

Troop 110 – Weekend Camping Preparation Guidelines

Troop 110 will be camping in a number of different formats throughout the year. We will go on camping weekends with just our Troop where we will work on outdoor and camping skills as a Troop. Other times we will join other Troops at a “Camporee”. These offer the opportunity to meet up with Scouts from other Troops and these weekends typically feature a theme and some sort of competition between the Troops. Lastly, there is the annual summer camp experience where we attend a week-long camping experience at a Council camp such as Camp Hinds. At these events, food is programming (merit badges and other activities) are structured by the camp allowing Scouts to work on advancement activities that they might otherwise not have access to.

This document is going to focus on the first two type of camping experiences where we travel as a Troop and Patrols are responsible for much of their own planning and execution. This document is not intended to be all-inclusive, but should prompt you and your Scout to think about the event and prepare accordingly.

Other Resources:

The first go-to reference is the Boy Scout Handbook. Depending on the version, you may find this information in different sections and pages, but there is an entire section on camping (Section 9 in the 13th edition). On page 267 of the 13th edition there are pages on what gear to pack and a checklist.

There are also a lot of similar online resources. Try searching for them or click on these links:

<https://scoutlife.org/outdoors/outdoorarticles/6976/scout-outdoor-essentials-checklist/>

<https://scoutsmarts.com/scout-camping-packing-list/>

and a good overall Scout web site: <http://usscouts.org/>

These resources will provide you with all of the key items that you will need to pack, but in general, these are the most important for a weekend campout:

- Changes of clothes (weather appropriate, including raingear, warm and cold weather gear as it will get cool at night), appropriate comfortable footwear.
- Bug repellent, sun screen
- Sleeping bag & pillow. Foam or air mattress optional
- Toiletries – soap, toothbrush & toothpaste
- Mess kit – including bowls, plates, cups, and utensils
- Pocket knife or multi-tool
- Personal first aid kit
- compass

What NOT to pack or items provided by the Troop:

- anything larger than a pocketknife or multi-tool (i.e. large fixed blade knives, hatchets, saws, etc.)
- Tent, although if your Scout has their own tent that they would prefer to use, they certainly can. The Troop has enough tents for all that want to use them.
- Cooking equipment – The troop has two complete camp kitchens stocked with cooking equipment and utensils
- Anything that your Scout doesn’t want to lose or get soiled or broken. By this I mean dressier clothes, that new toy or item that really doesn’t belong at camp, electronics, etc. We want to stay focused on camp activities and sometimes that can get dirty, messy, etc. We promise to do

everything we can to return your Scout back to you in the same condition that he left for the camping trip, but possibly a little tired and dirty.

- If you have any questions on whether something should be packed or not, please feel free to e-mail or group message me anytime. Also, my cell phone number is: (207) 740-6585.

Activities for Weekend Camp-Outs:

We work to put together an agenda that combines fun activities with advancement. We typically get quite a bit done when we camp as a Troop. For young Scouts, we are going to get their Tote-N-Chip and Firemen's Chit requirements done, which will then allow your Scouts to safely handle camp tools such as axes, saws, etc. and to build fires. Depending on what we decide to focus on for a particular camp out, we might be working on map-and-compass work, first aid, lashing, etc. In general, the materials for these activities will be provided by the Troop. If there is anything specifically needed for a particular camp-out, it will be noted in advance.

Schedule – Drop-off and Pick up:

For typical week-end camp-outs or Camporees, we will arrive at the camp site (Camp Gustin unless otherwise noted) at around 5 PM on Friday. The first order of business will be to get the tents and Troop equipment set up. NOTE: This is a labor-intensive activity that is best accomplished before the sun goes down, so parent assistance is greatly appreciated. We will have a lot of new Scouts trying to set up new tents and figure out our Troop gear, so any extra hands we can get would be great.

Since we will be spending the first couple of hours setting up, there really isn't any time to cook an evening meal. Typically we encourage Scouts to either eat before they arrive, or bring a brown bag dinner of some kind that they can dig into after set-up. Later, when we are relaxing around an evening campfire, we will often have a "cracker barrel", and this can be cheese and crackers, pepperoni, etc. or smores, whichever is preferred by the Patrols.

Pick up on Sunday morning is typically around 9 AM, unless otherwise noted. Patrols are encouraged to plan a cold breakfast for Sunday morning – cereal, granola, fruit, etc. so that we can begin breaking down camp.

Patrol Method at Camp:

Whenever we have the opportunity to be in our regular Patrols we will do so. However, if it appears that there might not be enough Scouts in one or two Patrols to be effective, two smaller Patrols may be combined for the purposes of the camp-out. Each Patrol is responsible for creating their own menu and duty roster for the camp out. The menu should include an ingredient list so that the Scout that is selected to do the shopping knows what to get and for how many people. The cost for the food should be divided up evenly between the Scouts attending. The menu needs to take cost into consideration, along with preferences of the Scouts in the Patrol as well as any food allergies. With that in mind, we have a notebook full of meal ideas to mix things up and try new camp foods that should still please most Scouts.

Patrol Leaders will lead their Patrols in the various activities at camp, with guidance from our Leadership Corps – the older Scouts. Leadership is one of the most important areas of development for Scouts, and camping is a great time to learn those skills. For those Scouts that are not yet in leadership

positions, it is important to learn how to be a good follower, and to watch and learn from those leading in preparation for the time when they will be in those leadership positions.

Weather, Medical Forms and Other Emergency Considerations:

In preparation for Summer Camp, I recommend all Scouts that are attending Summer Camp to get their full physical done (see the med form on our website here: http://mainetroop110.org/html/forms_and_links.html) – and have all three parts, A, B, and C completed and sent to me. Note that part C MUST be completed by a physician and if there are any medications like an epipen or asthma inhaler needed, you also need to complete the Emergency Medical Action Plan form. You can hand it to me in person, or e-mail me: scoutmaster@mainetroop110.org
If your Scout is NOT going to summer camp, you still need to complete the first two sections A & B and send them to me.

If there are any emergencies I will call parents immediately and determine the proper course of action. We will have sufficient supervision on site to meet the coverage requirements and 2-deep leadership as required by BSA. We are also fortunate to have a number of experienced Scout leaders, so your Scouts are in good hands.

Scout camping sometimes happens in less-than-perfect weather conditions. Unless there is dangerous weather, we will be camping regardless of the temperature or precipitation, so please plan accordingly. Pack rain gear even if you don't think you will need it, etc. If there are changes that need to be addressed, such as severe thunderstorms, I will use the GroupMe chat to communicate with parents. If this system is not working for you, please let me know in advance so that we can sort it out. I need to make sure I can reach everyone in an emergency.

That is it for now. Please feel free to e-mail or message me if you have any questions.

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