



PARENT PARTICIPATION

The patrol leaders' council can involve parents in the program feature this month by:

- Asking qualified parents to assist with instruction for computer and signaling skills.
- Inviting parents on the campout.
- Asking parents to provide transportation to the starting point for the backpacking trek into camp, if necessary.
- Getting help in arranging to visit communications businesses such as TV and radio stations and computer centers.

PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL

The PLC should meet in the middle of the previous month to plan troop activities for this program feature. If you don't complete all items on the following agenda, continue planning at PLC meetings after each troop meeting.

- Decide on the campsite for the send-the-word campout. If permissions will be needed, assign someone to secure them.
- Plan the special activities for the campout. See the ideas on these pages. If special gear or tools will be needed, assign someone to obtain them; seek help from the troop committee, if necessary.
- Inventory the troop's camping equipment, if not done recently.
- Plan details of troop meetings for the month. Assign patrol demonstrations, covering skills that will be needed for the campout activities. For example:
 - Patrol A—Morse code with mirrors or flashlights
 - Patrol B—Trail signs
 - Patrol C—Sign language

- Hold a junior leader training session on understanding the needs of the group. (*Scoutmaster Handbook*).
- Have an activity where Scouts working on the Communications merit badge can give a demonstration.

FEATURE EVENT

Send-the-Word Campout

The primary purpose of this outing is to use communication skills and have some fun. The skills you have been working on all month will now come into play.

Games and activities can be set up using certain communication skills to achieve particular goals. These activities can take place day or night, and provide an opportunity for related activities. As an example, you might have an orienteering course where each station has directions written in Morse code.

Each patrol will have an opportunity to instruct the rest of the troop in the communication skill they learned.

Campout Activities

Obviously the activity schedule will depend on the weather and the length of time your troop decides to spend camping. There are many possibilities for activities for the campout. Besides working on communication skills, Scouts might work on cooking, camping, and nature skills. Climax the activities with a troop campfire.

The following are some good contests for communications practice:

GET THE MESSAGE

Equipment: Signal flag for each patrol, paper and pencil for each Scout, secret message for each patrol to send.