

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.