

TROOP 125 CAMPING TRIP GUIDELINES

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

1. Scouts in our Troop who have signed up and were at the meeting before the trip can come on the trip. Some trips require advance sign-up. Some activities have age or rank limitations on them, to make sure that the participants can handle what we will be doing.
2. Brothers and sisters not in the Troop should not participate, per BSA policy. There are several reasons for this, including: this distracts from the Scouting nature of the event, it places an added burden on the adult and junior leaders, and it may not be a developmentally appropriate activity, especially for younger siblings. Exceptions are designated "Family" camping trips.
3. For the Adults: Boy Scouts of America always requires a two-deep policy adult leadership on any Scout activity. Under this policy if one Scout needs to leave with an adult early (for a medical reason, etc.) only one leader would remain with the rest of the Scouts, it is therefore Troop 125's policy to make every attempt to have at least 3 adult leaders on every campout. Parents are welcome and encouraged to come on trips, as long as they follow our troop and trip guidelines. (Remember that Scouting is supposed to be a boy-run organization!) All adult leaders should complete the Adult Application and take the online Youth Protection Training.

PREPARATION

1. You must make every attempt to be at the meeting the Wednesday before the trip (unless otherwise announced). This is when we plan menus and duty rosters as well as make sure we have the payments, drivers, and camping arrangements, plus we give information on what to bring, when to show up, etc. PARENTS who are planning to attend should also be at this meeting.
2. Each Patrol will plan a Menu and a Duty Roster. The menu should be healthy food, which involves preparation--we do not just want to open a can or box and eat out of it! Each meal should include at least one fruit or vegetable, preferably more. The Menu needs to fit with the food budget for shopping, as well. NOTE: try to avoid prepared/packaged foods such as Pop-Tarts and Sodas/Soft Drinks.
3. Each member of the Patrol has Duties during the trip, as is on the Duty Roster. For most meals, this involves either Fire building, Cooking, or K.P. (cleanup). These duties rotate so that everyone usually has every job at least once.
4. One member of the Patrol is the Food Shopper (a detailed receipt will need to be presented for reimbursement) and will go shopping with the Patrol food list. It is important for the SCOUT to be doing this, not just the parent, as it is a rank requirement and a valuable learning experience. Some hints: Buy generic brands; buy ingredients, not prepared products; do not forget the paper towels. Usually, the shopper should also bring the cooler chest to transport the perishable food.
5. Adult leaders will plan their own meals.
6. DRIVERS: Designated drivers must be determined ahead of time and be included on our Tour Permits. BSA Tour Permits must be filed in advance with Verdugo Hills Council. This provides insurance coverage for our troop campouts/outings, and is required per BSA policy. Drivers must also have their car & insurance information on file with the troop.

PACKING

1. For specialized trips (like backpacking, etc.) information will be given during meetings. For regular trips, follow the packing lists in the Scout Handbook or in the Troop guidelines. Remember to bring eating utensils, flashlight, personal toiletries, Handbook (for Scouts not yet 1st Class), poncho, and appropriate clothing.
2. DO NOT BRING: You should not bring sheath knives, or dangerous items. You should not bring a lot of snacks, junk food, etc. NO SODAS. NO RADIOS OR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (exceptions will be made only for in-car driving time; electronics will be locked in the car while at camp). We camp to get away from it all not to carry it all around with us!
3. Pack your sleeping bag into a stuff bag (or trash bag if you do not have one) to keep it dry and clean. Try to pack light in a backpack or duffle bag that can be easily carried. Consider packing your gear in gallon-sized Ziploc bags. This keeps the clothing organized and helps keep it dry if it rains.

