

CAMPING  
overnight  
longer



I know of no Troop activity that will arouse the ambition and curiosity of a member more than the mention of an overnight hike or a longer stay at a regular, established camp. So many things are offered to a boy attending an overnight hike or a camp that the Pioneer can do nothing other than to be

enthusiastic. He wants to learn how to properly build a campfire; also how to build a fire for cooking; how to properly pitch a tent and how to care for it in the weather that oftentimes prevails after a camp is set up. It is evident he will not have to be coaxed to do his part.

Into the overnight hike or camping program must go a great deal of pre-preparation and thoughts. Oftentimes the overnight hike during the fall and the colder weather may seem less important. Oftentimes, holidays are left-gone to waste, feeling that an overnight hike would not be well attended. A Troop with good planned activity, in an effort to teach Pioneering and to give to the boy that which teaches him responsibility in outdoor life, may have as many as a dozen overnight hikes in a year. The natural thing to do is first to plan--How many are going? To know this, you must first determine what provisions your Troop has for sleeping the number that wish to attend. Experience for camping cannot be fully explained to give the proper experience in this or any other camping manual. Most experience in camp life is learned through the actual being on a hike, being instructed by a former camper, witnessing some of the inconveniences of not being properly prepared.



PLANNING FOR YOUR CAMP -  
or your overnight hike

No matter for how long you intend to go on a hike or a camp, there are some essential items that you should use as a blue print.

Just as you must plan to build a good troop program, you must also plan a good program for camping. Smooth operation -- smooth cooperation -- seems to add so much more thrill to a camp or a hike if done properly.

Oftentimes we learn of a troop that has gone on an overnight hike and upon its return you hear the following remarks from the officers - "What a good time the boy has had! Of course some of them did not bring enough bedding with them so during the night they were cool. And, boy, can those kids eat! After they had a game of touch football and got cleaned up and put their stuff in the cars, it was time to leave. We didn't get a chance to do half the things we wanted to!"

Sure, like anything else, if you don't put one or two in charge of activity -- one or two in charge of grounds -- you may find the enthusiasm from the boys might slacken. They want more than games, and it's possible, if the camp-site isn't left clean, next time you may be refused permission.

I would like to suggest the following plans;

Take your Sergeants and your Troop Aides and do some teaching about what to do at camp - how to make it comfortable and safe -- how to take some

of the equipment - what to do when they are on the hike. What about fire prevention - safety -- first aid, etc.? Here you can work a troop program from this all stated above. Determine what equipment you have or can secure for your camping and how many it will accommodate (sleeping) (for cooking and eating).

Where will the site be? And has permission been secured to use it? Is it suitable as a good camp site? If it were to rain during the sleeping hours, are there tent floors? Is drinking water provided? Must firewood be secured? How many male adults can be secured to help? Who will do the cooking? Who will plan the meals? Are some of the boys able to cook their own meals for test passing? Could you encourage it?

Take one of your troop meetings and try to teach what a boy could take with him so that he could prepare a meal. Who will be in charge of the full program? Can this program be prepared throughout colder weather to be ready for spring and camping seasons? Not just a game that they do every day at school or in the playgrounds after school, but something that they may look forward to! Take a Saturday and gather your officers - try one or two Troop Aides and get off some place close by. Try teaching some of the things necessary about how to make a fire -- how to pitch a tent - what to do in case of rain -- how to store their clothing during their stay so they don't become wet during their stay. What facilities could you have for a rainy day so they can still eat or the food can be prepared?

Then the cost, along with transportation. Make a check and then set the fee and, in most cases, collect it. If it costs more, each will add his equal share - if less, the balance should be returned in equal shares.

Learning and teaching hiking and camping -- Just as you, the Leader of the Troop, should prepare a troop program for your weekly meetings, you should also prepare a program for the hike and even the overnight camping. Just what have you learned about camping so that you can pass it on to your boys? How involved are you in camping? Did you as a boy attend camp yourself? And, if so, do you remember some of the items that were taught to you at camp? If you do, you will then have had some experiences and should be in a position to extend these experiences to your members and Troop Aides.

Today we find camping equipment being made and sold which does make camping much easier. But, they can't sell experience. This you must learn - pass on to your members -- so that they, in return, will be of some help to you in preparing your hiking or camping program.

