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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.

The key to fulfillment of this understood promise is in the hands of council and district Scouters like yourself. You can unlock the door to adventure so that one day he 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 commissioners 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. 33009C
- *Troop Committee Guidebook*, No. 34505B
- *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures Guide*, No. 33088
- *Camping merit badge pamphlet*, No. 33256B
- *Cooking merit badge pamphlet*, No. 33349B
- *Fieldbook*, No. 33104
- *Boy Scout Handbook*, No. 33105
- *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 supper. One suggestion is 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 commissioners 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.

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., aqua