

**DECEMBER – WHAT TO DO WHEN THE PLANNED ACTIVITY FALLS APART (or
Why You Should Have a Plan B)**

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BRYAN: Welcome, everyone, to our ScoutCast for December. With all the holidays and end-of-the-year activities, you've probably got all kinds of events and ceremonies planned, right?

PAULA: But, Bryan, let's imagine for a moment that something unexpected happens that might prevent you from holding that event or activity. Should you just cancel it and send everybody home?

BRYAN: That's a good question, Paula. As Scouts, we're usually more prepared for the unexpected emergency *during* an event or activity. But did we plan for the possibility that that event might not happen at all?

PAULA: That's when you need a plan B or a back-up plan; the “what to do” when the planned activity falls apart. Because, like they say, the show must go on.

BRYAN: And that's what our show is about for this month. So, get comfortable as our guest, Bill Adams, joins us for this discussion.

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BRYAN: Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, Bill Adams, joins us from the Southern Shores Field Service Office in Hartland, Michigan, where he's currently serving as troop committee

chairman of Troop 383. In his 30 years of service to Scouting, Bill has been a den leader, Scoutmaster, roundtable commissioner, and unit commissioner. And I'm guessing, Bill, there were a few instances in those 30 years when planned activities just didn't come to pass. Welcome to ScoutCast.

BILL: Thanks. Good to be here.

BRYAN: So why would you have that back-up plan? I mean, what could possibly go wrong with the plan A - the activity you do have planned?

BILL: Depending on the activity - whether it's a trip or someone coming in to visit a unit; there's car troubles, there's sicknesses, there's weather issues. You just never know what's going to happen to the individual or to yourselves.

BRYAN: Uh-huh.

PAULA: So, why should we plan for it? I mean, why not just cancel the event or activity?

BILL: As an adult leader in Scouting, that's part of our responsibility to help these boys provide their own program. So, we want them to have a plan B, so they don't get discouraged with it and just say, "Well, why bother?"

BRYAN: So how does the troop benefit from this plan B, Bill?

BILL: We have had instances in my troop, where rather than a weekend campout, we had adult issues. Nobody can make it Fridays nights (so) we had made it a day event instead, and because it was closer to home, it was less stressful on the boys with all the planning, and they had a total blast and would do it again.

PAULA: As you eluded to previously, troops and crews are supposed to be youth-led. So, specifically, how do we get them involved in creating a plan B?

BILL: When they're in their planning stages, that's where we put on our facilitator hat, and we just throw out, "Hey, guys, what if...?" And, basically, you do to them, kind of, what we're doing right now. You talk about what if and what could cause and what do we do in case. Just to get them thinking.

BRYAN: So, you talked about you could switch from a weekend overnighter to just a day activity. So it sounds like the plan B doesn't, necessarily, have to be as grandiose as the original plan - is that true?

BILL: That is completely true. It can either stay along the same lines of the outing you had planned, or it can be something totally different. You could be planning a wilderness survival campout, and for a back-up, you go to a local museum instead that features outdoor displays.

PAULA: I have to admit that my very presence here on ScoutCast today is, actually, the result of a plan B. Our regular cohost, Lee Shaw, was called away today, and so our producer asked me to jump in. So much for my plan B personal story. Can you give us some examples, Bill, of plan B's you had in the can or a time when you, actually, had to rely on your plan B?

BILL: Like I stated earlier, we had a campout that was planned, and come Wednesday night troop meeting, no adult could make it Friday night for the transportation for two-deep leadership, but people were available for Saturday. So we just switched it to a local recreation area for the day. They planned a lunch instead, and the boys had a great time. We've also done a local museum that was having a 30-year history on video games, and the boys nowadays...boy, they get into that. So we did

that for a day event instead of a weekend campout. We're fulfilling the requirements, we're keeping their interest, and they're having fun with it.

BRYAN: So, Bill, let's say your plan A was going to fulfill some sort of advancement requirement or award for the troop. Does the plan B, also, need to match those requirements so they don't miss out on that opportunity?

BILL: No, it doesn't have to match a requirement exactly. A good part of this is to help the boys think and develop. If it can, that's great. If it touches on it, kind of, sort of, my own opinion, that's great as well. We want to keep them thinking and keep them engaged in what they can do in case to help to prepare them farther down the road when they get to working. And this stuff happens.

BRYAN: So where'd you find out about all those ideas? I mean, were you on the Internet, newspaper? Are there any resources that you like to use?

BILL: The boys, nowadays, have better resources that even I had when I was a youth. I mean, they all have their phones. They have Internet capability. Cable TV has got a lot more advertising. When I make suggestions to the boys, there's something I heard on the radio. And I say, "Hey, I heard this is going on at such and such a place. Go ahead and research it. See how much it costs and when the dates and all that are." So, we throw ideas out to them and just get them thinking.

PAULA: Bill, you've provided quite a bit here today. Is there anything else about what to do if your planned activity falls apart that we haven't talked about that you think should be shared with our listeners?

BILL: As the adult leaders that we, basically, have to act as facilitators in that we don't panic. We don't throw our hands up and say, "Well, fine, we'll just call it quits on this one. Maybe we'll do something later." We have to try

our best as well to be prepared and make the boys prepared to continue with something, not just give up and be done with it.

BRYAN: Now, Bill, just so you know we had a back-up guest just in case you didn't make it. Okay. Matt Damon, you can go home.

(Laughter)

BRYAN: But we're really glad you were here, Bill. I know our listeners really picked up some helpful tips, and we even reminded them why they need to remember to have a back-up plan. So, hopefully, their next trip, they'll have that plan B and thank you for coming on ScoutCast.

BILL: It is my pleasure.

PAULA: We'll be right back with Reminders and Tips right after this.

CUBCAST – Mentally Preparing for Camp

PAULA: And now it's time for December Reminders and Tips.

BRYAN: Okay. It's pop quiz time. Do you know who your local Scouting professional is? You may, also, know this person as your district executive or your youth-serving executive. If you don't know who that is, call your council and find out.

PAULA: And if you don't know your council name, go to scouting.org and type "local council locator" in the search field. Download the October 2013 ScoutCast, *Who's Who in the Zoo*, for more information.

BRYAN: Right now, you're probably thinking more about the holidays than next

summer, but now is the time to start planning for summer camp. Since you already planned for camp and put it in your budget, it's now time for sign-ups.

PAULA: And it just wouldn't be Reminders and Tips without a *Boys' Life* plug. This month features a great article on how to set up your own motion-triggered camera on the trail or in your own background so you can get some pictures of those rarely seen creatures that only come out at night.

BRYAN: Sounds cool. Now, could you use a little extra cash in your troop right about now? In the November/December issue of *Scouting* magazine, you'll find money-saving tips in our article called "Scouting for Bargains."

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BRYAN: Thanks for listening everybody. And thanks to our guest Bill Adams.

PAULA: In 2016 the Outdoor Ethics Guide will be a position of responsibility for Boy Scout advancement so start your Scouting year with the January ScoutCast to find out how this change will affect the Leave No Trace Trainer position along with discovering more about the Outdoor Ethics award for Boy Scouts.

BRYAN: If there's something else you'd like to hear about on ScoutCast, drop us a line. ScoutCast@scouting.org is the e-mail address, or find us on Twitter, @BSAScoutCast. Until then, I'm Bryan Wendell.

PAULA: And I'm Paula Murphy. And from all of us here at ScoutCast, Happy Holidays, everyone.

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