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INTRODUCTION

Camping is the great outdoor adventure of the Boy Scouts of America.

A common thread of purpose and method runs through every part of the Scouting camping program. The aim is to clearly define that thread in each part of the camping program so that the purposes of Scouting will be made clear and the common methods that are followed will unify Scouting units as teams dedicated to the highest ideals of camping and service.

Organized camping is a creative, educational experience in cooperative group living in the outdoors. It uses the natural surroundings to contribute significantly to physical, mental, spiritual, and social growth.

- Camping contributes to good health through supervised activity, sufficient rest, good fun, and wholesome companionship.
- Camping helps campers develop self-reliance and resourcefulness by providing learning experiences in which they acquire knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential to their well-being.
- Camping enhances spiritual growth by helping campers recognize and appreciate nature and the handiwork of God in nature.
- Camping contributes to social development by providing experiences in which campers learn to deal practically and effectively with living situations.
- Camping is an experience in citizenship training, providing campers with opportunities to make decisions and plan and carry out activities at their own level, while improving understanding within the family.
- Camping at the Cub Scout level introduces boys to the knowledge and skills that they will learn and apply more thoroughly as a Boy Scout.

Cub Scout camping is an opportunity for the continuation of Cub Scouting throughout the summer (and acquisition of the National Summertime Pack Award). Cub Scout camping provides experiences that are age appropriate for Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, and their families. The ideal method of camping for Cub Scouts involves parents/guardians and the pack by dens.

Cub Scout camping can also be part of the outdoor activities required for the National Quality Unit Award (see page 32-4).

See "Scouting's Outdoor Program—Ever-Increasing Challenge Out-of-Doors" in the current Cub Scout Outdoor Program Guidelines, No. 13-631.

CAMPING HEALTH AND SAFETY

Where to Camp

Cub Scout pack camping should be conducted only at sites approved by the local council. This might include federal, state, or local parks, in addition to BSA property. Check with your council service center for locally approved sites before planning your trip. Complete appropriate tour permits and licenses required by the site and your council.

Webelos Scouts should be experiencing family-type camping, as opposed to the more challenging type of camping that they will be experiencing as Boy Scouts. A location that has a tested water supply, toilets, cooking facilities, space for pitching tents, and an area for indoor activity would be appropriate for a Webelos den overnight campout. Another possibility is a public campground, which is usually in a good location with appropriate facilities. Also check with the local council about their facilities for Webelos overnight camping.

For more information on Webelos den overnight camping, see Chapter 21, "The Webelos Scout Program."

Whenever a pack or Webelos den goes on any camping activity, a Local Tour Permit Application should be filed.

Water

Use only tested water for drinking. Packs will camp in approved council sites that usually have good facilities and tested water. If the water at your camping site hasn't been tested, however, bring water from home in plastic jugs or other closed-top containers. If in doubt, bring water to a full rolling boil for at least a minute. Allow enough for drinking water, cooking, and cleanup and have some extra for fire protection.

Sanitation

Pack overnights should be held at a site that has toilet facilities. If a Webelos den chooses a site where toilet facilities are not available, a proper latrine must be dug.

Dishwashing is often a problem when camping. For a short overnight campout, solve the problem by using paper plates and cups and plastic utensils, leaving only the cooking utensils to be cleaned. Do not burn disposable tableware. If a trash receptacle isn't available, carry out the used dinnerware for disposal at home.

Use hot water for cleaning pots, pans, and utensils. Sterilize with boiling water and air-dry. If nondisposable tableware is used, teach the boys to scrape their dishes before putting them in the dishwasher. Strain food bits out of your dishwasher and put them in your trash. Carry the used water away from camp and at least 200 feet (75 steps) from any lakes or streams. Give it a good fling, spreading it over a wide area.

Campsite Cleanliness

Trash, including food scraps and paper products, should be disposed of properly in a trash receptacle and not burned. Don't put plastic or plastic foam in a fire; burning plastic can release toxic gases into the air. Don't bury leftovers or scatter food in the woods. Animals will find it and it is not healthy for them to eat. If the campsite has garbage disposal facilities, use them. If not, pack it out. Wash bottles and flatten tin cans for recycling.

Always take plastic garbage bags on a campout. They serve many purposes, especially if you must carry out trash.

