

Planning Boy Scout Outings

A general philosophy of outings:

- Involve the scouts as much as possible. They will only learn by doing.
- It is ok to let them fail as long as it doesn't compromise their health and safety.
- Work with the SPL/PL to get things done (the chain of command).
- Outings should be fun and learning activities. They should build confidence in that scout.
- Outing are an essential part of scouting (in essence our classroom). Scouts need to be encouraged to attend them all. Even if it is not their favorite.

BSA Requirements

Leaders and Training

- "Two Deep" - two registered adults
- Youth protection training for all adults (see myScouting.scouting.org, don't need to be registered)
- Hazardous Weather training for one leader (see MyScouting.scouting.org)
- Special training (primarily water sports)
- Guide to Safe Scouting
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx>
- Remember your responsibility to be a good role model to the scouts while acting as a leader.

Travel

- Drivers must meet minimum insurance requirements:
All vehicles MUST be covered by a liability and property damage insurance policy. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirement of the state in which the vehicle is licensed and comply with or exceed the requirements of the country of destination for travel outside the United States. (It is recommended, however, that coverage limits are at least \$50,000/\$100,000/\$50,000 or \$100,000 combined single limit.) Any vehicle designed to carry 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$100,000/\$500,000/\$100,000 or \$500,000 combined single limit. In the case of rented vehicles the requirement of coverage limits can be met by combining the limits of personal coverage carried by the driver with coverage carried by the owner of the rented vehicle.
- The Activities Chair should maintain a list.
- Travel must meet BSA requirements.

Leave No Trace

See: http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/BoyScouts/TeachingLeaveNoTrace/064_principles.aspx

Always leave campsites cleaner than you found them.

Trip Planning

Use the Web to do some research. See resources for web sites. **It is OK to try new places.** In the words of Captain Kirk “Boldly go where the troop has not gone before”. Within a 3 hour drive of Paradise there are hundreds of hiking, backpacking, and camping opportunities.

Medical Records

For most activities the BSA forms “A” and “B” will provide the leaders with necessary information on scouts (and adults). **These are kept in a binder that is maintained by the Activities Chair.** Leaders should review these to determine if any of the participants have any special issues such as use of medication, allergies, etc. The binder should be taken on every outing.

Hikes:

- Look for loops.
- 5- 10 miles are OK unless very steep
- Avoid low elevation in late spring/summer/fall. Lots of stickers and poison oak.
- Avoid high country in the spring (snow).
- Practice the buddy system.
- Always have an adult take up the rear.

Backpacking

Things to consider:

- Double check all gear before starting down the trail. Remove non-essential gear. Insure they have essential gear.
- Divide group gear by ability not equally. I.e. Big scouts can carry more.
- Travel times: 2 MPH plus 1 HR/1000’ of climb
- First day should short hike to get used to walking with a pack.
- Minimize the number of tents. You will have more camp site options
- Review the route on a topo map or software (like Topo USA).
- Consider camping at the trailhead so you can get a fresh start.
- Average of 8 miles/day is OK. Avoid days over 12.
- Stop frequently to hydrate and check feet.
- Energy returns instantly once the pack is off.
- Always have an adult take up the rear.
- Some trail rules:
 - Stop at all intersections and re-group
 - Put scouts of similar speeds together and enforce the buddy system.

Car Camping

- State Parks are usually \$25/night/space. Forest Service and BLM vary from free to \$20. State Parks will waive fees sometimes in lieu of service.
- Observe limits on vehicles, number of campers, and tents. We want to be “good” campers.

- While in camp always remember that other are camping nearby. Be a good neighbor.
- State and some Federal campgrounds take reservations. This is useful for late arrivals to insure a space.
- Try new places!
- Call the agency for local information like snow conditions (a Fall and Spring issue), closed campgrounds etc.
- Group campgrounds are sometimes an option. Most require reservations. Often cost as much as 4 camp sites.

