



complete all items on the following agenda, continue planning at PLC meetings after each troop meeting.

- Decide on the campsite for the campout. If permissions will be needed, assign someone to secure them.
- Plan the special activities for the campout. See the ideas on these pages. Is special gear will be needed, assign someone to obtain it. Seek help from the troop committee, if necessary.
- Review camping skills outlined 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. Remember that everything is likely to take longer in a winter camp.
- Hold a junior leader training session on evaluation (*Scoutmaster Handbook*).

FEATURE EVENT

First-Class Outing

This should be a first-class campout in two ways—first class in quality and first class as an opportunity for helping Scouts complete their requirements for First Class rank. Your Scouts may be seasoned old-timers in this camping game, or they may not. If yours is a new troop, you have a real treat in store on your first campout. If your council or district is not holding a camporee this month, why not try a camporee of your own in preparation for this larger experience?

What is a camporee? A camporee is a demonstration of the camping skill of patrols and troops. They set up their own camps for one or more days and nights for fun, good fellowship, and the opportunity to learn more about camping from each other. Talk with your senior patrol leader and get him started in this project.

Next, meet with your patrol leaders' council and get the patrol leaders enthusiastic about the troop camporee. Now comes detailed planning for the organization and operation of the camporee. Depending on you and your junior leaders' wishes, you determine whether you want a detailed and complete rating plan or whether you want to adopt a simple, self-rating scheme.

Some troops stress the camporee for fun, good fellowship, and demonstrations. Others go in more for competitive ratings and activities. You may want to make your camporee a demonstration of the camping skills of each of your patrols and not the crowning of just one patrol as the winner.

Keep It Simple

If you do rate your patrols, keep the plan simple and make sure that everyone gets recognition for the things that they do well. Give special recognition to those patrols that demonstrate outstanding performance. If you present some kind of tangible award, make it a simple pennant, wooden plaque, or other homemade recognition. Why not have some of the parents make them?

Base activities, demonstrations, and competitive events on the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class requirements. The "Program Specialties" section of this book presents unlimited possibilities for contests, relays, and just plain fun that will fit your troop camporee program in first-class fashion.

- Patrol/troop participation—Patrol identification
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

Merit Badges. Older Scouts can concentrate on the Nature and Camping merit badges this month; they should be able to complete all but the last two requirements. Depending on activities during the campout, they may also complete requirements in Cooking, Hiking, Pioneering, Mammals, Geology, Fish and Wildlife Management, Insect Life, Botany, and Wilderness Survival.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

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

- Asking qualified parents to assist with instruction for camping skills.
- Inviting parents on the campout.
- Asking parents 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