



BALL OVER

onto an unmarked lumber road. You have wandered more than 150 miles over a maze of truck routes into the wilderness. The camper has run out of gas and now you, your parents, a 10-year-old sister, a 6-year-old brother, and the family cat are lost.

After a family conference, you decide it is not wise to split up. You are going to try to walk back together. You are pretty sure that if you pace yourselves, you can cover about 15 miles a day. Because of a fuel shortage, there are no helicopters or jeeps patrolling the area, and you have seen no other cars or houses.

The family is dressed in lightweight summer clothing and everyone is wearing sneakers. Temperatures at night go down to the low 40s. It is also bug season. As you look around, you find the following items in the camper, some of which may be useful.

- _____ fishing gear
- _____ \$500 in traveler's checks
- _____ .44 Magnum handgun and ammunition
- _____ four Dacron-filled sleeping bags
- _____ 5-gallon jug of water
- _____ instant breakfast (three boxes)
- _____ house and RV keys
- _____ cigarettes
- _____ Coleman stove (two-burner)
- _____ family tent (10 pounds)
- _____ snakebite kit
- _____ alarm clock
- _____ five cans of kidney-liver cat food
- _____ 5-pound tub of peanut butter

- _____ bathing suits
- _____ 10-pound cheese wheel
- _____ transistor radio
- _____ 6-foot tent pole
- _____ sheath knife
- _____ wool sweaters for everyone
- _____ raft paddles
- _____ inflatable rubber raft (two pieces, total of 20 pounds)
- _____ paperback books
- _____ first aid kit
- _____ matches
- _____ steak (3 pounds)
- _____ marshmallows (four bags)
- _____ bug repellent
- _____ walkie-talkie radio
- _____ road map of Maine

The Task: You must choose, and put in priority order, the 15 most important items for survival in this situation. The other 15 may be eliminated.

Each Scout is to study the problem and choose the 15 items he thinks would be most useful for survival. He then ranks them in order of importance from 1 through 15.

Next, the patrols gather and compare rankings. Ask them to try to reach a consensus for a patrol ranking—that is, make a patrol list that satisfies most members. Explain that consensus does not mean unanimous agreement. Rather, it is a way to reach a group decision through compromise. Suggest that the Scouts try to follow these guidelines in making a patrol ranking: