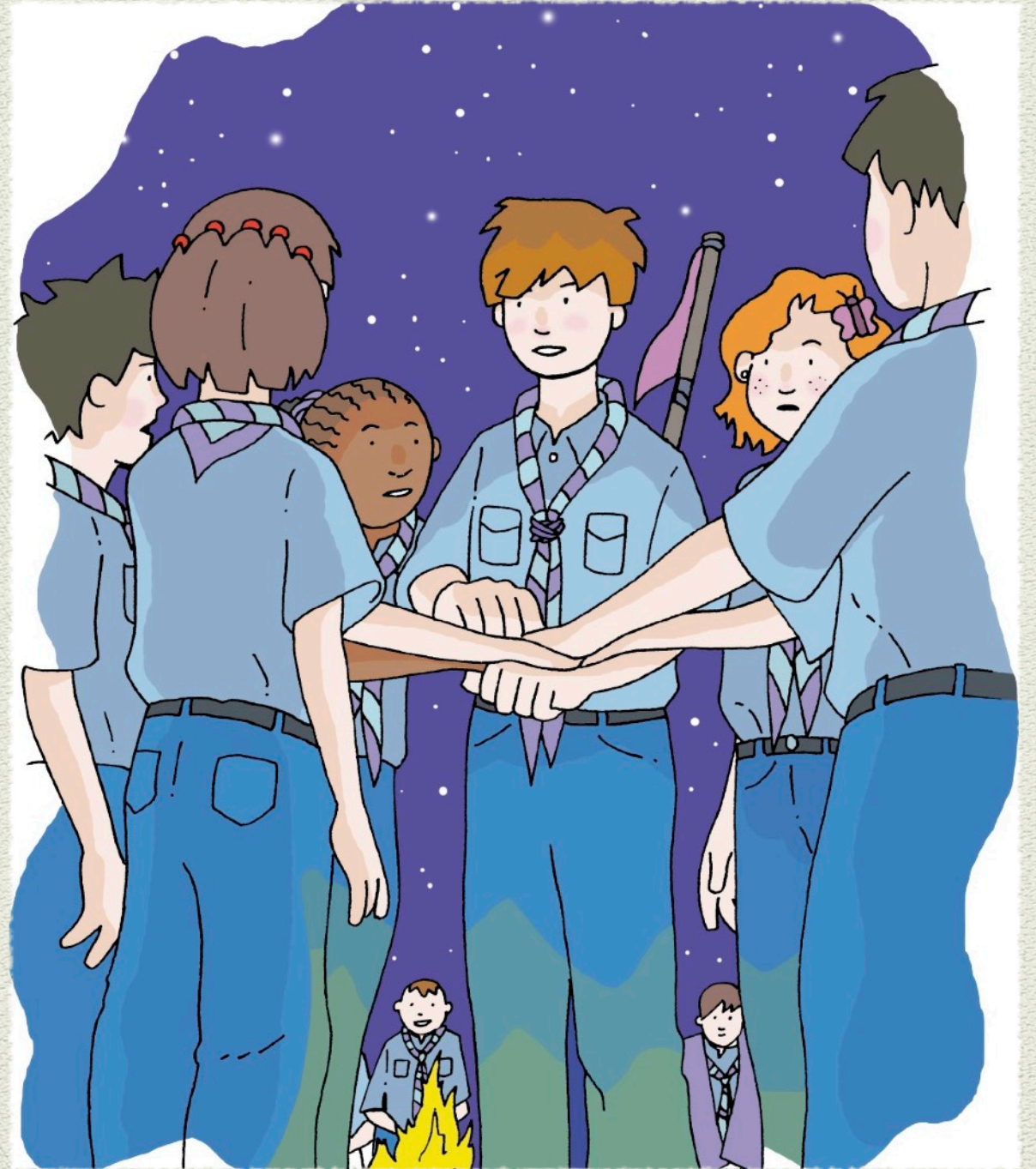
- ◆ In the Scout world, the team system can be used as a system of adult instruction transmission and youth control.
- ◆ The educational project is then to integrate young people and to conform them to the logic of the system in place.

The logic of empowerment

- ◆ The team system can also be expressed in a logic of empowerment by offering a framework of participation and partnership with adults that opens up the possibility of facing reality in a critical and creative way in order to discover how to become active citizens, capable of participating in the transformation of the world.

Emancipation (or empowerment)

- ◆ **Manucapare** in Latin means "Take by the hand"
- ◆ The one who is "**e-mancipated**" (privative "e" + manucapare), we no longer need to take him by the hand.
- ◆ They are empowered, they have power over their own life, they are autonomous.



Scouting's aim is to gradually empower young people into active, responsible and supportive citizens.