

Class 9P

Camping Logistics

(60 minutes)

Objective: To learn of basics of camping and how to prepare for the physical needs of the campout

Philosophy of Camping

Outdoor education cultivates a reverence for life through exploration of nature. Pathfinder leaders have the remarkable privilege of reaching youth through experience that will remain with them forever. However, all the spiritual lessons will be lost on the mind of a Pathfinder if his basic needs aren't met first. A Pathfinder who is cold, wet or hungry will not have an open mind for the lessons of nature.

“There are modes of recreation which are highly beneficial to both body and mind. An enlightened, discriminating mind will find abundant means for entertainment and diversion, from sources not only innocent, but instructive. Recreation in the open air, the contemplation of the works of God in nature, will be of the highest benefit.” (Messages to Young People, pp. 380-381.)

The following are a list of objectives:

1. To develop a feeling of being comfortable in the outdoors.
2. To teach self-reliance.
3. To help pathfinders feel the nearness of God and to become acquainted with Him through His creation.
4. To develop physical stamina.
5. To satisfy the spirit of adventure.
6. To teach ability to cope with the element of nature
7. To teach skills in observation, tracking, orienteering, survival and related subjects.
8. To provide an activity in which both leaders and Pathfinders can enjoy pleasant fellowship.

Pathfinder Camping Code

1. I will camp only where camping is allowed
2. I will keep my campsite clean at all times and leave the sit cleaner than I found it.
3. I will never leave my campfire unattended; and when I leave it, I will be sure it is entirely out
4. I will never use my knife or ax to cut, mar, or scar live trees
5. I will never pick wild flowers without permission
6. I will never cut trails while hiking
7. I will never pollute a lake or stream
8. I will always respect the privacy of other campers.
9. I will always be polite and courteous
10. I will respect all signs, authority, rules, and private property.
11. I will always conduct myself as a Pathfinder and a Christian
12. I will always leave the campsite knowing I am welcome to return.

Types of Camping

Vehicle camping

It simply involves packing all your camping equipment into your car, truck or trailer and driving right up to your campsite. You can even use your vehicle for storage or an extra room, and have it available for inclement weather or those little side trips to the local store, tourist spot, or hospital. This is the primary form of Pathfinder camping.

Fixed base camping

The best way to understand a backcountry place is to base camp there. Base camping provides you with the opportunity for day hiking and exploring from the comfort of a fixed camp. Because the camp is fixed, base camping also allows you to relax as much as you want, once camp is set. With base camping, you would usually carry all of your gear for some distance, set up camp, and explore from there. So, keeping the weight of your gear as light as possible is still very important. Base camping typically allows you to get away from it all, but still bring enough gear to be comfortable. (This is a transition between vehicle camping and backpacking) Example: Sturtevant

Backpack camping

Backpacking is best when reserved for teen pathfinders. It will give them something to look forward to. If you are experienced, you have the opportunity to introduce your teens to the wonders of backpacking. If you have never been backpacking, you might want to find an experience backpacker in the church to lead or partner with another club. Make sure you know where you are going, have appropriate maps, and know how to read them. This is far more important than many novices realize. Carry a compass and know how to read and use it with your map. Plan your route. Decide if you are doing a "loop" hike, "out and back" or an "end to end". The latter will usually require leaving a car at both ends. Consider the terrain, weather and the experience and conditioning of your group when planning how many miles you will travel each day. The hike should be from 6-12 miles per day depending on the terrain.. Don't get overambitious. Shoot for less rather than more so you can take time to enjoy the sights.

Campsite Selection- The Six W's

Consider the Six W's when you are choosing a campsite.

Wind -Wind can rip tents to shreds. It can pull up stakes and carry tents away. It can blow down trees. The campsite should be sheltered from winds by rock formations or vegetation.

Water - The ideal site has an abundance of pure drinking water. Of course, if your chosen spot doesn't have pure water, but water is available, then you can purify the available water. Sporting goods stores carry purifying equipment you can purchase. In a pinch, the water can be boiled. Camping near a lake, ocean or stream always adds a special touch and fun to your camping experience

Wild Things- Ants, mosquitoes, ticks and etc. can ruin a camping experience.

Poison oak, ivy and sumac are also to be avoided. Wild animals such as raccoons and bears can ruin the weekend by destroying the food stores if not stored properly. However, wild flowers, birds, and other wild nature things will provide for a more interesting campout.

Wood – If you are camping in an area that has firewood available and permits fires, you will want to be sure there is plenty of wood nearby, or bring your own. Never cut down standing live trees for firewood or shelter unless you are in a survival situation.

Weather- Be aware of the projected weather for your campsite during the appointed time. Properly prepare for the type of weekend you are likely to have. Make contingency plans, if things turn out worse than expected.

Willingness –No campout will be a pleasant time for anyone, if the leader and staff come with a bad attitude.

1. Washing
2. Rinsing
3. Sanitizing (Very Warm water with 1-2 T of bleach)

Latrines

Depending on the particular campsite chosen, you may have flush toilets, porta-potties, or none at all.

Camp Cooking & Menu Planning

Food is an extremely important part of every campout. This is not the time to be experimenting with new foods. Choose a menu that is tried and true, a kid friendly. Do not police what the kids eat. You are not their parent, and if you have haystacks and a child eats nothing but Fritos, fine. (but make sure you plan enough chips, because this happens routinely.) Desserts are best served at the noon meal, when there is plenty of time to use up the energy before bed.