TRAVELING

1. We typically meet at Glenoaks Park at the announced time to pack and leave. Please be on time. Scouts need to help load the troop gear (and not play in the playground).
2. We wear our full uniforms or activity shirts when we travel to and from trips. Uniforms make us look sharp, remind us we are Scouts and are a group, and lets others know who we are.
3. All passengers must wear seatbelts in the vehicles.
4. On many trips that depart in the evening or the morning, we either ask that the Scout come fed, bring a sack meal along or stop for fast food (so much for healthy). On long drives we may also stop on the way home for lunch or dinner. You will be notified on this ahead of time. The Scout will be required to have money for this; funds can be given to an adult leader or held by the Scout. NOTE: it will be the discretion of the adult leader driver if Scouts are allowed to consume food & drink (other than water) in their vehicle. Please do not assume it will be okay for Scouts to bring food or purchase food to eat in the car; Scouts need to eat at the designated stops or come fed.
5. For the Adults: The trip coordinator needs to know which adults are planning on driving on the trip. Scouts may not drive. Adults are encouraged to combine/consolidate/carpool whenever possible so that we do not have a caravan of half-full vehicles. Cell phones and portable radios will be used to communicate between vehicles on the road.

ON THE TRIP

1. The Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders, and other Junior Leaders should be the ones making sure that work gets done. Adults should work with the junior leaders rather than do things for the Scouts.
2. On trips, we eat as a Patrol. Patrol members are responsible for bringing their own plate, cup, bowl, knife, fork and spoon. We have some of these in the Patrol Boxes but their cleanliness is variable. Each Patrol member does his own personal-dishes KP. Patrol KP involves washing dishes, putting away food, and picking up the area.
3. We usually return Sundays around lunchtime, depending on the program and the distance. When we are about 30-60 minutes out Scouts will call their parents, then need to help unload the troop and personal gear.

4. Scouts should travel to and from the camping trips with the troop. Generally we do not accommodate requests for Scouts to be brought up separately, or late, on camping trips. Likewise, parents are requested not to take their Scouts home early from camping trips. We want to travel as a group and work as a group. We will try hard to stick to the schedule we have announced. NOTE: This is our guideline, however we understand schedules are difficult to synch up and exceptions can always be made.

GENERAL

1. Scouts are expected to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law at all activities. Disobedient, dangerous, illegal, violent, and/or stupid behavior will not be tolerated. Adult leaders can and will send any Scout home, at the parents' time & expense, in the event of serious misbehavior.

Zero Tolerance rules:

- No unsafe or dangerous acts. This includes fighting, hitting, tripping, shoving, throwing objects, etc.
- No possession or use of illegal drugs.
- No Hazing.

2. Any changes from this general script will be announced at the meeting(s) prior to the trip. If you have any questions, check with your patrol leader, the senior patrol leader, the Scoutmaster, or the adult coordinator of the trip.

Happy Camping!

PACKING

While each camping trip will have its own packing recommendations, here are some basics to get you started, as well as a few words of explanation! Note: This may not be a "comprehensive" list.

As we know in California it rarely rains when we camp, however we recommend that your gear be weather-proof/resistant. For most trips, you don't necessarily need a backpack. You can use a duffel bag or other similar bag. Remember, though, you will have to be able to carry your gear some distance on some trips. Bags with shoulder straps are much easier to carry.

Remember that you will be wearing your Uniform or activity shirt for traveling during the trip.

Scout Essentials + :

- Rain poncho or jacket
- Flashlight (LED and headband lights work best; pack this somewhere you can find it in the dark)
- Scout Handbook (for not-yet 1st Class, you will frequently get requirements signed off on trips)
- Eating gear/mess kit (cup, bowl, plate, spoon, knife, fork; can be a set or from home; not glass however also not disposable – think green)
- Clothing for the season and length of the trip (could include swim suit)
- Hat (to keep sun off your face, or for warmth)
- Extra shoes/boots/sandals/flip-flops (in case yours get wet)
- Personal toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, deodorant, soap, shampoo, etc. as desired)
- Sleeping Bag
- Sleeping Pad
- Prescription medication if necessary (pack in a Ziploc and give to an adult leader to carry)
- Pocket knife (if you know how to use it safely)
- Sun protection – sunscreen, hat, sunglasses
- Matches or lighter (generally not necessary, and must be used only when appropriate)

