

**BLUE**

# CAMPING 1

*Explorer Level*

## Purpose

To learn the basic skills and knowledge required for safe enjoyable camping.

## Exploring

The first thing to do when planning to go camping is to choose your destination and plan your camp. Also list the equipment required.

Here is a sample equipment list for a 3-day camp:

GENERAL	PERSONAL	OPTIONAL
Tent	clothes	dishwashing liquid
ropes	toiletries	chairs
hammer	towel	table
shovel	sleeping bag	car cooler
axe	pillow	gas lamp
bucket	torch	airbed
matches	matches	blanket
pans & large billy	walking shoes	gas stove
compass	toilet paper	
crockery, cutlery	raincoat	
first-aid kit	bible	
food (see menu)		

When you have arrived, a camp site needs to be chosen remembering things such as:

1. Do not camp too close to rivers in case of flooding.
2. A slight slope for tents (drainage). Avoid creek beds.
3. Close to water supply.
4. Wind protection.
5. Camp-fire location; three metres clear earth, seven metres to nearest tree/shrub, three metres clear sky.
6. Toilet and rubbish areas (rubbish to be carted out).



## PITCHING YOUR TENT

This is where we work as a team. Everyone helps everyone until all tents are up. This team work is very important in camping because you will spend your time living very closely with your fellow Cadets, so be sure to be helpful, patient, caring and strive to make your camp enjoyable for everyone.

Here are some basic rules for pitching your tent:

1. Choose your site carefully remembering your campsite check-list
2. Make sure you have enough space for your tent before you unpack your tent.
3. Lay out your tent, poles, and ropes making sure you have everything to pitch your tent.
4. Erect your tent, peg down outside perimeter and tighten all guy ropes.
5. Dig drainage trench around your tent (if permitted).
6. Remember to loosen guy ropes if the tent gets wet, because it will shrink. (Nylon tents expand, so tighten guy ropes)
7. Do not touch the inside of tent when wet or you will start a leak.

## SAFETY RULES

1. Do not wander from your camping or hiking group.
2. Do not swim alone.
3. Make sure your Counsellor knows where you are at all times.
4. Always store food in a cool and safe place.
5. Put out fires when leaving them unattended.
6. Don't use an axe unless you have completed 'Axemanship', badge.

## Doing

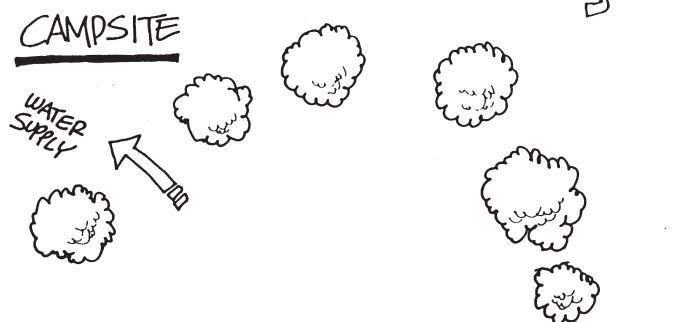
In order to go camping you will need to develop and learn some practical skills such as: knot tying, fire making, cooking, etc.

*Complete the following.*

### 1. PLANNING

In this illustration draw where you would place the following:

- tent
- campfire
- toilet
- garbage storage
- washing area



Discuss the details of your campsite with your counsellor.

### 2. KNOT TYING

Knot tying is a very important skill for camping, as well as for many other situations.

Learn to tie the following knots and know their uses:



#### a. Thumb Knot

To make a stop on a rope end to prevent the end from fraying

#### b. Reef Knot

Used for joining ropes of equal thickness, used as a knot to tie packages and bundles. It lies flat, holds well and is easily untied.

A handy saying to help you remember how to tie this knot is:

1. Left over right and around.
2. Right over left and around.



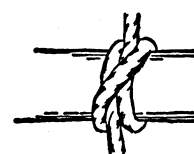
#### c. Sheet Bend

Used for joining ropes of different thickness.



#### d. Clove Hitch

Used for fastening a rope to a post, a ring or a rail. It is used for starting and finishing most lashings.



Demonstrate the tying of these knots to your Counsellor.

3. FOOD

- For a three-day, two-night camp, make a menu keeping several points in mind.
- a. Perishable food should be kept to a minimum unless cooling facilities are available.
  - b. Plan your meals carefully, make sure you know how to cook them because you are probably the only one who will.
  - c. Make sure you have a balanced menu (not weet-bix for breakfast, lunch and tea).
  - d. Dried foods are good for camps. They are light to carry and easy to cook.  
(A quick conference with mum might be handy.)

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4. FIRES

In order to cook and keep warm at camps, you will often use an open fire. In any outdoor camp area you must be very careful to guard against an accidental fire outbreak.

The rules in most areas are as follows:

- 1. three metres clear dirt around fire and clear sky.
- 2. seven metres to nearest tree or stump.
- 3. **Fires must not be lit on total fire ban days.**
- 4. Always have a source of water close by for emergencies.
- 5. Keep firewood stack outside the seven metre circle.
- 6. Restore area to original state before departing.

The most commonly used fire is the trench fire, it is made by digging a trench 30 cm deep (the width of your spade) and 1 metre long. You should have your trench opening into the wind for a proper draught. Start fire with kindling then gradually increase size of firewood.

- a. Construct a trench fire for your counsellor.
- b. From memory recite the safety rules to your counsellor.

5. DEVOTIONS

Make sure that regular devotions are held.

- 6. Attend at least one overnight camp.

Reflection

Remember camping is a time for fun, friendship and a time to reflect on God’s creation around us. So have a great camp and remember to help each other, share your skills and talents (maybe even some of your food?) with your fellow cadets and counsellors.

Ask your Counsellor to sign below and arrange for the presentation of your badge.

..... date .....