



Merit Badges. Older Scouts can concentrate on the Citizenship merit badge this month and should be able to complete many of the requirements. Depending on activities during the campout, they may also complete requirements in American Cultures, American Heritage, and other outdoor-related merit badges.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

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

- Asking those qualified to assist with instruction in camping skills.
- Inviting families on the outing.
- Asking them to provide transportation to the campsite.

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 where the troop will camp and make arrangements to reserve the campsite.
- Plan the special activities for the campout.
- Inventory the troop's camping equipment, if not done recently.

- Plan details of troop meetings for the month. Assign patrol demonstrations for the month, covering skills that will be needed to complete advancement through First Class. For example, assignments might be:

Patrol A—Opening and closing flag ceremonies, week 1

Patrol B—Opening and closing flag ceremonies, week 2

Patrol C—Opening and closing flag ceremonies, week 3

- Determine a list of service projects for the troop.

DECISION-MAKING IN LEADERSHIP

Normally this section highlights plans for program feature specialties and an outing. In this program feature, we will provide problems for your Scouts to solve.

STRANDED

Purpose: To give Scouts practice in decision-making and reaching group consensus, and to stimulate discussion of survival techniques (preferably the techniques appropriate for your region).

The sample problem covers survival in the Maine wilderness. (You can devise a more appropriate problem for your own area.)

Equipment: A copy of the problem below for each Scout, pencils.

The Situation: On vacation in July, you and your family have been traveling through the wilderness of western Maine in a pickup camper. In a blinding rainstorm, you made a wrong turn