Flammability Warning

No tent material is fireproof, and it can burn when exposed to heat or fire. Follow these rules:

- Only flashlights and electric lanterns are permitted in tents. "No flames in tents" is a rule that must be enforced.
- Liquid fuel stoves, heaters, lanterns, lighted candles, matches, and other flame sources should never be used in or near tents.
- Do not pitch tents near an open fire.
- Do not use flammable chemicals near tents (charcoal lighter, spray cans of paint, bug killer and repellent).
- Be careful when using electricity and lighting in tents.
- Always extinguish cooking fires and campfires promptly.
- Obey all fire laws, ordinances, and regulations.

Campfire Safety

Fires should be built only in a designated fire ring provided by the landowner or, with permission, in an off-the-ground fire pit device. Suggestions on how to build an off-the-ground fire pit may be found in the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*.

Take caution when building your fire:

- Build the fire in the center of a 10-foot circle that is free of flammable materials such as twigs and dry grass.
- Don't build the fire against a tree or between the roots.
- Keep the fire away from dead logs and stumps and from overhanging limbs and branches.
- Don't use firewood that spits sparks.
- Break burnt matches before throwing them away, and be sure that they are "cold out."
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Keep a bucket of water, dirt, or sand handy for emergency use.
- When you are through with the fire, put it out. Spread the coals and ashes and sprinkle them with water. Stir and sprinkle until the fire is cold out. This means it feels cold to the touch.

Accident and Sickness Insurance Protection

For questions about current camper accident and sickness insurance, refer to your council for the latest material. Also see Chapter 13, "Health and Safety."

PRIVACY STANDARDS ON TRIPS AND OUTINGS

To support the BSA policy of two-deep leadership on all trips and outings, sleeping arrangements of male and female leaders needs to be addressed. All leaders are expected to reflect high moral standards established by customs, traditional values, and religious teachings.

- Male and female leaders require separate sleeping facilities. Married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available.
- Male and female youth participants must not share the same sleeping facility.
- When tents are used, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his or her parent or guardian.

- When housing other than tents is used, separate housing must be provided for both male and female participants. Adult male leaders must be responsible for the male participants; adult female leaders must be responsible for the female participants.
- Adult leaders need to respect the privacy of youth members in situations in which the youth are changing clothes or taking showers, and intrude only to the extent that health and safety require. Adults also need to protect their own privacy in similar situations.
- Although it is not mandatory, councils are strongly encouraged to have separate shower and latrine facilities for females. In camps where separate facilities are not available, separate shower schedules for males and females should be posted. Exercise the buddy system for latrine use by having one person wait outside the entrance, or use Occupied and Unoccupied signs on door latches.

For more guidelines on camping and supervision for Cub Scouts, see the *Guide to Safe Scouting* (No. 34416B).

Two-Deep Leadership

It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that trips and outings may never be led by only one adult. Two registered adult leaders or one registered adult leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required for all trips or outings.

It is the responsibility of the chartered organization of any Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, or Venturing crew/ship to stress to the committees and leadership of the unit that sufficient adult leadership must be provided on all trips and outings.

SHOOTING SPORTS IN CUB SCOUT CAMPS

BB gun shooting and archery are activities that are approved only in council/district Cub Scout day camp, resident camp, or council-managed family camping programs. In these programs, boys have the opportunity to participate under the direction of trained range officers and supervisors.

Boys may earn belt loops and pins for archery and BB gun shooting at district or council events when they participate under BSA range-trained supervision. These recognition items may be awarded to boys at a pack meeting.

BB gun shooting and archery are not permitted as den and pack activities.

CUB SCOUT CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES

Cub Scouting offers several different camping opportunities for Cub Scouts through day camps, resident camps, Webelos den overnight campouts, council-organized family camps, and pack overnights.

Cub Scout Day Camp

Day camp is an organized one- to five-day program for Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts conducted by the council under certified leadership at an approved site. Day camps are conducted during daylight or early evening hours. Day camps do not include any overnight activities.

Certification of the day camp director and program director is provided through the National Camping School. All day camps shall be conducted in accordance with established standards as provided in National Standards for Local Council Accreditation of Cub Scout/Webelos Scout Day Camps for Precamp and Operational Accreditation (No. 13-108).

Check with your council and district leaders for day camp opportunities available in your area.

Cub Scout/Webelos Scout Resident Camp

Cub Scout and Webelos Scout resident camping is a council-organized, theme-oriented overnight camping program. It operates for at least two nights and is conducted under certified leadership at a camp approved by the council.

Resident camping typically includes the following outdoor program areas:

- Showmanship
- Sportsmanship
- Craftsmanship
- Waterfront
- Fitness
- Campcraft
- Nature

Each year, councils change their overall theme to offer different adventures. Examples of themes include Sea Adventure, Space Adventure, Athletes, Knights, Circus Big Top, American Indian Heritage, Folklore, and the World Around Us.