- Refillable water bottle

Bring if you want to:

- Towel (if camping in the rain or near swimmable water)
- Deck of playing cards
- Camp chair or stool
- Cord or rope
- Pencil & paper
- Money (sometimes we stop for fast-food on the way, but this depends on the schedule)

Don't bring:

- Junk food
- Soft drinks
- Electronics (including radios, iPods, GameBoys, etc. – in car travel time exceptions may be made)
- Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs, Firearms, Sheath Knives, Dangerous or Stupid Stuff

FOOD

There are three important reasons why we ask Scouts to do food shopping for our camping trips. First, so we can eat! Someone has to do the shopping. Also, Scouts and adults are not supposed to bring back-up food. We expect the menu and shopping lists to be complete and correct, we make every attempt to eat healthy on our trips. Secondly, this is a learning experience for the Scout-- dealing with a budget, thinking through what is needed and what may be optional, and actually shopping and purchasing are important life skills. Lastly, this helps fulfill rank advancement requirements.

The parent should NOT do the shopping for the Scout. While this is undoubtedly easier, it denies the Scout an important experience, and undermines our efforts to be a boy-run troop. Parents may/should accompany the Scout, and give guidance, but this is the Scouts responsibility.

Under the guidance of its leaders, the patrol should plan a good menu for the weekend. The food groups should be well represented and every meal should have at least one fruit or vegetable. Things like Pop Tarts, soft drinks and other nutritionally empty junk foods are not part of a Scout menu. Once the menu is planned, the patrol creates a menu and the assigned Scout (the "Grub Master") the shopping list. This involves breaking down each meal into its parts (for example, what goes into a sandwich?), and estimating the number and size of servings. For the rank requirement, shopper Scouts also need to keep track of the cost of each item. Don't forget things like paper towels, condiments, etc. Note: The Grub Master responsibility will rotate among Patrol members.

The shopping budget is usually set for: breakfast \$2, lunch \$4 and dinner \$6. This is enough money to buy what is needed for trips, but ONLY if shopping is done wisely. We purposely keep the money low to encourage smart shopping. The Scout is expected to stay within the budget, even if this means modifying the menu or the shopping list to fit the budget. If the grub master (shopper) goes over their patrol budget, they will not be reimbursed for their overage. These are reasonable allowances if the Scout shops carefully and encourages them to be thrifty and resourceful. It may also be a good idea for Scouts to bring their local market ads to the meeting prior to the campout so that menus can be planned around sale items. This is an important life skill that will serve them well when they must make their own dollars stretch.

This process can be time consuming and might require an advance visit to the store for pricing. Parents should coach their Scouts to take advantage of newspaper sales, coupons, and discounted products. This process can take two to three hours in shopping. However, the skills that the Scout learns in this process are key life skills.

Some tips: Instead of brand name food, buy store brand items. Do NOT buy pre-made food-- buy the ingredients, rather than the finished product. (This also makes sure our cooks are getting good practice.)

Plan menus that aren't heavy on the expensive items like meat, junk food, etc. Left over condiment packets from fast food places are handy. Do not buy the gallon size ketchup, also place a premium on weight and space.

Almost every trip has food left over. Generally speaking, you may want to round down on items. Many people will eat only one sandwich. We usually have milk and orange juice left over.

Happy Shopping!

CAMPSITE PREPARATION - ON ARRIVAL

First thing! Patrol Leaders announce and hang up the duty rosters! Let there be no doubt in any one's mind what they have to do! Put the duty rosters where everyone can see them.

Assign jobs so that everyone has something preferably by the Wednesday prior to the campout and at the latest as soon as you arrive at the campsite. We want to avoid having too many Scouts trying to do the same job. If boys are standing around with nothing to do because there are too many of them trying to do the same thing, we will lose their attention. Once we have lost their attention it is very hard to get it back again.

Be aware of second or first class requirements if you need them. Tents should be up, gear stowed and fire ready for starting before you begin any other activities. Arrival is an important time to keep Scouts from wandering off. The natural tendency will be for them to goof off first and worry later. Don't do this!

