

The Traditional Scout Camp

The Traditional Scout Camp is one where as many Scouting skills as possible are used, although not exclusively. As with any type of camp, there are advantages and disadvantages with this, some of which are outlined below:

Patrol Tents



These are the large, old style canvas tents. The patrol all sleep in the same

tent, which develops bonding within the Patrol and a sense of teamwork. This cannot really develop when small hike tents (usually only sleep one or two) are used.

The main disadvantages with using Patrol Tents are their weight and size. They are definitely not suitable for an 'on the move' camp where you are not sleeping all week at the same site, and take several people to put up, whereas hike tents are very light and can almost be put up in some case by throwing it into the air!

Cooking

Whilst on camp, as well as being useful for cooking on, to 'wind down' whilst sitting around a dying fire is a wonderful way to end a day. Although a wood fire is necessary for backwoods cooking and a camp oven (both traditional skills covered elsewhere in the document) the problem with a wood fire is that it is far harder to control an even heat over a period, and needs constant attention plus some time to get it going in the first place.

The other disadvantage with cooking on wood is that the bottom of the pans will

get dirty and need cleaning too, unless of course you have a metal plate/grill over the fire or a 'paste' made out of washing powder smeared round the bottom of the pans.

As long as there is a good supply of wood, there is no problem with a fuel source running out, and there is no need to lug heavy gas bottles around with you. However, being able to light and cook on wood is a useful skill that can also come in handy in an emergency, and is also useful for survival weekends.

Gadgets

Camp Gadgets are little accessories made, usually with knots and lashings, to make life easier. This may range from a simple 'mug stand' (a multi-forked branch rammed into the ground) through to complete tables and 'camp

dressers' (washbowl holder, plate rack and pot stands).

The only disadvantage with camp gadgets is that they can take a long time to make and are not really worth it on weekend camps - and, of course, your Scouts need to have the skills!

Programme

The programme itself need not necessarily follow a 'traditional' theme, and of course if activities such as canoeing and abseiling are available there is no reason why you should not partake in them. The main advantage of a 'traditional' camp is that it is revising and keeping basic Scouting skills alive, and in fact there are a number of badgework options that can only be ticked as passed if a traditional Scout camp is run, such as cooking over a wood fire.

It is not necessary for every camp to be a traditional camp, as different types of camps will achieve different aims depending on the circumstances. Of course, these can be mixed, such as on an activity camp you may use patrol tents as several of your younger Scouts need the experience of putting them up, but cooking will be done on gas to save time and therefore have more time to take part in the activities laid on.