Certification of the resident camp director and program director is provided through the National Camping School. All Cub Scout and Webelos Scout resident camps shall be conducted in accordance with established standards as given in National Standards for Resident Camp Accreditations (No. 19-108).

Check with your council and district leaders for resident camp opportunities available in your area.

Webelos Den Overnight Camping

Webelos Scout overnight campouts introduce the boy and his parent or guardian to the basics of the Boy Scout camping program. These events are conducted under the leadership of a trained Webelos den leader. In most cases, the Webelos Scout will be under the supervision of a parent or guardian. In all cases, each Scout is responsible to a specific adult. BSA health and safety and Youth Protection guidelines apply.

Webelos Scout dens are encouraged to have daytime visits at Boy Scout district camporees and Klondike derbies. The purpose of these visits should be for the boys to look ahead with anticipation to their future as Boy Scouts and observe troops that they might want to join. Webelos Scout dens should not compete against or participate in activities designed for Boy Scouts. Webelos Scouts should not spend the night as participants at the event if the program is Boy Scout-based.

See Chapter 21, "The Webelos Scout Program," for more information on planning a Webelos den overnight campout.

Council-Organized Family Camp

Council-organized family camps are overnight events involving more than one pack. The local council provides all the elements of the outdoor experience, such as staffing, food service, housing, and program. These are often referred to as parent/pal or adventure weekends.

Council-organized family camps should be conducted by trained leaders on sites approved by the local council. In most cases, the youth member will be under the supervision of a parent or guardian. In all cases, each youth participant is responsible to a specific adult.

The council must approve overnight activities involving more than one pack. Council-organized family camps must be conducted in accordance with established standards as given in National Standards for Council-Organized Family Camps (No. 13-408).

Pack Overnights

Pack overnights are pack-organized overnight events involving more than one family from a single pack, focused on age-appropriate Cub Scout activities and conducted at council-approved locations (councils use the Family Cub Scout Pack Camping Park Approval Standards Form, No. 13-508). If nonmembers (siblings) participate, the event must be structured accordingly to accommodate them. BSA health and safety and Youth Protection guidelines apply. In most cases, each youth member will be under the supervision of a parent or guardian. In all cases, each youth participant is responsible to a specific adult.

Adults giving leadership to a pack overnights must complete Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) to properly understand the importance of the program intent, Youth Protection guidelines, health and safety, site selection,

age-appropriate activities, and sufficient adult participation. Permits for campouts shall be issued locally. Packs use the Local Tour Permit Application (see page 34-37). Check with your district leaders for information about BALOO (No. 34162) training in your area.

PLANNING A PACK OVERNIGHTER

Purpose

A quality pack overnighiter helps strengthen the relationship between a boy and his family and delivers the promise of adventure that boys dream about when they join Scouting. Well-planned overnighiters offer a variety of activities to keep boys excited and involved in an ever-increasing challenge of outdoor adventure. They should always be age-appropriate for the boys participating. Many Cub Scouts will have their first overnighiter as a member of your pack. It is critical that you make every effort to help this be the most positive experience it can be for boys. If a boy has a negative experience, he may choose never to go camping again.

How Often Are They Held?

Overnighiters organized by the pack are supplemental to participation in council- and district-organized camping opportunities, and many packs choose to deliver the promise of camping adventure to the boys in their packs by promoting and supporting these opportunities. Some packs choose to organize one or two additional overnighiter opportunities during the year, once in the fall and once in the spring. Because every effort should be made to make these first campouts positive for the participants, wintertime camping activities or planning outings during potentially inclement weather are discouraged.

Who Attends?

Pack overnighiters must be organized and led by an adult leader who has successfully completed Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO). Revised camping policies state that in most cases each boy is under the supervision of a parent or guardian. The spirit and premise behind all Cub Scout overnight camping is that the activity is a parent-son event. Plans should always be made to have as many adults as youth participants at the event.

If a parent cannot attend, the boy's family must make arrangements for one of the other parents attending, or for another adult relative or friend, to be a substitute at the overnighiter. Each boy should have someone he knows watching out for him. It is important that each Cub Scout be under the supervision of an adult and that every adult have a share of the responsibility for the overnighiter. If necessary to

accommodate a special circumstance, an adult may be responsible for more than one boy.

Where Are They Held?

