

Youth-led Camping Program Facilitation

DESCRIPTION

Nature is an ideal setting for personal development and recreation. Youth join Scouting for the opportunity to participate in camping and outdoor adventures that they have been involved in planning. These activities must be fun and engaging for members, and comply with recognized health and safety practices. As Scouts, we have a responsibility to live in harmony with the natural environment and ensure that our outdoor adventures leave no trace.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

I can facilitate an age-appropriate, youth-led weekend camp with my Section.

- I can facilitate budgeting for a camp with my Section.
- I can help youth in my Section select equipment for camp.

- I can facilitate an age-appropriate adventure (the right place, at the right time, with the right people and with the right equipment).
- I can help youth select a safe and age-appropriate location for a camping trip.
- I can facilitate the completion of an **Camping and Outdoor Activity Application** and **Emergency Plan**.
- I can ensure that youth plan a menu that meets the dietary requirements of the group and the activity.
- I can facilitate a hazard assessment with youth.
- I can develop a contingency plan.
- I can describe the seven principles of Leave No Trace.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- Beaver Scouts can go camping too! Check out the **Beaver Scout Camping guide**.
- Camping is an activity that all Sections should be given an opportunity to participate in. The activity should be developed with youth participation.
- Scouters must regularly ask themselves if all participants are in **the right place; at the right time; with the right training, the right people and the right equipment**.

I DON'T
KNOW...

I KNOW...

I CAN...

I HAVE...

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PLAN

- How can youth be involved (in an age-appropriate way) in planning a camp?
- Are the location and activities appropriate for the skills and ages of the participants?
- Has your Section submitted the required applications and received approval to conduct this outdoor activity?
- Has your Section developed an emergency plan?
- Does your Section have the proper equipment for the camp conditions?
- Who is the designated first aider?
- What food storage and preparation arrangements do you need to consider (bear awareness, temperature requirements, allergies and dietary restrictions, hygiene, etc.)?

DO

- Facilitate a safety and risk assessment for the camp (include a **Camping and Outdoor Activity Application** and **Emergency Plan**).
- Check that equipment is in working order before the trip.

- Conduct hazard assessments with your Section when entering a new location.
- Help the Section Leadership Team ensure that the trip is safe, fun and engaging.

REVIEW

- Did the camp go as planned?
- Were the youth active participants in planning the camp (relative to their skills)?
- Do you need to file any incident reports and record any near misses?
- Did the youth achieve their desired objectives for the camp?
- What can be done on future activities to enhance the experience?
- Was the budget appropriate for the event?
- Have the participants increased their competencies in the **Camping Outdoor Adventure Skills**?

SAFETY NOTE

- Is the planned activity “in the right place, at the right time, with the right people and with the right equipment”?
- Do you have all the required safety equipment (first aid kit, specialized activity equipment, etc.)?
- Have you taken the weather forecasts into account and planned for adverse conditions?
- All activities should have a contingency plan in case conditions change and the original objective is no longer safe or viable.
- When possible, the proposed site should be visited for an in-person assessment by members of the group. If this is not possible, appropriate research is required to ensure it is safe for the activity and age group.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Scouter Manual (pages 63–72 & 81–84)**
- eLearning Course: How to Facilitate Outdoor Adventure Skills
- **Field Book for Canadian Scouting**
- **BP&P: Section 10000—Camping & Outdoor Activities**
- **Outdoor Council of Canada**
- **AdventureSmart**
- **Leave No Trace Canada—Outdoor Ethics**