Session Two
Outdoor Program Patrol/Group Activity

Time Allowed

20 minutes

Teaching Objectives

• Lead participants through the experience of a patrol planning for an outdoor activity.
• Bring to light the various safety considerations that must be kept in mind during the planning of outdoor Scouting activities.
• Invite participants to discuss the points of Trek Safely as they apply to specific planning situations.
• Encourage participants to become accustomed to using BSA literature as resources for planning adventures and ensuring their safety.

Materials Needed

• The Scoutmaster Handbook, No. 33009C (at least one for each team)
• The Boy Scout Handbook, No. 33105 (at least one for each team)
• Assignment for distribution (appendix)
• PowerPoint® slides or overheads from CD, if desired
• Posters

Recommended Facility Layout

• Session meeting area. Each participant should have a comfortable place to sit, take notes, and organize written materials. That setting most often consists of tables, each accommodating six to eight participants forming a patrol, and enough chairs for all participants.
Delivery Method

- Each team is challenged to draw on available resources to plan an outdoor experience in a prescribed environment and to describe the application of Trek Safely.

Presentation Procedure

Session 2, slide 14

This is an activity for groups of six to eight participants, ideally groups that have identified themselves as patrols since the beginning of Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training. In sessions with small numbers of participants, instructors may form them into four groups that, for the purposes of this exercise, will act as patrols regardless of their size.

Worksheets for four different assignments are located in the appendix. Give one assignment to each group. If there are more than four groups, several can receive the same assignment or instructors can draw up additional assignments that follow the format of the originals. In training courses with a small number of participants, teams can divide into sub-groups of two or three participants, each sub-group accepting one of the assignments. In any case, it is important that assignments be distributed in such a way that all the points of Trek Safely will be considered and presented by at least one of the teams or sub-groups.

Encourage teams to refer to *The Scoutmaster Handbook* and the *Boy Scout Handbook* as references for checklists and information on appropriate personal and group gear, menus, etc. They will also need to note the paperwork required and the safety issues they must consider, with special attention to Trek Safely.

After the groups have had time to develop their plans for an outdoor experience, ask them to present their results to the larger group. Session instructors can use these presentations to highlight important points of planning and conducting a troop’s outdoor program, and for discussing issues of safety.

**Presentation Summary**

A boy-run troop using the patrol method can use the resources of the BSA to plan and carry out exciting activities in the out-of-doors.

Trek Safely provides clear guidelines for planning and conducting outdoor activities in ways that are satisfying, that are meaningful, and that strive to create a safe environment for everyone involved. *Guide to Safe Scouting* provides specific activity guidelines and instructions.