Pack overnighiters may be held only at locations approved by the local council. This may be at a local camp or city, state, county, or federal park. In selecting these locations, your council used the Family Cub Scout Pack Camping Park Approval Standards Form (No. 13-508) to identify good locations that are safe and accessible and have adequate facilities for a pack overnighiter. Check with your local council for a list of approved pack overnighiter locations. The location must be listed on the tour permit filed for this activity, and it will be checked when filed at the council service center.

How Do We Get There?

Since a family member or other adult will accompany each Cub Scout, transportation should not be a problem. Cars are best for transportation to the overnighiter. Transporting boys in trucks is unsafe and forbidden except in the cab. Buses are not recommended because chartering transportation could make parents feel less responsible for the trip. Appropriate tour permits should be filed, and individual seat belts are required for each person.

What Equipment Do We Need?

An overnighiter requires protection from the weather, equipment for food preparation, and program items to suit the area and activities where the overnighiter is being held. Tents, cabins, campers, or camp trailers will be required for shelter. Some camps make tents or sleeping areas available to Cub Scout packs. If not, the responsibility for shelter may be assigned to parents.

Many families will have their own tents that they use for family camping, or they can borrow one from a neighbor. Often, a nearby Boy Scout troop will loan tents and other camping equipment to a Webelos den. Dens or packs should not be required to purchase camping equipment.

Each parent/guardian and son will need some personal equipment. See the Individual Campout Checklist for Pack Overnighiter on page 34-47. The type of meal program selected for the overnighiter will determine the kind of food preparation equipment that will be necessary. In some cases, each family may choose to bring and prepare its own meals. In other circumstances, the pack may choose to share the load and have the entire group prepare meals together (see "Adult Preparation" page 33-6). *Minimize the amount of cooking responsibility delegated to Cub Scouts.* The number one goal of these first camping experiences is to make them positive events for everyone. Enjoying fun and simple picnic or family-style meals together is a great start.

Pack Overnighter Preparation

Leader Preparation

1. Take Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO), which is required training for the pack adult leader planning and leading the overnighiter.
2. Select the date and location for the overnighiter several months in advance. A pack overnighiter should never be a last-minute event. It should be scheduled during the annual pack program planning conference.
3. Make reservations and turn in a Local Tour Permit Application to the local council service center well in advance of the overnighiter. Make sure that the local council has approved the selected location.
4. Check on local regulations regarding the use of fires for cooking and campfire programs.
5. Enlist the help of others in planning the details of the campout. If you are not a seasoned camper, be sure to take along someone who has camping experience. More than likely, some of the parents will be campers. If not, lots of Scouters will probably be willing to help.
6. Communicate! Most problems occur because of a lack of planning or communication. Make a great plan and share it with everyone involved.

Boy Preparation

Preparing the boys goes beyond just telling them that an overnighiter has been planned. The period of preparation for the overnighiter offers many opportunities to introduce new materials to boys and help them develop useful skills. Here are some examples:

1. Teach the boys the rules of fire safety. (See the *Webelos Scout Book* for fire safety rules.)
2. Reviewing the Outdoor Code is a great way to help Cub Scouts prepare to be responsible campers (see page 32-3 for the Outdoor Code).
3. Plan ahead for campfire program activities. Ask dens or families in advance to prepare fun, appropriate material to share around the campfire.
4. At least one pack meeting before the overnighiter, go over the Webelos Scout Overnight Checklist (page 34-48) with the boys and send a copy home with them, along with a letter giving the details about the overnighiter.

Adult Preparation

Preparing adults is as important as preparing boys. The end result will be a smoothly run overnighiter with everyone knowing what is expected. Information about the overnighiter can best be communicated at a pre-overnighiter meeting with

the parents. Make this a plan-sharing meeting. You have developed a basic plan, but let parents get involved in planning the details. Enhance your program using their talents and abilities. For example, someone might know about birds and trees; you might find a song leader, storyteller, or game leader among them. Take a positive attitude at the meeting. Let them know that they share the responsibility.

This meeting should be at least two weeks before the overnighiter; this is close enough to the overnighiter date so that last-minute changes in plans can be avoided. If some parents can't attend, be sure they receive as much information as possible.

