

OUTDOORSMAN



OUTDOOR GROUP

The Webelos program is the bridge between Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting. In earning the Outdoorsman badge, a Webelos Scout will be introduced to outdoor living and get a preview of the fun he'll have in the troop.

One of the requirements is for a boy to camp out away from home. This can be through family camping, Webelos den camping, or Webelos resident camping. The *Cub Scout Leader Book* gives details on planning a Webelos overnighter and offers encouraging tips for family camping. Additional information can be found in the "Webelos Camping" section of this book (pages 21–22). The main objective of the campout is for boys and their adult partners to have fun. Webelos Scouts will learn some camping basics; later, when they join a troop, they'll become proficient in camping skills.

REQUIREMENTS

Do Five of These:

1. Show your ability to tie the following knots:
 - Square knot

- Bowline
 - Clove hitch
 - Two half hitches
 - Taut-line hitch
2. Pitch a tent using two half hitches and a taut-line hitch. Make a ground bed. Sleep in your tent for at least one night, if your parent allows you to do this.
 3. With your adult partner, take part in a Webelos overnighter or camp overnight with a Boy Scout troop.
 4. Help with a two-night campout away from home with your family. Or go on two one-night campouts with your family.
 5. With your family or Webelos den, plan and take part in an evening outdoor activity that includes a campfire.
 6. Help cook your own lunch or supper outdoors with a parent or another adult. Clean up afterward.
 7. Know and practice the rules of outdoor fire safety.
 8. Visit a Boy Scout camp with your den.

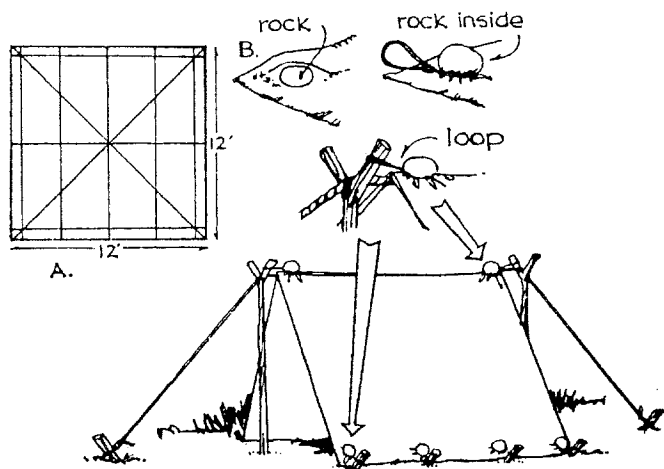
DEN MEETING ACTIVITIES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how to make an improvised sleeping bag or bed. (See "Envelope Bed," <i>Webelos Scout Book</i>.) • Make outdoor cooking utensils. (See "Crafts," <i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>.) • Learn aluminum foil cooking techniques. (See "Nature and Outdoor Activities," <i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>.) • Build tin can stoves. (See "Crafts," <i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>.) • Have a den cookout. • Make a den first aid kit described in the "Readyman" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> section of this book (page 114). • Make a simple tent, such as the polytarp (page 107). • Discuss the items needed for backyard camping and then practice camping in the backyard. • Practice laying charcoal or wood fires. • Make lists of items needed for overnight camping. (See the <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i>.) • Learn the Outdoor Code. (See the <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i> and <i>Webelos Scout Book</i>.) • Learn the basic knots needed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for an overnight campout. (See the <i>Webelos Scout Book</i> and <i>Boy Scout Handbook</i>.) • Discuss camping health and safety rules. (See the <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i>.) • Discuss hiking safety rules. (See the <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i>.) • Plan a campfire program. (See the <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i>.) • Plan and hold a Webelos campout. (See the <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i>.) • Visit the local council's Scout camp. |
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PACK MEETING DEMONSTRATIONS AND EXHIBITS

- Display a backyard tent and envelope bed.
- Demonstrate pitching a tent.
- Demonstrate how to make an envelope bed.
- Demonstrate various ways of tying knots.
- Demonstrate how to lay a fire.
- Have a boy explain outdoor fire safety rules.
- Have a boy explain what to do when one is lost in the woods.
- Show slides of a Webelos overnight campout.

Place filament tape horizontally, vertically, and diagonally, as shown in figure A. The taped side will be the inner side of the tent.



