

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

Prepared By:

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Target Group:

Second Year Campers or older

Time Allotted:

One, 1-hour blocks

Pre-Requisites:

None

Materials Needed - Staff

Sample survival kits
Flint and steel
PFire by friction equipment
Signaling mirrors
Water purification tablets
Water purification filter/pump
Tarps
Rope

Materials Needed - Scout

Sleeping bag
Pocket knife
Flashlight

Instructional Goal:

Scouts will learn priorities and essentials for survival in a back-country or wilderness location

Monday

Materials

Merit Badge Book

Tarps

Rope

Objectives

8. Improvise a natural shelter. For the purpose of this demonstration, use techniques that have little negative impact on the environment. Spend a night in your shelter.

Directions

At the start of the hour, give the scouts an overview of various ways to build a shelter. Then for the hour, they get the chance to build. Be available to assist with questions, but the scouts should do this on their own. Instruct them to bring flashlights, and sleeping bags prior to their night out.

Monday Night

Materials

Sleeping gear

Flashlight

Fire Starters

Cooking Pot

Area Director's Radio

Directions

You will meet the scouts at the bike shed in the Valley at 7:30pm. Then lead them to the spot for overnight camping. **Ensure you have two deep leadership at all times. Have this figured out ahead of leaving.**

When you arrive at the camping spot, allow the group to continue working as needed. Build a fire with them. Boil water to show water purification.

They will be in bed by taps. Wake them up around 6:00 am so they can make it to breakfast.

Tuesday

Materials

Merit Badge Book

Objectives

1. Hazards and First Aid. Do the following:

(a) Show or explain first aid for, and prevention of, injuries and conditions that could occur in backcountry settings, including:

- (1) Dehydration
- (2) Heatstroke
- (3) Hypothermia
- (4) Shock
- (5) Blisters
- (6) Eye injuries
- (7) Ankle and knee sprains
- (8) Bug bites of chiggers, ticks, mosquitoes, and biting gnats
- (9) Bee stings
- (10) Bites of spiders
- (11) Sting of a scorpion
- (12) Bite of a wild mammal
- (13) Bite of a venomous snake.

(b) Explain how the Scout Essentials address hazards of survival situations and are basic to a survival kit.

(c) Explain how a trip plan could help prevent a wilderness survival situation.

2. Priorities for Survival. Explain the importance of each of the seven priorities of survival in a wilderness location.

9. Explain why it usually is not wise to eat edible wild plants or wildlife in a wilderness survival situation.

Directions

The scouts will deconstruct their structures using principles of leave no trace. Ensure all tarps and rope that is yours, is returned. This should take no more than 15 minutes.

Enter a discussion about hazards. How does a group deal with these hazards?

Instruct the seven priorities for survival in backcountry. Make this a “Repeat after me” activity. They must do it from memory.

Discuss edible plants and why its not wise to eat them during survival situations

Wednesday

Materials

Signal mirror

Merit Badge Book

Objectives

3. Describe ways to avoid panic and maintain a high level of morale when lost, and explain why this is important.

4. Describe the steps you would take to survive in the following exposure conditions:

- (a) Cold and snowy
- (b) Wet
- (c) Hot and dry
- (d) Windy
- (e) At or on the water

5. Shelter. Do the following:

(a) Describe the steps you would take to survive in the following exposure conditions:

(1) Cold and snowy

(2) Wet

(3) Hot and dry

(4) Windy

(5) At or on the water.

(b) Show that you know the proper clothing to wear while in the outdoors during extremely hot and cold weather and during wet conditions.

(c) Explain how to protect yourself from bears and raccoons.

(d) Describe how to build or find survival shelters in a forest or in snow.

(e) Improvise a natural shelter. For the purpose of this demonstration, use techniques that have little negative impact on the environment. Spend a night in your shelter.

7. Signaling. Do the following:

(a) Explain and show how lost or stranded Scouts could send signals to attract the attention of ground, airborne, or water search teams.

(b) Demonstrate how to use a signal mirror.

(c) Describe five ground-to- air signals and tell what they mean.

Directions

Enter a discussion about morale. How do we boost morale when lost? Then sing a song with them.

Go through the different exposure conditions, and how to deal with them.

Demonstrate different ways to attract attention. Get them up and participate in this.

Allow them all to practice with the signal mirror. If they have a phone, they can use that as a reflective surface.

Discuss air signals. Have the group work together to make one of them.

Thursday

Materials

Magnifying glass

Objectives

6. Using three different methods (other than matches), build and light three fires.

10. Careers. Do ONE of the following:

- (a) Explore careers related to this merit badge. Research one career to learn about the training and education needed, costs, job prospects, salary, job duties, and career advancement. With permission of your parent or guardian, your research methods may include an internet or library search, an interview with a professional in the field, or a visit to a location where people in this career work. Discuss with your counselor both your findings and what about this profession might make it an interesting career.
- (b) Explore how you could use knowledge and skills from the Wilderness Survival merit badge to pursue a hobby or to serve as volunteer. Research any training needed, expenses, and organizations that promote or support

it. Discuss with your counselor what short-term and long-term goals you might have if you pursue this.

Directions

Build a fire using a magnifying glass.

Have the scouts research a career and share their requirements with the class.

Instruct the scouts to bring items for a survival kit for activity on Friday as a group.

Friday

Materials

Survival kit materials

Flint and steel

Water pump

Iodine tablets

Objectives

4. First Aid Kits. Put together a personal first aid kit and a personal survival kit.

Show how items in the kits are used.

6. Using three different methods (other than matches), build and light three fires.

8. Demonstrate three ways to treat water found in the outdoors to prepare it for drinking.

Directions

Start by making the fire with flint and steel.

Demonstrate how the water pump works, and how the iodine tablets work

Have everyone show their items they brought for the survival kit, talk about what is good and what is missing from the kit.

Complete any other requirements that are not finished.