

Outdoor Program

Planning an Outdoor Program

Planning a successful outdoor program is just as important as planning your troop meetings. There are several administrative details that you must attend to in addition to planning a quality program. Remember the six parts of planning an outdoor program covered in the Fast Start videotape:

- Establish a purpose for the outing.
- Select a site.
- Build a program of activities.
- Provide two-deep leadership.
- Take care of physical arrangements.
- Use the patrol method at the campsite.

We are going to concentrate briefly on how to build an outdoor program and provide you with a tool to help you and your patrol leaders' council plan an outing.

Boys are not interested in just hanging around—just being in camp. Keep them busy with things they want to do, without running them ragged. Help them enjoy and explore nature. Teach them to live comfortably in the out-of-doors, and give them an opportunity to advance in their rank. Here are five points to remember when planning an outdoor program:

1. Involvement—the more people involved in the planning, the more acceptance and enthusiasm.
2. Challenge—a few challenges will form the nucleus of never-forgotten memories.
3. Flexibility—situations change and the program must adapt to fit the new situation.

4. Imagination—there are always new ideas and new ways to try old ones, new places to go, etc.
5. Relaxation—just doing nothing is a rare treasure in our hustling world.

Remember in planning to consider the use of games and activities that reinforce the learning for the day. Let the boys work on advancement as an outcome of the program planned. Don't let advancement be the main reason for doing something. Remember that advancement is the natural result of a *quality program*.

Camping is the prime opportunity to introduce first-time campers to the expanse and beauty of nature. It is a great time for a Scout to accomplish many steps in his advancement process.

Camp Routine

Life in camp, as everywhere, revolves around eating and sleeping, only you need more of both in camp. The daily routine may follow this sort of outline:

Morning

- (time) Wake up. Cooks start breakfast (arise half an hour early). Light fire, boys wash up.
- (time) Eat breakfast. Fetch wash water, clean up breakfast dishes. Hang up sleeping bags, sleep wear, tidy tent. Tidy campsite, replenish water and firewood.
- (time) Morning activities

Noon

- (time) Prepare lunch
- (time) Eat, wash up, rest