

Boy Scout Interest Topics

CAMPING TRIP ACTIVITIES

Time Available

10 minutes

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. List a variety of activities for making a successful camping trip
2. Understand the importance of having several activities planned out

Suggested Presenter(s)

District camping chair

Presentation Method

- Discussion, brainstorming, and sharing of ideas
- If internet is available, show the two clips. If it is not, discuss where to find the clips.

BSA Reference Materials

- Troop Leader Program Feature, <http://troopleader.org/program-feature-camping>
- *Program Features for Troops, Teams, and Crews*, www.scoutstuff.org/catalogsearch/result/?q=troop+program+features
- Categorized Activities Index, www.programresources.org/categorized-activities-index

Presentation Content

Besides setting up camp, carrying out duty roster responsibilities, and just hanging out, what can patrols DO on a camping trip? How are plans made to include additional camping trip activities? (View the “Scouting Is Outing” and “Program Feature: Camping” videos.)

- **Program features:** During the troop’s annual planning conference, choose from 48 program features. There are provisions to go camping in conjunction with each of these, especially those in the outdoor category. If a troop has chosen and followed one of these monthly themes in preparation for an outing, the theme’s focus gives rise to a host of relevant and involving camping trip activities.

—Discussion

- **Troop program resources:** Almost any challenge or game that is fun at a troop meeting can be presented outdoors during a camping trip. Go to www.programresources.org/categorized-activities-index and review the libraries of Scout Skill Challenges, Team Building, Patrol Games, and Troop Games opportunities. Plan on scheduling activities chosen by the Patrol Leaders’ Council between mealtimes as desired.

—Discussion

- **Location attractions:** Plan to take advantage of a location’s built-in attractions, e.g., canoe and kayak rentals, hiking trails, fishing ponds, etc.

—Discussion

- **The campsite:** On many camping trips, meaningful activities are centered around the campsite itself, where Scouts are cheerfully pulling together toward the common goal of making and keeping their camp comfortable and organized—everyone doing their part and helping one another. There’s fun inherent in using the timeless Scout skills they’ve acquired to create a campsite that works well and is enjoyable. The Scouts’ camp can be considered their very own, personalized outdoor home away from home, and they can take pride in what they’ve accomplished, reflected by their ability to function as a well-working Scout patrol.

—Discussion

- *“My ideal camp is where everyone is cheery and busy, where the patrols are kept intact under all circumstances, and where every patrol leader and Scout takes a genuine pride in his camp and his gadgets.”—Lord Baden-Powell*