The Polytarp

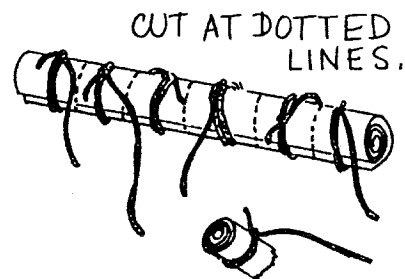
The shelter illustrated is called a polytarp. It can be rigged in many different ways. It weighs only about 4 pounds and sleeps two boys comfortably. You can buy polyethylene sheets at a hardware store, or you might be able to salvage discarded sheets from farm suppliers or building contractors. The plastic is available in colors or transparent.

Materials:

- 12-by-12-foot-square, 4- or 6-mm-thick polyethylene
 - 150 feet of 2-inch-wide adhesive filament tape
 - 30 to 40 feet of No. 36 nylon twine (260-pound test)
 - 26 feet of nylon braided rope for ridgeline
 - 20 feet of string (chalkline)
 - Scissors, yardstick, chalk
1. Lay out polyethylene sheet on a flat, clean, dry surface. Be careful not to punch any holes in it. (Holes can be patched with filament tape or plastic adhesive tape).
 2. The polyethylene must be clean and dry when applying the filament tape for reinforcing. With the yardstick, chalk, and chalkline, mark the lines along which the filament tape must be attached (see illustration) and then stick on the tape. The

side of the polyethylene sheet with the filament tape is the inner side of the tent.

3. To pitch the polytarp, attach ropes for guy lines, tent pegs, etc. (see illustration). Using two half hitches, tie a wad of leaves or a smooth rock the size of a walnut in the plastic where you want the guy line or peg to be attached. Then loop the twine around the plastic-enclosed rock.
4. Tie down tightly the ridgeline, all corners, and at several points where the tent meets the ground. Be sure to allow for ventilation, because air doesn't pass through polyethylene.



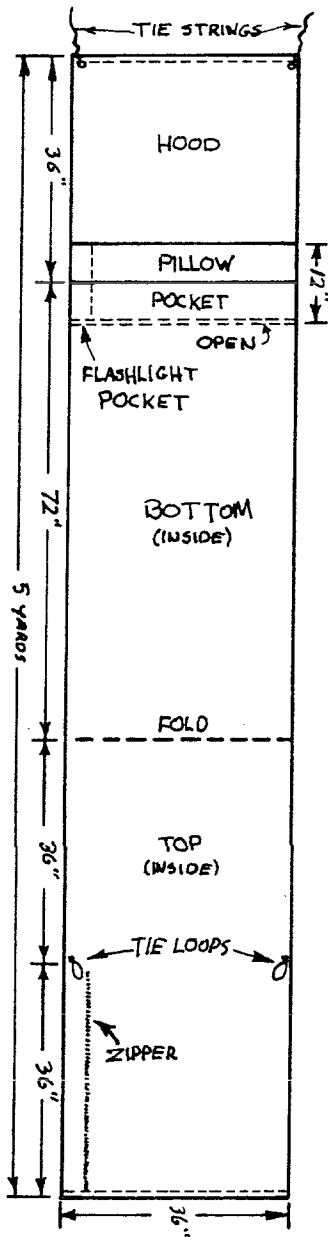
Quick Fire Starters

You need newspapers, string, wax, a large can, and an old pot to melt the wax in. Melting is best done as a double-boiler method, in which the can with wax in it is placed inside a larger container that has water up to about 2 inches from the lip of the can. An adult should handle this chore.

Melt two or three blocks of wax (home canning size) or a handful of old candles. While the wax is melting, have each Webelos Scout roll a section of about 18 pages of newspaper into a tight cylinder. Tie the cylinders with string about every 2 or 3 inches, leaving a foot-long length of string hanging for each tie. Then cut the cylinders into sections with a saw or serrated knife.

Spread old newspapers on your work surface and put the can of melted wax on it. Have the Webelos Scouts dip their paper sections into the wax, holding onto them with the long strings.

Place the fire starters on other newspapers to dry. When using them, tear the edges slightly for faster ignition.



Litepac Sleeping Bag

The litepac sleeping bag protects blankets and keeps bugs, dirt, and moisture where they belong—on the outside. The pillow pocket covers the blanket ends by day and keeps your clothing dry and clean at night. An emergency will not catch you fumbling for your flashlight, for there is a handy pocket for it.

This bag is good for summer nights, and with a couple of wool blankets added, it will also keep you warm on freezing nights. Waterproof the hood and bottom of the sleeping bag, but never the top. You lose almost a quart of water through your lungs and skin every night, and that water must get out! Good campers give their blankets daily airing to keep them dry.

A good grade of muslin will do, but poplin or light canvas is best for making this sleeping bag. It will weigh about 5 pounds (with one blanket), and the total cost is reasonable.

