

# CAMPING

THE GROUP COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES



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# CAMPING—THE GROUP COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES



## CAMPING AND SCOUTING

Camping is an integral part of the Scout method of character training, thus Camping and Scouting have become practically synonymous terms. It is quite true to say that the Scout who has never been to camp has never really experienced Scouting.

From the beginning of the Scout Movement, great stress has been laid upon the importance of Camping in the Scout programme. Lord Baden-Powell, Founder of the Movement, had this to say:—"I cannot impress upon Scouters too highly the value of the camp in the training of Scouts. *In fact, I think its whole essence hangs on this.*"

On another occasion he wrote:—"The camp is the thing that appeals to the lads. It is the camp where the Scoutmaster really has his opportunity."

Boys come into Scouting for many things but principally looking for fun, adventure and comradeship. Nowhere can this threefold dream be better fulfilled than at camp where the fun of the outdoor life, the adventure of exploring unknown trails, the woods and forests and the lakes, and the comradeship of eating, hiking, swimming and living with other boys, ceases to be a dream and becomes a reality.

One of the most important tasks that fall to the lot of the Group Committee is that of assuring that every Scout has the opportunity

to go to camp. Cub camping also is to be encouraged, and more will be written on this subject at the end of this pamphlet.

The first task of the Committee is to read and become familiar with the regulations laid down in Rules 360 to 363, and Rules 391 and 392 of Policy, Organization and Rules for Canada. Particularly should they note Sec. iii of Rule 360 which states:—**“Every Scout camp in excess of three days duration must be registered at Provincial Headquarters. Application for permission to conduct a camp of more than three days must be made at least three weeks in advance of the commencement of the camp. Forms for this purpose are obtainable from District or Provincial Headquarters. Following approval, Provincial Headquarters will issue a Camp Permit which must be displayed on the camp Notice Board.”**

## Committee Responsibilities

The Committee's responsibilities can be summed up briefly in these phrases, each of which will be enlarged upon in this pamphlet.

- (i) Promoting the Summer Camp.
- (ii) Assuring that adequate leadership is available.
- (iii) Seeing that sufficient funds are available.
- (iv) Helping in the search and selection of a camp site.
- (v) Making provision for the purchase or rental of adequate tentage and equipment.
- (vi) Obtaining permission of parents for their boys to attend.
- (vii) Making provision for proper religious observances at camp.
- (viii) Seeing that menus for a balanced diet are drawn up.
- (ix) Making sure that the Scouter in charge has a planned programme with a substitute programme for bad weather.
- (x) Making provision for proper health and sanitary protection.
- (xi) Seeing that adequate safety precautions are planned for the camp.
- (xii) Arranging for proper business records to be kept.
- (xiii) Knowing the special precautions and provisions to be complied with when Wolf Cubs go to camp.
- (xiv) Boosting camping from one year's end to the other.
- (xv) Have knowledge of special requirements for Winter Camping.



## PROMOTING CAMPING.

(Check each item as arranged)

- (a) Arrange a meeting of parents in the fall or winter months and outline the importance of camping in the Scout programme. A regular parents' night will do. ☐
- (b) See that the annual camp is kept before the Scouts by the chairman of the Camp Committee by frequent visits to the Troop. ☐
- (c) Encourage overnight and weekend camping by Patrols. ☐
- (d) Encourage Winter Camping for those suitably qualified. (See Winter Scouting). ☐



## LEADERSHIP FOR SUMMER CAMP.

(Check each item as arranged)

- (a) Early in the year find how many Scouters will be available to supervise the annual camp. (There should be a minimum of two adult leaders, with an average of one adult for every eight boys. Group Committeemen with camping experience may serve as camp leaders.) ☐
- (b) Encourage these Scouters to take a specialized training course in camping, if such, is available in the district. ☐
- (c) If additional leadership is required arrange for members of the Group Committee or interested fathers to assist. ☐
- (d) If the Scoutmaster is unable to attend and no other experienced leadership is available, possibly a joint annual camp with another Troop can be arranged with another Group Committee or the Troop may be able to attend a

District Composite camp. This latter type camp, in which leadership is provided by the District Council, is operated by several larger Districts in Canada. However the Troop Camp under its own leadership is to be encouraged. ☐

## FINANCING THE CAMP.

(Check each item as arranged)

- (a) Start a camp bank, operated by a member of the Camping Committee, and let Scouts contribute sums each week towards their summer camp fee. Make provision for those boys who for financial reasons might not otherwise be able to attend. (These boys might be assisted in finding part time jobs to earn the money for camp.) ☐
- (b) Make up a tentative budget for the camp and determine what fee is to be charged each boy and Scouter, and what amount will be contributed by the Group Committee. It is usual to set the fee to cover at least the cost of food. ☐



## SELECTING THE CAMP SITE.

(Check each item as arranged)