Logistics

Things to consider when planning for vehicles:

- Less is easier. Not only better for the environment, but less parking issues and fewer problems keeping together, etc. Avoid parents just driving their own child.
- Special needs:
 - Do you need a P.U. for patrol boxes?
 - Trailer for bikes?
 - 4WD for snow?
 - High clearance for rough roads?
- Seat belts. Every person must wear a seatbelt.
- Remind drivers to start with a full tank!
- Driver need to know where they are going in case they get separated.
- Exchanging cell numbers is nice.
- Who will be the last car? They can watch for stragglers.
- Avoid 1 adult and 1 scout in a car.
- Careful tie down loads and INSPECT before departure.
- If wet weather is expected be prepared to tarp loads.

The troop maintains a binder with the Guide to Safe Scouting and current medical forms. Take the binder with you (in car) and return to the activities person upon returning.

Maps

Have a road map (AAA) of the area. If traveling in the Forest get a National Forest Map (sold at Forest offices and sporting goods stores). If hiking get a topo map. Topo maps for Lassen and Plumas NF are available online for printing. Other areas are available at Ellis Engineering in downtown Chico. Park maps and wilderness maps are available at Mountain Sports or the local agency (ex. Lassen NP).

Gear

- Patrol Boxes – Scouts are supposed to maintain. YOU NEED TO INSPECT
- Shovel & First Aid Kit. Always a good idea.
- Rain/Snow shelter – check the weather. A tarp and rope can work.

- Fire wood /Axe. Most places do not allow wood gathering.
- Water containers
- Lanterns
- Propane Tanks – check to see how full beforehand!
- Stoves. Check for hoses and knobs
- Special cooking equipment like griddles and Dutch ovens – check menu.
- Tents – check tents for poles.

Permission Slips

Permission slips serve the following functions:

- Provide the dates and times of the outing.
- Specify what the scout needs to bring.
- Details cost for the scout and adults.
- Provides the leader permission to treat the scout.
- Provides the leader with written confirmation of who is attending.
- Provides the leader with drive options.

A WORD template is available to create the permission slip.

The time line is:

1. Send out permission slips at least two meetings prior to the DUE Date.
2. Due dates: Generally the meeting before is OK.
3. NOTE: Scout camps, Camporees, and Klondikes are different and have their own deadlines.

Keep a scout roster and check off who has paid, adults attending, etc. Note: Use the same list to determine who actually went.

Estimating Cost

An Excel spreadsheet is available to calculate the costs. You will need to count meals and determine travel distance.

Travel distance is easily calculated using Google Maps. <http://maps.google.com/maps> See “Get Directions”. Note you can alter the route if you don’t like Google’s. Don’t forget to multiply by 2!

Scout Preparation -- Food & Duty Roster

- Scouts will need a budget for food. (From the permission slip)
- Plan the food the meeting before.
- Someone needs to review the menu.

- Also look on the permission slips for adults that are willing to help shop. Food MUST be in boxes or coolers. Bags blow out!
- Scouts typically need to prepare food as part of their advancement. NOTE: They learn by doing, not watching! Have an older scout mentor, but not do it for them. THE SPL should help with this.
- SPL or PL need to create a duty roster.
- Gear needs to be checked two meetings before the outing. This allows time for maintenance, cleaning, etc. Checking should be supervised by an ASM.

Wrapping Up

Thorns & Roses

Listen to the scouts and adults. What can we do better?

Tracking Payments & Attendees

You will need to report on who went. Typically copies to committee chair and activities person.

Reimbursement

- Adults that bought the food are reimbursed up to the budgeted amount (or close). Need receipts.
- Adults that drove divide up the amount collected for travel. This doesn't need to be equal, just fair.
- Camp fees etc. are reimbursed to who ever paid.
- Provide the information to the treasurer.

Gear

- Wet gear must be hung
- Patrol boxes must be clean, complete, and free of food.
- Broken gear needs to be reported to the QM.

Resources

My Scouting: <https://myscouting.scouting.org/> (online training)

State Parks: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

Forest Service R5: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/>. See forest offices link. Forests near Paradise are Plumas, Lassen, Shasta-Trinity, Modoc, Tahoe, Klamath

Lassen NP: <http://www.nps.gov/lavo/index.htm>

Lava Beds NM: <http://www.nps.gov/labe/index.htm>

Chico Hiking Assoc.: <http://chicohiking.org/>