First, train your officers. In training your officers, select, if possible, a Saturday. Don't travel too far and teach them a proper way to set up their tents -- how to secure them in case of winds. How to clean an area for the camp cooking. Have them check the cooking equipment. Make sure it's clean and packed properly for transportation. This training will prove so

essential and will offer some interest to your officers in being one that will plan to be on your next camping trip.

While the volunteer cooks are preparing food, have the man in charge of your program put some of his efforts into the program prepared for this time.

What can be done on a hike?

What berries can be eaten? What water can be used for drinking? What kind of trees do they pass or who noticed animal tracks? What kind were they? Did they see any Poison Ivy or Oak and, if so, did you explain the dangers of touching it? If they have come in contact with it, what should you advise? What can you do for a boy with a sprained ankle, a cut on his knee, a burned finger? Have one of your officers as a First-Aid Man, so that all your boy campers don't have to stand around and wait for an injured boy being cared for. He can be treated and returned to camp, or, if possible, catch up with the group. To catch the group, could he follow a blazed trail? Can any of the boys make a map of their hike? Do any of the campers have compasses? Can you explain to them how to actually use them?

MAN, you can get them all going on this kind of a hike at camp. They will talk about it for weeks at their meetings. It will afford you some chance to probably meet some of their parents.

Your camping equipment is important. You and your troop committees and Troop Aides may feel that you wish to purchase your own. First, let's say, that you can probably rent some for a

few times to see how your group likes camping. Before raising funds for the purchase of camping materials, check with Headquarters for the type of sales for the proper purchase of equipment. Our experience can advise you as to the best type to buy - also give you information to save your group money. It has been learned that many times excessive equipment has been purchased and never used for camping. Proper storage of your equipment is also essential.



The following is a list of items that, according to the time of the year and the length of time for the hike or camping, would more or less be an average judge for what the average camper would and should need. Naturally, if the stay be longer than the average overnight hike then the materials should be increased.

BEDDING -- Roll up in plastic. Secure the camper's name to the items. Plastic Sheeting or Rubber Sheeting -- Sleeping Bag - Raincoat or Coverall Poncho -- Blankets -- and if one is available, an Air Mattress.

PERSONAL ARTICLES - Toothbrush -- Paste -- Comb -- Metal Mirror - Towels-- Soap in Container -- Plastic Bag for Wet or Soiled Items -- also, some Heavy Cord.

SHOES -- Take Shoes for Hiking - Sneakers for flat ground games or around the campfire at night only.

CLOTHING -- Pack in a canvass bag or knapsack or blanket roll. Complete Uniform - Change of Underwear -- Extra Socks -- Handkerchiefs -- Pajamas -- Sweater or Heavy Jacket - Swimming Trunks (if there is swimming permitted with safety).

MESS KIT AND CANTEEN -- These can be purchased so that they fold up to a compact size. The usual Mess Kit contains Plate, Soup Bowl, Cup, Knife and Fork, Tablespoon and Teaspoon. The Canteen for Water and Mess Kit usually have a canvass cover with hooks to attach to your belt or knapsack.

MISC. ITEMS -- If knapsacks are carried, or a blanket roll is made into which most material is rolled, a small Plastic Box for a few Safety Pins, Thread, Buttons, and one or two Needles. Strong Cord in a cloth bag or an outer pocket of clothing, as well as a small First-Aid Kit, pocket-size, Notebook, Pencil, Ball Point Pen, Safety Matches in Water-proof Box.

TIME WOULD CONTROL EXTRAS -- Field Glasses, Compass, Folding Knife, Camera, Axe in Leather Sheath, Pioneer Handbook,

Questions for some Ability Tests to be practiced or passed on this camping trip.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR CAMP SITE --

Today many of our state-owned parks provide camp sites for groups, built-up floors, fireplaces, wood to burn, and drinking water available.

However, if you try to pick your own site, remember not to choose a site for what it looks like on a nice, sunny day, but realize what takes place in a rain storm. Does the ground have good drainage? Is it close to a bog or swamps for gnats or mosquitoes? If the ground gets wet, does it turn to mud? How about Poison Ivy? Are there trees in the area with broken branches or dead trees which stand waiting for a wind to drop it over on a tent or a group? How much food can you carry to store safely without ice? Are stores located nearby so daily purchases can be made to keep your stock fresh?

