



PREPARING TROOP LEADERSHIP FOR SUMMER CAMP

FULFILL THE PROMISE

A boy joins a troop because somewhere he saw or heard that Scouting provides the excitement and adventure of camping in the great outdoors. He wants to share that excitement with his buddies in a patrol as a part of his own troop. This is what he expects.

Council and district Scouters like yourself hold the key to fulfilling this understood promise. You can unlock the door to adventure so that one day that Scout will say, "It was all that I had hoped for and more!"

Purpose

To aid local councils in preparing troop leadership for summer camp

Objective

As a result of this training, troop leadership will be able to plan their troop's program for summer camp by using knowledge of

- The camp's physical facilities
- The *camp staff's capabilities*
- How the patrol leaders' council functions at camp
- The troop members' needs and desires

Attending should be Scoutmasters, other summer camp adult troop leaders, and senior patrol leaders of troops that will be attending summer camp. The training should be conducted by the camp director and/or program director.

Preparation

- Set up a typical commissioner's area and have a commissioner prepared to talk about his area.
- Set up a typical patrol site and leaders' area.
- See the Boy Scout Summer Camp Program section of *Camp Program and Property Management*, No. 20-920B.

References

- The council's Scout leaders summer camp guidebook with planning forms.
- *Scoutmaster Handbook*, No. 33009
- *Troop Committee Guidebook*, No. 34505
- *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures Guide*, No. 33088

- *Camping merit badge pamphlet*, No. 35866
- *Cooking merit badge pamphlet*, No. 35879
- *Fieldbook*, No. 33104
- *Boy Scout Handbook*, No. 34554
- *Ropes, Knots, and Lashings*, No. 34229B

It is suggested that this training be held at the council camp six to eight weeks before camp opens. This is a one-day experience, Saturday morning through Saturday night campfire. Two meals are involved, lunch and dinner. One suggestion is to bring a bag lunch and cook the evening meal by patrols.

Training Schedule

Registration

- Assign patrols, keeping troop leadership together.

9 A.M.

- Welcome and introductions
- Course outline and schedule
- Briefly cover the philosophy of camping, including the important role of the troop leaders' council and senior patrol leader in camp.

9:30 A.M.

Start a tour of camp at the patrol and troop sites, then to the commissioner's area, where the commissioner is on hand to talk about how he and his program aides serve the troops in camp. Visit and explain the waterfront, rifle range, archery range, health lodge, and trading post, and finish the tour at the commissary area (food is issued here, if cooking by patrols) or at the dining hall.

SAMPLE SCOUT LEADERS' SUMMER CAMP GUIDEBOOK

11:30 A.M.

Regroup to discuss other program opportunities, such as:

- Outpost camps
- Canoe, boat, or raft trips
- Nature trails
- Sports program opportunities
- Conservation projects
- Campwide events, intertroop events, contests, etc.
- Campfires—patrol, troop, intertroop, and campwide
- Special events and activities for second-, third-, and fourth-year campers
- Specialty camp program offered this year, i.e., aquatics, conservation, sports, backpacking, survival, etc.

Lunch

1:30 P.M.

Tell participants: *During the time your Scouts are in summer camp they will have many opportunities for advancement.* Use the *Advancement Policies and Procedures Committee Guide* as a reference.

Discuss the following:

- **Merit badges**
- **Recognition for advancement**
- **Recognition, other than for advancement**—winners of games, swim meets, archery, riflery, sports competition

Review the council's advancement plan.

2:30 P.M.

Troop Program Planning

Have patrols list the camp's program capabilities as they have seen them today (allow 10 minutes). Have each patrol report, and write the main points on the blackboard or flip chart.

Patrols now make a list of things second-, third-, and fourth-year campers would like to have in camp that are not now being offered (allow 10 minutes). Have each patrol report, and write the main points on the blackboard or flip chart.

Lastly, ask the patrols to pretend that they are a patrol back home. The patrol is to list the camp needs (advancement and recreational) of each member and then develop a camp program to meet those needs.

Summarize the planning technique and emphasize that it should be done by working through Scouts.

Dinner

6 P.M.

Review the council's Scout leaders' summer camp guidebook. Review the tour plan, if applicable.

Conduct a campfire as planned. The final challenge should be given by the council president, chairman of the council camping committee, Scout executive, or camp director.