The meeting agenda should include the following:

1. **Date, location, and starting and ending times of the overnighiter.** Cover this information in detail. Provide maps if necessary. Decide whether transportation will be on an individual basis or through some other method. Carpooling will save on gasoline costs and parking fees.
2. **A complete list of "Do's and Don'ts" for the overnighiter.** It's important to communicate very clearly, in writing, to parents the critical health and safety and Youth Protection guidelines of Scouting that must be followed during an overnighiter activity. Include information on potential hazards at the location, and review safety procedures regarding tools, fires and fire-starting, use of gas stoves and lanterns, and unauthorized behaviors and activities. Because some parents may be new to Scouting, it's important to include even the most basic, commonsense policies so that everyone is equally informed.
3. **Schedule of events.** The overnighiter's success depends on having a planned program of activities. Involve the parents in deciding what type of activities will be included in the campout. Consider the following: nature hike, fishing, swimming, games, conservation activities and projects, a campfire program, or a service project.
For weekend overnighiters, a nondenominational worship service is appropriate and recommended. It should be simple and brief.
If swimming is included, be sure to follow Safe Swim Defense. If boating is included, follow Safety Afloat. (See Chapter 14, "Water Safety.")
Remember that shooting sports are not an approved part of Cub Scouting except at a council-approved and -operated Cub Scout day camp, Cub Scout resident camp, or council-organized Cub Scout family camp.

Shooting sport activities are not permitted at pack campouts.

4. **Menu.** Keep the menu simple, remembering that in most cases the families attending the overnighiter will cook, eat, and clean up together. It is a good idea to suggest that similar (although not necessarily identical) meals be planned for all involved.

Packwide meals are also recommended and can be very simple. For example, if the overnigher begins on Saturday morning, it should start after breakfast, and everyone brings a sack lunch. Dinner Saturday evening could be a family barbecue, and breakfast Sunday morning could be a packwide pancake feed. Again, simplicity is the key.

Special foods that focus on the theme of the overnigher are an easy way to make the campout fun. Examples include a Wild West chili cookout for lunch, where families prepare and share a pot of chili, complemented by a hot dog feed in the evening. Be creative, but also remember KISMIF (Keep It Simple, Make It Fun).

- 5. Equipment.** Each parent/guardian should have a personal equipment checklist. It is similar to the one given to the boys but would include specific things that adults will find handy, such as cooking equipment, lawn chairs, cots, tents or other shelter, and items for program activities. It always helps to include items that should not be brought as well, such as firearms, alcohol, fireworks, and illegal drugs.
- 6. Health and safety.** Using the *Guide to Safe Scouting* as a resource, review BSA guidelines on
 - Drug, alcohol, and tobacco use
 - Fuel and fire safety
 - Water safety. If swimming is included, be sure to have someone trained in and committed to compliance with the eight points of Safe Swim Defense. (See Chapter 14, “Water Safety.”)

Secure a Class 1 Personal Health and Medical History (No. 34414A) on all youth and adults who will attend the campout.

Summary

Trained leaders, a great location (approved by the council), adequate adult supervision, and a fun, age-appropriate program of activities are the critical ingredients for an exciting pack overnigher. It should be the first, fun step for the boy of a lifetime of outdoor adventure with the BSA.

LEAVE NO TRACE AWARENESS

Leave No Trace is a nationally recognized outdoor skills and ethics awareness program intended to reduce our effect on the environment and on the experiences of other people in the environment. Leave No Trace is an awareness and an attitude rather than a set of rules. We should all practice Leave No Trace in our thinking and actions—wherever we go.

Use the seven principles of Leave No Trace as guidelines for your Cub Scout camping experiences:

- 1. Plan ahead and prepare.** Campers who plan ahead can minimize their effect on the environment by complying with area regulations, such as observing limitations on group size.
- 2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.** Minimize resource damage by using existing trails and selecting designated or existing campsites.
- 3. Dispose of waste properly.** Inspect your campsite for trash or spilled foods. Accept the challenge of packing home all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- 4. Leave what you find.** Allow others a sense of discovery, and preserve the past. Leave rocks, plants, animals, archaeological artifacts, and other objects as you find them.
- 5. Minimize the effect of campfires.** Whenever possible, use an existing campfire ring in a well-placed campsite. Consider using camp stoves for cooking your meals. They are fast, eliminate the need for firewood, make cleanup after meals easier, and don’t scorch the environment.
- 6. Respect wildlife.** Observe animals, birds, and other wildlife from afar to avoid disturbing them. Store food securely and keep garbage and food scraps away from animals so that they won’t acquire bad habits. Never feed wildlife.
- 7. Be considerate of other people.** Let nature’s sounds prevail. Keep the noise down and leave radios, tape players, and pets at home.

Instilling values in young people and preparing them to make ethical choices throughout their lifetimes is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America. Leave No Trace helps reinforce that mission and reminds us to respect the rights of other users of the outdoors, as well as future generations. Appreciation for our natural environment and a knowledge of the interrelationships of nature bolster our respect for and reverence toward the environment and nature.