



PARENT PARTICIPATION

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

- Inviting parents on the trail trek.
- Asking qualified parents to help with instruction on hiking skills.
- Asking parents to provide transportation to the starting point for the trail trek, if necessary.

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 route and destination for the trail trek. If permissions will be needed, assign someone to secure them.
- Decide whether it will be a day outing or a campout.
- Choose a highlight activity for the trail trek. Several possibilities are suggested on these pages, but there are others. For example, if the troop's advancement record is weak, the highlight might be concentration on a variety of Scoutcraft skills in camping, cooking, pioneering, map and compass, etc.
- Make a list of equipment needed for the trail trek. If the troop doesn't have some of it, ask for help from the troop committee.
- Review skills needed for the trail trek.
- Plan details of troop meetings for the month. Make patrol assignments for games, ceremonies, and skills instruction.
- Consider inviting a Hiking, Backpacking, or Orienteer-

ing merit badge counselor to help with troop meeting instruction.

- Hold a junior leader training session on advancement. (*Scoutmaster Handbook*)

FEATURE EVENT

The Trail Trek

Your trail trek should have a triple-barreled objective: To provide fun and adventure for the Scouts; to meet hiking requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class; and to offer other opportunities for advancement with activities at your destination.

Make the trek as rugged as your Scouts' experience permits. If most of the Scouts are young and inexperienced, a 5-mile hike over fairly easy terrain may be enough. If most Scouts are older, a 10- to 20-mile hike over fairly rugged terrain should be about right. In either case, have the Scouts pack everything in—and out—including patrol equipment and food as well as personal gear.

Ideally the route and destination should be unfamiliar to the Scouts. Give each patrol a topographic map and compass and let them find their way. If feasible, you might have each patrol start from a different spot so that they can't simply follow the patrol ahead.

Following are four possible highlight activities at your destination.

Orienteering Race

This is an interpatrol competition that might be a cross-country race, with a whole patrol traveling together to find