- (a) With the Scoutmaster and Patrol Leaders, arrange a trip to find a suitable camp site. The District Commissioner or Scouters of other Groups might have some worthwhile suggestions. ☐
- (b) It should not be so close to home as to encourage too much visiting by parents. ☐
- (c) Ground should have good drainage in case of wet weather. ☐
- (d) It should be protected by hills or woods from summer storms. ☐



- (e) There should be an adequate supply of drinking water, a sample of which should be sent to the Provincial Government laboratory for testing. (This done within 14 days before camp opens.) Under no circumstances should a previous year's test be accepted. ☐
- (f) It should be convenient to safe swimming. ☐
- (g) It should not be overlooked by, or close to other habitations. ☐
- (h) There should be a readily available source of fresh vegetables, fruit, pasteurized milk, butter and eggs. ☐
- (i) An adequate supply of firewood should be available, but if not, charcoal should be used, and pre-camp training in this method of cooking should be given. ☐
- (j) Make sure medical services are available during the camp period. ☐
- (k) A map of the camp site should be made for the use of the Scouters and Court of Honour in laying out the camp. ☐

## TENTAGE AND EQUIPMENT.

(Check each item as arranged)

- (a) Arrange for tents for each Patrol (a 10 by 12 foot wall tent will accommodate six boys and their equipment), one for the Scoutmaster and his assistants, tents for storage, first aid and other purposes. ☐  
(A long range plan to build up a supply of tents is desirable. However, sometimes it is necessary to rent tents.)
- (b) A dining fly should be provided for each Patrol. ☐
- (c) Provide adequate kitchen equipment for each Patrol.  
(See Scouters' Camping Guide and Stores Dept. Catalogue.)
- (d) For general Troop use other equipment will be necessary.  
(See Scouters' Camping Guide and Stores Dept. Catalogue.)
- (e) First Aid Box. (See Scouters' Camping Guide and Stores Dept. Catalogue.)
- (f) Boats, if camping near water.
- (g) See special notes on Cub camping on Page 11.

## PERMISSION OF PARENTS.

(Check each item as arranged)

- (a) So that adequate leadership and finances can be arranged, parental permission should be obtained early in the year, so that the Committee will know what numbers to plan for. ☐
- (b) As time for camp approaches send a letter to all parents giving camp dates, place, names of Scouters, fees to be paid, mailing address, visiting days, personal equipment required, arrangements for medical inspection, camp rules regarding food sent in, pocket money required, transportation arrangements, etc. ☐

## RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES.

(Check each item as arranged)

The Group Committee is responsible for seeing that arrangements are made for proper religious observances in camp. The Religious Policy of the Association must be observed.

- (a) If possible take the boys to churches of their own denomination in the vicinity of the camp. ☐
- (b) If all are of one denomination, it might be possible to have a minister or priest of that denomination visit the camp and conduct religious services. ☐
- (c) Each boy's religious convictions must be respected and fasting and other rules observed. ☐
- (d) If there are special dietary arrangements for some boys these must be observed, such as the Roman Catholic obligation to abstain from meat on Fridays, and the Jewish obligation to avoid certain types of foods. ☐
- (e) It is highly important that grace at meals be conducted in such a manner as to be conducive to reverence. In cases where a boy's faith does not permit him to participate in prayer with others, a silent period of grace should be observed. ☐



## BALANCED DIET.

### (Check each item as arranged)

Menus, providing for a balanced diet, should be prepared well in advance of the camping period, and the Court of Honour should share in this experience.

- (a) Have someone with the necessary experience prepare the menus. If necessary have them checked by a dietitian or other authority. ☐
- (b) From the menus, have Court of Honour draw up a list of the supplies necessary. (Helpful quantity hints appear in the Scouters' Camping Guide.) ☐
- (c) Where possible include some fresh vegetables and fruit in preference to the canned variety only. ☐
- (d) Encourage cooking by Patrols with every Scout having an opportunity to increase his knowledge of cooking. ☐

## PROGRAMME.

### (Check each item as arranged)

A planned programme is essential to the successful camp and much of the camp's happiness and progress will depend on the care exercised in its preparation. The planning should be a joint effort of the Scouters and the Court of Honour.