Materials:

5½ yards of poplin, light canvas, or good-grade muslin

Zipper, 36 inches long

4 feet of twill tape

Waterproofing

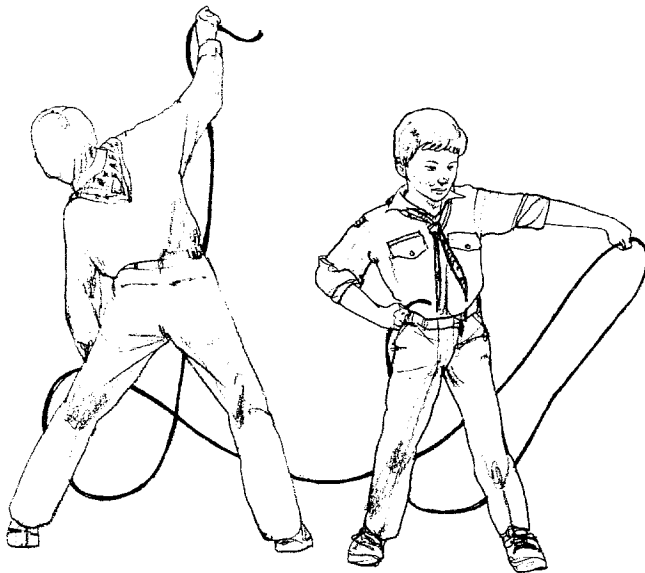
Lay out the material and hem the ends. Sew in the zipper and then the pockets for a pillow and flashlight. Fold the material and sew up the sides. Put in tie loops and tie strings. Waterproof the bottom of the bag and hood only. Then go camping!

Knot Games

Learning to tie a variety of knots is an important part of camping and outdoor skills. Here are some games to play that will help you teach knot-tying and have fun, too.



One-Handed Overhand Knot. Drape an 18-inch length of rope over a contestant's wrist as shown. Using just that hand, he is to tie an overhand knot as quickly as possible. The knot is considered tied when it is free of the contestant's arm.



Giant Square Knot. Two Webelos Scouts hold the free ends of a 10-foot-long rope in their right hands. Working together, they try to tie and tighten a square knot without letting go of the rope.



Snatch. The object of this game is to snatch the ball (or other small object) off the box without being caught in the 1-foot-diameter loop that's held about a foot from the ball. If the Webelos Scout tries to feint a move with his hand, he will be disqualified. An 8- to 10-foot length of rope will do.

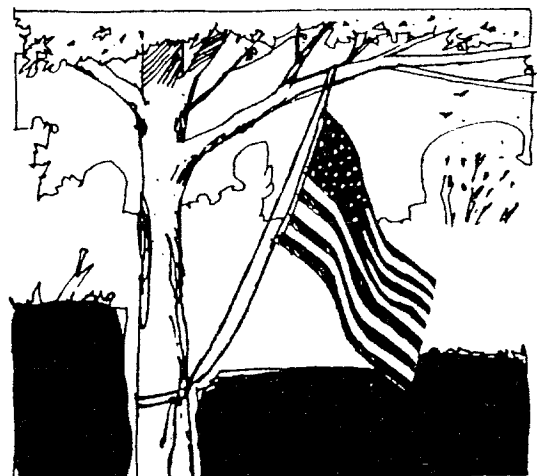
Knot Trail. Tie several pieces of rope of varying thicknesses together, using several different knots (square, sheet bend, bowline, two half hitches, etc.). You may use one knot more than once. Tie one end of the rope to a tree with a clove hitch and the other end to another tree with a taut-line hitch. Ask each Webelos Scout to walk silently along the rope from one tree to the other and back, noting and remem-

bering the knots used. Then each boy tries to make a list of the knots used in the correct order.

Knot-Tying Relay. Have a 6-foot-long rope for each team. Ask the Webelos Scouts to line up in file relay formation about 15 feet from a goal line. In turn, each Webelos Scout races to the goal line, where he selects a card with the type of knot he is to tie. He runs back to the team and ties the knot correctly. Then he unties the knot and hands the rope off to the next player. The first team to complete all the knots correctly is the winner.

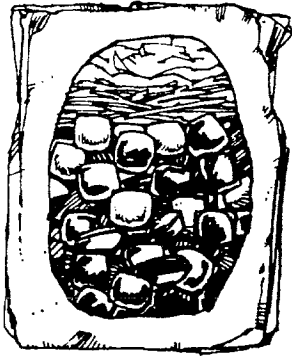
Knot Step Contest. Have the Webelos Scouts line up side-by-side at one end of the room. They each have a piece of rope. Call out the name of a knot. Each boy ties the knot. Judges quickly check the knots. Each Webelos Scout who ties his knot correctly can take one step forward. Leader calls out another knot, and the same procedure is followed. The first boy to reach the opposite wall is the winner.