A guidebook should be prepared and furnished by the council to describe camp program features, facilities, personnel, and their uses.

The following items should be included in this guidebook:

- An introductory letter from the council camping chairman
- What is Scout camping?
- The travel route to camp
- Unit reservation for campsite and payment of reservation fee
- Boys' registration and payment of fees
- Arrival and departure times
- Medical examination and inspection
- Swim checks
- Visitors at camp
- Parking regulations
- Camper savings plan
- Health lodge and emergencies
- Trading post operation
- Telephone service and use
- Senior patrol leaders in camp
- Advancement procedures in camp
- Mail service
- Food services in camp
- Religious observances
- Equipment supplied by individuals
- Equipment supplied by the troop
- Equipment available on loan and for sale at camp
- Methods of teaching—use of rope, woods tools, pathfinding, waterfront, conservation, outdoor skills, nature, handicraft, field sports, and aquatics
- Camp staff—unit leader relationship
- Use of camp staff
- Leaders' meetings in camp
- The Order of the Arrow
- Campsite inspections
- Special program features
- The role of the camp commissioner in serving the troop

CAMP PROGRAM FEATURES AVAILABLE

The local council camping guide or Scout leaders' summer camp guidebook should list many of the outstanding program possibilities available to patrols and troops. The following is a partial listing of such activities:

Archery	Canoeing	First aid
Astronomy	Ceremonies	Fishing
Bird lore	Climbing/rappelling	Fly-tying
Boating	Conservation project	Forestry
Canoe trip	Day hiking	Handicraft

Hiking know-how	Orienteering	Swimming
Indian lore	Outdoor skills meet	Trail cooking
Leave No Trace	Outpost camp	Unit campfire
Lifesaving	Patrol campfire	Water meet
Marksmanship	Pioneering project	Wilderness survival
Merit badges	Project COPE	Wildlife survey
Nature lore	Rope making	
Obstacle course	Scavenger hunt	

Special opportunities are available for second-, third-, and fourth-year campers.

DESCRIPTION OF CAMP FACILITIES

Information on camp facilities will vary with each council. Make use of a large colorful map of camp. Have smaller handouts that will locate all campsites and facilities. If a meeting is to be held in camp, take a tour to see those areas.

PROVISIONAL CAMPING

Troop camping under regular leadership is recognized as the best method of Scout camping, but it is not always possible.

Provisional camping is an approved method of Scout camping when

- A. The troop cannot provide its own leadership.
- B. A Scout wants to remain for an extended time or attends other than when the troop does.
- C. When the camping experience is of a special nature, i.e., specialty camps, jamborees, outpost camping, expeditions, leadership development, and other special opportunities.

TROOP CAMP PROGRAM INCLUDING PATROL ACTIVITIES

(Send a copy of this program to the council office.)

Make a circle around program items for which you want staff help.

Week of _____ To _____ Unit Leader _____ Unit No. _____

Time	Activity	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7:30	Reveille							
8:00	Breakfast							
12:30	Lunch Rest period							
	Registration Get campsite medical inspection Classification swim Tour of camp Complete camp making						Outdoor skills event	Aquatics meet
6:00	Dinner							
9:30 10:00	Get-acquainted campfire Taps		Camp roundtable	Camp roundtable		Camp roundtable		Closing council fire

Certain intertroop activities may be scheduled in advance. These should be written on this sheet. (Examples are given above.) Troop leaders use blank spaces to indicate highlights of the week in camp. Sheets are made available before and during camp. The program in its final form will indicate the

principal troop and intertroop activities. Patrol activities can be shown by entering a general title such as "Patrol projects" or "By patrols." (For two-week periods, use a second sheet.)
Remember: List only subjects, not the exact time.

Daily Program • Boy Scouts of America

Date _____ Troop No. _____

	Time	Activity	Where	Leader
M O R N I N G	7:30	Reveille		
	8:00	Breakfast		
A F T E R N O O N	12:00	Lunch		
E V E N I N G	6:00	Dinner/Quiet Activities		
	9:30 or 10:00	Taps		

Note: A daily program may be used by each troop. Use blank lines above to designate activity. While the troop summary sheet would indicate patrol projects, this program sheet for the troop and its patrols should give all planned program features.