Can you secure fresh milk from a local dairy or store, making sure it's pasteurized. If there is a lake or a river, is it safe to be used -- are there any cliffs or old excavations not protected?

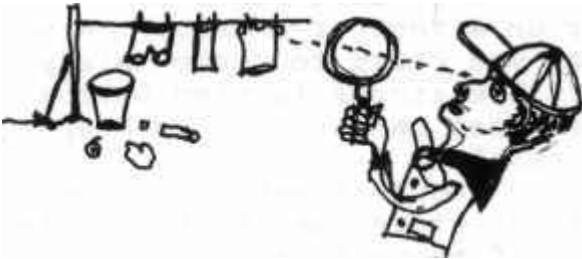
Where are the churches if the stay is over Sunday? What method of transportation will you have? Can you secure a doctor or help if need be?

Maybe this might seem confusing, but with experience you make these findings and check conditions automatically. In other words, it's survival with safety that is essential.

Toilet facilities, if they be supplied or ones that are made temporarily for the overnight hike or camp, if it be longer, is very important.

INSPECTION -- Campground -- Toilet and Kitchen Inspection, should be held and very strict. Rules should be set up prior to the camping trip. Garbage must not be left opened while you are there or after you leave. Never permit campers to throw glass or broken bottles into brooks or streams. Bury all of your refuse deep so that animals or rain can't uncover it, making unpleasant odors and food for rodents.

What facilities do the boys have for washing? Will there be lines for wet towels or bathing suits?



### WHAT PROGRAM PLANNING!

Even an overnight hike or overnight camping trip should have some type of a program prepared.

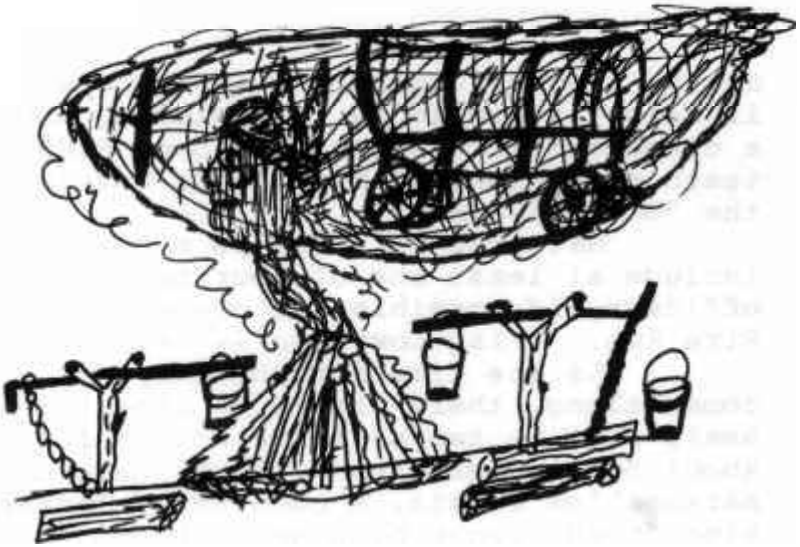
In most cases, Sunday is involved (Church) -- then before the day program and before breakfast you should (raise American Flag -- Flag Salute). The entire camping staff should be present and take part in all of this ceremony. Assign one or two campers to help clean

up the grounds around the eating area-- if water is available for swimming and a competent life saver is along, FIRST teach non-swimmers about water safety-- the "Buddy System".

Have two or three on a committee. Include at least one of your main troop officers, if possible, to prepare Camp Fire Fun. (Flag Lowering -- Retreat)

As the time for the camp fire comes along, there should be singing, a small skit -- two or three actors for about 5 or 10 minutes -- soda, cake or marshmallow roasts, a good short Indian story read from a book or if known by heart, told by someone who might relate the story a little more mysterious, and then Taps. Assign camp guards (Sergeants if possible) allowing them one-half hour liberty to help in cleaning up the areas -- helping the campers get settled and then finally, all making sure the camp fire is fully extinguished before leaving it for the night.





