

OUTDOORSMAN -- OUTDOORS GROUP

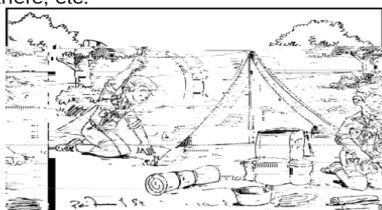
The Outdoorsman Activity Badge requirements are FUN, and give the Webelos a chance to learn new skills that will prepare him for Boy Scouting. Camping, outdoor cooking and fire safety are all part of enjoying living in the outdoors.

SUGGESTED PATROL ACTIVITIES

1. Practice putting up different kinds of tents.
2. Demonstrate how to make an improvised bedroll
3. Practice building a fire for cooking and a campfire, and have a patrol cookout.
4. Have a knot-tying contest or play knot-tying games to learn and improve skills.
5. Study and learn fire safety rules including no flame lights in tents and no liquid starter for charcoal fires.
6. Learn several cooking techniques, including the foil pack method.
7. Contact a local Boy Scout troop and arrange to camp with them.
8. Make camp gadgets and go camping
9. Have a Scout visit a patrol meeting and show the boys his pack. Have him describe the different kinds of packs and what he carries in his.

WHY DO WE CAMP?

The primary reason for camping is so that the boys learn conservation and respect for nature. Your example as a leader is very important. They should see in you the concern for our environment that they will learn. Make sure that they understand that it is best to leave a campsite in better condition than when you came. It is okay to pick up litter that you did not place there, etc.



UP AND DOWN

Plan a whole patrol meeting on the camping theme. First demonstrate how to set up a tent properly, including precautions on handling to avoid damage. Then divide the patrol into two teams and give each a tent bag. On signal they must race to set up the tents.

Once both tents are up, allow boys to climb inside to have a secret meeting. Take off shoes first. Inside,

they have ten minutes to plan a song or a short skit to entertain the other boys at their campfire. Ring a bell to call the boys out to the campfire. Choose one team to lay the firewood. Talk about fire safety. Have the boys circle around the campfire. Teams take turns entertaining each other. Leader gives closing and the other team put out the campfire properly. Take down the tents, sing taps and go home.

Taps lyrics are "Day is done. Gone the sun, from the lakes, from the hills from the sky. All is well, safely rest. God is nigh."

TEACHING KNOTS

Try to teach basic knots over an extended period. Do not try to teach them more than two knots in any given meeting. Most boys will start to get confused after the second knot. Master the square knot and clove hitch first, and then add the others.

Repetition and using them for a real purpose is the key to learning knots. Once you have introduced them, keep including the skills in various games and other activities. Using rope of two different colors helps some boys see more clearly how knots are correctly tied and lessens confusion. Boys will need individual attention in learning and demonstrating these knots; so try to get some help in watching them tie them. Your den chief would be good at this.

There are six taught in this activity badge. Be sure to teach them in practical situations so that they will know what to use them for! The uses of the required knots are listed in the Webelos Scout book along with the instructions. Use a lot of knot tying games (Webelos Leader Guide) to make it fun, and use ropes for other games as well.

HOW DO I USE IT?

Even though we teach the boys about the outdoors, we often forget to help them think about how to use the equipment that they have in an emergency. This is a fun discussion exercise to use with your boys. Here is a list of equipment the boy hahat en left alone with, in a remote location:

Pail	Flashlight	Large blue tarp
FM radio	Compass	Pocket knife
Rope	Fishing pole	Whistle
	Map	

- If he were lost in the woods, which items might help him find his way back?
- Which items might be used to get help?
- Which items might be used to make himself comfortable?
- Would your choicehat different if you might be lost for many months?
- If he only had one of these items, which would it be? Two items? Three items? ...