Knottling Circle. Webelos Scouts form a circle facing inward with their hands behind them. "It" walks around the outside of the circle, places a rope in someone's hands, yells the name of a knot, and then speeds off around the circle (or a few times around the circle if the group of boys isn't very large). If the recipient succeeds in tying the knot correctly before "It" comes back, "It" must proceed again. Otherwise, the recipient becomes "It," and the previous "It" takes his place in the circle.



Fly the Flag

The U.S. flag should fly over Webelos overnighter campsites. If your campsite doesn't have a flagpole, toss a line over a tree branch and attach the flag as shown. Raise it in the morning and lower it in the evenings, with simple ceremonies attended by all den members and their adult partners.



Easy Starting Charcoal Fire

Fill a paper bag three-quarters full with charcoal as shown. Place a layer of kindling on top of the charcoal, and then a layer of paper (or fire starters) on top of the kindling. Place the bag upside down at your fire site or on your grill (that is, with the layer of paper or fire starters at the bottom) and light.

NOTE: All fires must be outdoors only—never in tents or in buildings.

RESOURCES FOR OUTDOORSMAN ACTIVITY BADGE

- *The Complete Guide to Knots and How to Tie Them*, by Walter B. Gibson (Lifetime Books, 1997)
- *Boys' Life* magazine
- *Webelos Scout Book*, No. 33108
- *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*, No. 33832
- *The Boy Scout Handbook*, No. 33105
- *Cub Scout Leader Book*, No. 33221

Check with outdoor-equipment shops for other literature and resources.

DEN MEETING PLANS



OUTDOORSMAN ACTIVITY BADGE

	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Meet outdoors if possible. Supplies: Ropes for tying knots, materials for homemade tent and envelope bed (see <i>Webelos Scout Book</i>), materials for cooking fire lay	Supplies: U.S. flag, ropes for knot games (pages 108-109), materials and tools for making outdoor cooking utensils (<i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>), materials for Quick Fire Starters (page 107)	Invite adults who will attend the overnighiter. If a cookout is planned, ask them to bring food. Supplies: Materials for cooking fires, if permitted; <i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i> ; photocopies of equipment checklist from the <i>Cub Scout Leader Guide</i> for overnighiter	<p>HOLD OVERNIGHTER IF POSSIBLE (for advice on planning this campout, see the <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i> and <i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>); OR HOLD A REGULAR MEETING. (Continue instruction on Outdoorsman skills. Use games and ceremonies from the <i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>).</p>
GATHERING (Keep early arrivals busy)	Den chief teaches Outdoorsman knots (see <i>Webelos Scout Book</i>).	Play One-Handed Overhand Knot or other knot games.	Lay and light cooking fire if permitted; OR play Simon Says (<i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>).	
OPENING (Ceremony or song)	Form Living Circle. Denner leads Cub Scout Promise.	Assistant denner presents U.S. flag. Denner leads Pledge of Allegiance.	Den chief reads Outdoor Code (see <i>Webelos Scout Book</i>) and then asks, "Will you do your best?" Boys respond, "We'll do our best!"	
Brief business period: roll call, dues, uniform inspection				
ACTIVITY BADGE FUN (Instruction, practice, games, and contests related to Webelos skills)	Discuss Outdoorsman requirements. Demonstrate and practice pitching a homemade tent and making an envelope bed. Have instruction and practice in making cooking fires lays. Review fire safety rules in the <i>Webelos Scout Book</i> .	Make Quick Fire Starters and outdoor cooking utensils.	Distribute copies of overnighiter equipment checklist. Have a cookout; OR Demonstrate aluminum foil cooking technique (<i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>).	
PREPARATION (Making props and equipment; getting set for future special events)	Announce the Cub Scout theme and tell how the Webelos den will be involved at the pack meeting. Discuss plans for overnighiter later in the month.		Remind boys and adults of final plans for overnighiter.	
Sign boys' books for activity badge requirements passed.				
CLOSING (Announcements ceremony)	Denner leads Scout Oath. Ask boys to observe a moment of reverence.	In turn, boys give Scout salute to flag. Have them give Scout handshake to den chief and leave quietly.	Form brotherhood circle of boys and adults with arms around each others' shoulders. Hum or sing "Taps" (<i>Cub Scout Songbook</i>).	

Den meeting cleanup under supervision of denner.

For more information, read *Boys' Life* and *Scouting* magazines and attend district roundtable.