

Campout “Be Prepared”

Understand that each campout is different and thus the information provided here might not be entirely accurate. The information contained here is for an “average” campout. The adult leaders try to make sure the boys know what may be different and how to prepare. When in doubt, call an adult leader.

At the meeting before a campout, each patrol (2 to 8 boys) decides on a menu. They should also know the cost of the campout well in advance and bring that money to the meeting before the campout. The cost is usually between \$10 and \$20 depending on the cost of camping (state parks are more expensive) and planned activities. Cost is food plus transportation plus fees for camping and activities. They should know this well in advance. We usually plan on \$8 for food. One Scout is responsible for buying the food. He collects the \$8 from each Scout in his patrol the meeting before the campout. The food will usually fit in a cooler and a box (for things like bread, ... that don't need to be kept cold). The advantage of having the responsibility for buying the food is that you get to pick the kind of things you like within the guidelines of the menu that the patrol has agreed upon. Parents should help the boys purchase the food to insure they have sufficient food for the number of boys in the patrol.

The planned meals are usually Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and something quick and easy for Sunday breakfast.

The boys should pack their equipment in duffel bags or packs. Five-gallon buckets that are used for food are also good because they are watertight and can be used as a chair at camp. These can be obtained at restaurants, donut shops,... for less than \$5 (sometimes free). Don't carry things loose or in plastic or paper bags.

Make sure EVERYTHING the Scout takes has his name on it. Socks, shoes, underwear, shirts, ... it all looks the same to them. They usually camp two per tent and everything gets mixed together. On Sunday morning when they are packing up, it's “Pack it up now and ask questions later.” At least if it has a name on it we can eventually get it back to the rightful owner.

A list of gear to consider for a campout is included in this handout. Each campout will be different depending on the weather and the campout activities. You might want to make copies of the list and use it as a checklist for each campout. Add and remove things from the list as you see fit. If you don't know what something is or don't know why it is needed, ask an adult leader. Camping without some of these items can make the experience uncomfortable or dangerous. The Scout might also want to take a small pack for in the van/bus/car. A small snack or drink, game or book might be appreciated during the drive to and from camp.

All gear should be packed in large zip lock bags. These bags are placed in large plastic garbage bags and then placed in the duffel bag or pack. You never know when it will rain.

Do not take a lot of personal snacks and drinks. Eat and drink what the patrol has planned. Remember food that is kept in your personal gear may attract animals and insects into your tent.

Do NOT take electronic games, CD and tape players, and radios on any Scouting activity. The only electronic gear allowed are flashlights, fans, and clocks.

Scouts should be in class A uniform (BSA Scout shirt, troop neckerchief and hat, ...) while traveling to and from camp. During camp, a Scout related shirt should be worn.

The schedule goes something like this. Meet at the Scout Room on Friday evening sometime between 6 and 7. The adult leaders will let the boys know when to meet. Equipment is loaded into the trailer and we are off. The drive usually takes between one and three hours. Be sure to eat and go to the bathroom before we leave.

After we arrive at camp, we unload the equipment from the trailer, set up lanterns (provided), tents (provided), and then go to sleep. On Saturday morning, we cook breakfast, do some activities, eat lunch (usually sandwiches), do more activities, cook dinner, still more activities, and sleep. On Sunday, we get up, eat something quick, pack up all the gear, load it into the trailer, and head home. Sometimes we stop at a restaurant on the way home (depending on the length of the drive). Just in case, take along an extra \$5. The boys are responsible for keeping track of their own money on all campouts. We usually plan to leave camp between 9 and 10. This puts us back at the Scout Room around noon. The boys call their parents from the Scout Room to come pick them up. Please make yourself available around the time you expect the Scouts to return. If you can't be there, make other arrangements. The adult leaders don't appreciate having to wait around for someone to be picked up.

Every Scout MUST have a permission slip to go on EVERY campout. A different permission slip MUST be filled out for each campout. They are usually available at the meeting before each campout or on Friday evening when leaving for a campout. A parent or legal guardian must sign them. A medical form is also required. However, medical forms are filled out once per year and then kept on file by the troop.

Medicine can be administered by any of the adult leaders. Be sure the medicine is in a sealed container with the Scout's name on it and detailed directions. Parents should spend some time talking to the adult leader about the condition, symptoms, and medication to insure he understands.

After a campout, the Scouts have the responsibility of taking a tent or ground cloth home to clean up and dry out. If they are dirty, they will suffer more wear and tear. If they are not dried out totally they will mildew and be ruined. Return the equipment at the next meeting.

After a campout, it is a good idea to check your son for ticks. They are especially active in the spring and summer. Ticks like places that are difficult for the boys to check themselves. If you need more information on ticks, ask your doctor or an adult leader.

If a Scout has major conduct problems on a campout, his parents may be asked to come and pick him up immediately.

If you have ANY questions about any of this information, please talk with an adult leader. Your son's comfort and safety could be at risk.