### SOMETHING ABOUT A CAMP FIRE!

There is something enchanting and fascinating as we sit in the dark around a camp fire and watch the flames lick at the wood piled onto the already-burning embers. Smoke lazily rises. Everyone present seems to drift off into a land of imagination. Maybe it's to some Indian camp fire, maybe it's to the settlers as they made a camp at night with the wagon trains. What is it? The smoke rises slowly and as it drifts among the trees overhead you can make out faces, prancing horses, brave knights and sometimes a ghostly face, then it's gone, and another takes its place. The smell that comes from the various types of wood that is placed on it to keep the flames red, the shadows you make on the ground behind you seem different by night than day. I wonder if it brings back the thoughts of how man years ago depended so much on a fire to keep him

alive, both for preparing his food while on the trail, or to keep intruding animals away while he slept. Even an outdoor fire in our own backyards today has become popular, for all types of grills are sold and many built out of stone, just so the family can have an outdoor cooked meal. And it seems everyone has a better appetite when the smell of the wood smoke gets mixed with the food. This, of course, is all in a modern way. What about the days when matches were scarce, and if they got wet, there was no fire lighted. That's what takes us back to the crude ways they had of making sure they could light a fire. It was almost a part of the equipment to see that a piece of steel and a stone called flint, or agate or a good hard quartz made a spark, when the two were held in hand and struck a glancing blow against each other. Take some old white cloth, and light it until it all becomes ignited, and charred, then stamp it out and scoop up the remains. Carry this in a glass jar.

Inside bark from cedar trees, dry grass, mice nests or any good tinder will serve to carry the flame.

- 1- Make a small pile of the charred rag in a dry place on the bare ground.
- 2- Hold the piece of steel so that when you strike it with the stone the spark will fall on the charred rag. As soon as the spark lands, blow your breath on it and soon the curl of smoke will come forth as it starts to ignite the charred rag. This is just like a charcoal.

3- Place this charred rag onto the pile of tinder, still blowing your breath to it, soon it will flame and the tinder will catch fire.

4- Make sure to have some dry small twigs and branches ready to put on when it starts, add wood gradually.

Today, of course, with cigarette lighters and safety matches, the chance of being stranded without a fire is less than that of years ago, but there is still a thrill in lighting a fire the old way. Make sure the ground around the fire area is cleared of old grass and leaves. Always leave someone in charge of the fire when the group leaves, and make sure it's out when you are all ready to go home.

#### HAVE YOU EVER SLEPT IN A TENT?

Lots of people haven't. What would you do in one? Well, the writer of your book has had experience of sleeping in tents with boys of your age, while he operated a camp owned by the Pioneer Boys.

Tents usually have the following parts, two tent poles, a ridge pole, the flaps, the walls and oftentimes are covered with a tent fly. Ropes, of course, are essential in keeping the tent standing erect and in position once it is raised. Some tents are fastened to rope poles that are secured between two trees and run the length of the tent, so that the tent ropes can be tied onto these poles. Others are fastened to stakes driven into the ground. Using poles are

the best, as oftentimes the rain softens the ground and the stakes pull out too easily. Here are a few reminders for you to remember when you go on that first trip and sleep in a tent.

- 1- While it rains or your tent is still wet from it raining, don't touch or rub your fingers on the canvass of the tent. Why? That's the best way to make the tent leak, and you will soon notice a small drip start where you did touch it.
- 2- When it starts to rain, loosen the tent ropes slightly, so that when the ropes get wet and they shrink, it don't pull up the pegs, or break the ridge pole.
- 3- Not so loose that if the wind blows, the tent will come down.
- 4- If you don't have the wood slides that permit you to make the ropes tight or loose, then use the sheep-shank knot, for shortening the ropes, and they are easily untied when needed.
- 5- After your camping trip, make sure not to store the tent away while it is damp. Open out to dry and fold properly.
- 6- Keep your cot or blankets far enough away from the wall of the tent at night, so they don't get damp through the canvass.
- 7- If it's warm weather, raise the walls or sides of the tent, let the air circulate through the tent.
- 8- Don't hang towels or wet bathing suits on a line in a tent.
- 9- If you are camping in a damp location, lay your underclothing under your top