Tents: Patrol Leaders assign two to three people to set up the tents

Fire: Leave No Trace (LNT) principals will be observed. Campfires may be used when permitted. Scouts will become proficient in the use of propane & back packing stoves, propane and backpacking lanterns. BSA does not permit the use of open liquid fuel. The Patrol Leader (or SPL or ASPL if there is only one place for a fire) will assign two Scouts to gather tinder, kindling and firewood. If it is an afternoon or evening arrival one or two Scouts will build the fire and to get the fire going.

Cooking: See Food and Cooking section of this guide. We do patrol style cooking; be sure to have the various jobs worked out on the Meal & Duty Roster before you arrive at camp. You should have every one's job posted for each meal. The different meal jobs should be rotated from meal to meal. If the jobs are not posted, the Patrol leader will assign them. Patrol leaders do not get a pass on meal preparation/clean up but also should not do more than their fair share. For difficult situations the Patrol Leaders will report any dissenting behavior to the SPL or ASPL.

CAMPING POLICY

Camping will be done by Patrol. The campsite will be organized into patrol areas. Ranking patrols get first choice of campsite area.

Each patrol will be responsible for a Patrol box for their patrol on camp outs. Troop patrol boxes contain, among other things, pots, pans, dishwashing supplies, propane stove, cooking utensils, foil, etc. Scouts will take turns bringing home the patrol box to clean. The Quartermaster will randomly check to see that they have done a good cleaning job, but will not do it for them. After each campout a Scout (on a rotation) will need to empty the box, checking items, and cleaning as necessary - do not forget to open the stove and clean it. The box itself needs to be cleaned too. The towel, sponge and potholders need to be washed and dried (yes, sponges can be put in the washing machine); they then reassemble the box. The Quartermaster will be notified in writing of anything missing or needs to be replenished or repaired. The

Quartermaster/troop will replenish the soap, paper towels, etc. prior to the next campout. The patrol box will be kept by the Scout that was responsible for cleaning it until the next campout (rotation).

After a campout, Scouts will bring home the tent they have been assigned, set it up, clean and air it out right away! Scouts must do it RIGHT AWAY so nothing mildews. Like patrol boxes this will be on a rotational basis and only one tent per Scout.

CAMPSITE INSPECTION

The following is a list of things to look for at your patrol campsite. Some things are for safety and some are for convenience. All are important and will help you and your patrol members to have a better time. There are often campsite inspections as part of inter-troop or inter-patrol competitions.

Tents

- ❖ Are all tents set up properly?
- ❖ Are the insides of the tent neatly arranged?
- ❖ Does each tent have a ground cloth or adequate protection?
- ❖ Was the ground bed properly prepared?
- ❖ Are sleeping bags stored neatly or airing out?
- ❖ Have the tents and equipment been well treated and cared for; are tent stow bags neatly put away?

Fires

- ❖ Are all fires at least 15 feet from any tent?
- ❖ Is the ground cleared at least 10 feet from each fire?
- ❖ Is there water to put out a fire in the case of an emergency?
- ❖ Is there enough firewood?
- ❖ Is the firewood protected?
- ❖ Are all cutting tools sharp and stored properly?

General

- ❖ Is the meal duty roster posted?
- ❖ Is the camp duty roster posted?
- ❖ Are patrol boxes, coolers and food properly stowed?
- ❖ Is the Outdoor Code being followed?

Breaking Camp

- ❖ Have all tents been stored properly with no parts missing?
- ❖ Has all garbage been properly disposed of?
- ❖ Is the campsite as pristine if not better than when you arrived?

TENTS

The Troop owns several tents. We selected tents carefully as we wanted a good quality, durable tent that could be used for backpacking trips. The Kelty tents we own are very good quality, and they are easily maintained. However, care must be exercised in setting-up, striking, cleaning and storing tents to avoid damage. Everyone has a vested interest in seeing that our tents remain clean and serviceable.

