



DRAW BRIDGE

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. Remember that you will need a supply of poles and small limbs for pioneering projects. These materials are cut and readily available at some Scout camps. If your council's camp does not have them, make sure you can get permission to obtain suitable materials elsewhere. Do not plan to cut trees without the owner's permission.
- Plan the special activities for the campout. See the ideas in the next section. 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 you have not done this recently.
- Plan details of troop meetings for the month. Assign patrol demonstrations, covering skills that will be needed for campout activities.
- Practice knots and lashings, if equipment is available.
- Hold a junior leader training session on counseling (*Scoutmaster Handbook*).

FEATURE EVENT

Mechanics Outing

Mechanics can be done with metal, plastic, wood, or other substances. In Scouting, mechanics is sometimes required for pioneering projects. Mechanics can also be done with bicycles, lawn mowers, auto engines, and other items. If the more experienced Scouts can get hold of a lawn mower engine and rebuild it, they may invent something that could prove useful to the troop, either on a campout or at some other function.

Younger Scouts can work on the mechanics of building pioneering projects that are fun and useful. Some examples are listed below.

The Rocker Bridge

This is a simple, single-lock, trestle bridge with the footway in constant imbalance so that when weight is removed it returns automatically to the takeoff side. If necessary, the takeoff end can be weighted with an extra log.

For obvious reasons, handrails are essential. The problem here is to keep the posts rigid. One idea might be to use Scout staves as posts, with overhead crossbars between them and guy lines from the top corners. The extension of the treads on each side of the footway would still be necessary, but at the moment we see no easy way of avoiding this. Do you?

Heave the Heavyweight

Equipment for each patrol:

- Three poles, 10 feet long
- One $\frac{3}{8}$ - or $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch rope, 20 feet long
- $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch heaving rope, 30 feet long

The Drawbridge

This bridge will present few difficulties to any patrol that has already successfully tackled a monkey bridge. But as shown in the illustration, it would entail an inordinate number of square lashings, all of which must be guaranteed to hold. We must try to devise a method of fitting the cross members to the footway that will avoid all that repetitive rope work.

The intention, of course, is that the butt-end of the footway should be lashed to a pivot log which will turn freely in the A-frames at the foot of the shears. (Incidentally, saddles of burlap or something similar would obviously facilitate the turn-