



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 for the weather bivouac campout. If permissions will be needed, assign someone to secure them.
- Plan the special activities for the campout. See the ideas on these pages. If special gear or tools will be needed, assign someone to obtain them. Seek help from the troop committee, if necessary.
- Review low-impact camping skills in the *Fieldbook*.
- Plan details of troop meetings for the month. Assign patrol demonstrations, covering skills that will be needed for the campout activities.
- Plan activities for the campout.
- Hold a junior leader training session on effective teaching (*Scoutmaster Handbook*).

FEATURE EVENT

Weather Bivouac

This weather-wise program feature highlight should help you to answer the age-old question, "What's the weather going to be like?" When your Scouts become interested in weather forecasting, apprehension about thunderstorms gives way to understanding and a pleasant thrill of anticipation. You'll probably see a reluctance to postpone or cancel a hike or camping trip when the Scouts themselves have forecasted an approaching storm.

The Scouts will gain an understanding of weather and become more familiar with prevailing winds, cloud forma-

tions, rain, snow, sleet, frost, and the other phenomena that determine the weather.

Make the bivouac a real demonstration of preparedness and a good camping experience for the Scouts by using only equipment that you can carry on your back.

New Scouts will have an opportunity to work on basic camping and cooking skills, plus some nature-related skills. The rest of the Scouts will be able to expand their skills in many areas.

BUILDING A SOLAR ENERGY BOX

Begin with a clean, empty tin can. A 1-pound coffee can is fine. Pour about a cup of water in the can, place a thermometer in the water, and let the water absorb solar energy.

You will need two transparent windows about half an inch apart on the can. One window can be made by covering the top of the can with clear plastic wrap. Hold the plastic in place with a rubber band.

For the second window, make a cardboard collar for the can by bending a 2-inch-wide cardboard strip into a ring the same diameter as the can. Let the ends of the strip overlap and glue or staple them together. Cover the top of this collar with a second piece of clear plastic held by a rubber band. Slip the collar down over the top of the covered can so that the two plastic surfaces are about half an inch apart.

Insulate the can so that the energy it collects will not be lost while you are doing experiments. Wrap the can in some sort of insulation material, such as house insulation, plastic foam or even newspaper pieces crumpled into small balls. For some suggested experiments, see the *Energy* merit badge pamphlet.