- (a) Ask the Scoutmaster to submit an outline of the daily routine and programme. ☐
- (b) See that alternate programmes are available for wet weather. ☐
- (c) Help, if necessary, to obtain special help for such phases of the programme as tree or bird study, astronomy, life saving, etc. ☐
- (d) See that the programme includes opportunities for progress in test and proficiency badge work, for local good turns and for plenty of fun and adventure. Do not overlook the importance of adequate rest periods. ☐
- (e) See that emphasis is placed on outdoor badges and tests, and not on those tests which can easily be carried out at regular Troop meetings. Make sure that Badge passing conforms to Council regulations. ☐



## HEALTH AND SANITATION.

(Check each item as arranged)

- (a) See that each boy has a medical examination before going to Camp. ☐
- (b) Arrange that the health of each boy is checked daily (bowel movements, etc.) ☐
- (c) Arrange to isolate any boy who is indisposed. ☐
- (d) Insist that a doctor be called in any case of serious accident or illness. ☐
- (e) Insist that cleanliness throughout the camp is stressed and especially in eating, cooking and latrine areas. ☐
- (f) Have all washing-up water disposed of through grease pits in well drained areas. ☐
- (g) Have all garbage burned, and tin cans burned, bashed and buried. ☐
- (h) Provide screens for latrines and urinals. (See plans in Scouters' Camping Guide.) ☐
- (i) Refer to Provincial or local government health regulations relating to camping, dishwashing, latrines, etc. ☐

## SAFETY.

(Check each item as arranged)

- (a) Encourage Scouters to train boys in the proper handling of all Scout tools, and particularly axes and knives. ☐
- (b) Insist that all cuts and scratches be treated immediately. ☐
- (c) Make a firm rule that no swimming is permitted other than at scheduled periods. ☐
- (d) See that all rules for Water Safety as outlined in Rules 391 and 392 of Policy, Organization and Rules are provided for and observed. ☐

## BUSINESS RECORDS.

(Check each item as arranged)

Much work is saved from year to year by retaining records of previous camps, both Troop and Patrol, for future planning.

- (a) Keep a record of all expenditures for food, equipment, transportation and incidental expenses. ☐
- (b) File copies of all letters sent to parents and boys regarding camp. ☐
- (c) Retain copies of all programme material, menus, food requirements, tests and badges passed. ☐

## ACCIDENTS AND SICKNESS



The Boy Scouts Association has subscribed to a Canada wide policy providing accident and sickness (while at camp) benefits to all registered members.

Sickness (while at camp) is covered to the extent of \$100 in medical expenses, and this benefit applies to any authorized camp, including weekend, short term and long term camps.

Accident benefits cover accidents suffered on any Scout activity, but does not cover accidents occurring on the way to or from regular meetings.

Claims must be reported within 30 days, and the policy covers only expenses commencing within 90 days of accident.

Four copies of the Accident Report Form (available from District or Provincial Headquarters) must be made and three of these forwarded to the District or Provincial Headquarters. Insurance is in force only while the Group is registered.

Accident benefits include Death (\$500); Loss of both hands or both feet or both hands (\$500); Loss of one hand and one foot (\$500); either hand or foot and sight of one eye (\$500); either hand or foot (\$250); Sight of one eye (\$250); Medical expenses in connection with accidents (\$100). (In British Columbia benefits differ from these listed and details are available from the British Columbia Provincial Council.)



# CUB CAMPING



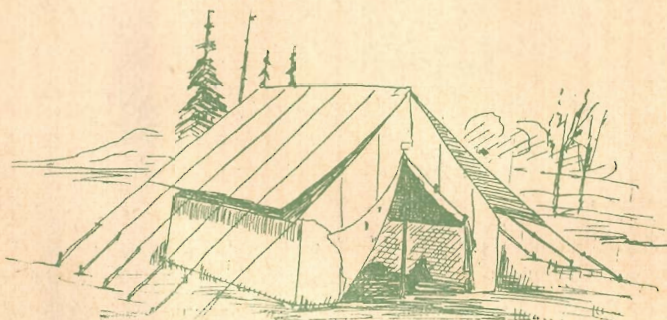
More and more, camping for Wolf Cubs is being encouraged. It should not be confused with Scout camping either in its form or purpose. Cub Camping is essentially holiday type camping, with an opportunity to carry out the Cub programme.

Cubs of all ages may go to camp, but obviously with smaller boys with a more limited sense of responsibility than their older brothers in the Troop, greater precautions must be taken. These precautions may be summarized from Policy, Organizations and Rules for Canada.

## (Check each item as arranged)

- (a) Provide adequate tents with floors, either wooden or canvas, or preferably provide cabins. ☐
- (b) Provide every Cub with at least a mattress or a straw-filled tick. ☐
- (c) In addition to sleeping accommodation, some form of clean, permanent shelter or weatherproof marquee, large enough to accommodate all the Cubs in camp must be available. Water supplies, under cover cooking and sanitation facilities must be available at the site. ☐
- (d) There must be one adult for every six Cubs in camp and under no circumstances should a Cub camp be conducted with less than two adults of whom one must be a qualified Scouter. ☐
- (e) Combined Cub and Scout camps must not be permitted and Cubs must not be allowed to camp with Scouts. ☐
- (f) Central cooking with an experienced cook, possibly one of the mothers or fathers, must be provided. ☐

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## "SCOUTERS' CAMPING GUIDE"