- Never take food or any drink except water inside a troop tent. Residual crumbs and stains may be enough to attract a bear! Never have any source of flame inside or near a tent. They are flame retardant not fire proof!

- Never unzip rain fly zippers from the top down to exit or enter. Always unzip from the bottom up. Zip and unzip slowly to avoid catching the zipper flies.
- Never carve or cut with a knife inside a tent! One slip and you have a hole!
- Never wash a tent with soap and water! Use only warm water and a soft sponge to wash. If you have filth that can't be removed with only water, advise the Troop Quartermaster.
- Never lay out a tent to dry on grass you want to keep! Ten minutes is all it takes to turn the grass yellow if the sun is hot.
- Never lay out a tent to dry on hot concrete or asphalt! The heat build up destroys the fabric finish and waterproof quality.
- Never leave a damp tent rolled in a tent bag. Always air dry your tent as soon as you get home from a campout to avoid mildew and damage to the tent. In fact, in the military they teach that a soldier is not to get cleaned-up before he/she has cleaned his equipment! Scouts might want to follow that same rule because Scouts also need to rely on and live with their equipment in tough conditions!
- Always hang or set up tents in a cool dry area to dry and air the tent. A tent usually should be setup and allowed to air dry for 24 or more hours after use. Don't assume that because it didn't rain on the campout that the tent doesn't need to be aired and dried - the condensation of Scout's breath is enough to cause mildew that damages the tent finish.
- Always unzip the fly and tent doors and shakeout all debris before rolling and storing a tent. Consider storing the tent with the fly attached. This makes for easy setup in the field after dark.
- Always fold the tent in thirds and roll the tent around the bag containing the tent poles and stakes. This ensures the tent body does not develop permanent creases. This also ensures that the tent poles do not get bent in transport. Always report any defects in a tent to the Quartermaster!
- Always put the tent bag, pole bag and tent peg bag in your pocket until the tent is completely set up so they don't blow away. When the tent is up, put all the bags in the big tent bag and place inside the tent. Report any lost equipment to the Quartermaster prior to leaving the campsite so a search can be done.

PATROL BOXES

Each patrol will be responsible for a Patrol box for their patrol on camp outs. Troop patrol boxes contain, among other things, pots, pans, dishwashing supplies, propane stove, cooking utensils, foil, etc.

- Scouts will take turns bringing home the patrol box to clean. The Quartermaster will randomly check to see that they have done a good cleaning job, but will not do it for them.
- After each campout a Scout (on a rotation) will need to empty the box, checking items, and cleaning as necessary; do not forget to open the stove and clean it. The box itself needs to be cleaned too. The towel, sponge and potholders need to be washed and dried (yes, sponges can be put in the washing machine); they then reassemble the box.
- The Quartermaster will be notified in writing of anything missing or needs to be replenished or repaired.

- The Quartermaster/troop will replenish the soap, paper towels, etc. prior to the next campout. The patrol box will be kept by the Scout that was responsible for cleaning it until the next campout (on a rotation).
- The Quartermaster will maintaining an equipment log noting which Scout has each patrol box, tent and ground cloth. All patrol boxes and tents should be uniquely numbered.
- Patrols will use the same equipment on every trip; so if that patrol does not properly maintain the equipment, that patrol may have to suffer the consequences on that campout.

TROOP EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Please try to maintain the equipment (tents, patrol boxes and lanterns) to your best ability. Normal wear and tear is understandable however if it is determined that damage or missing items are due to negligence or carelessness the Quartermaster, SPL and ASPL will make a recommendation if the Scout or patrol needs to pay for the replacement equipment or supplies. Final decision will be made by the Troop Committee.

Patrols will use the same equipment on every trip; so if that patrol does not properly maintain the equipment, that patrol may have to suffer the consequences on that campout. The Quartermaster will maintaining an equipment log noting which Scout is responsible for and has each patrol box, tent and ground cloth (rotation). All patrol boxes and tents should be uniquely numbered.