



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HYCOTEE HERALD

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Because You Said Yes

Sam Houston Area Council

Because you said yes,

- √ A young man will feel the pride of being someone special as he carefully puts on his uniform for the very first time
- √ A young man can move to a new town and have "instant friendships" with Scouts he might never have met
- √ Parents will experience that special pride when they listen to their son say the Cub Scout Promise for the first time
- √ Bright eyes will become a little brighter with excitement as the kindling finally catches on the first campfire
- √ The community, and the world will be richer because a young man has learned the importance of caring for his environment, and the warm feeling that comes from giving service to someone less fortunate than himself
- √ A young man will contact the Boy Scouts one day and say "I had so much fun when I was a Cub Scout, I'd like to try being a leader"

And the circle will continue; because you said yes!



A Boy

Santa Clara County Council

He is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is to sit right where you are sitting, and attend, when you are gone, to those things you think are so important.

You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they will be carried out depends on him. Even if you have leagues and treaties, he will have to manage them.

He will assume control of our cities, states and nation. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities, and nation.

All your work is going to be judged and praised or condemned by him. Your reputation and your future are in his hands.

All your work is for him; and the fate of the nation and of humanity lies in his hands. It is well that we pay him some attention.

Cub Scouts 2010

Bill Smith, the Roundtable Guy

How good it is to see that National is now excited about Cub Scout retention, and how den meetings fit in, after decades of depending almost entirely on more recruiting to make up for membership losses. Cub Scouts 2010 is the new approach to provide structure to den meetings. A lot of the structure is based on advancement in the boys' Cub Scout books. That is a significant improvement in that much advancement – especially the requirements – is there specifically to support Scouting's Aims. Almost anything that pushes us to do that seems OK with me.

Retention has, for many years, been a problem in Cub Scouting. We have long known many of the causes for boys dropping out of the program: dull, inconsistent meetings, untrained leaders, and especially failed dens. Some attention has been paid over the years to improving pack meetings and particularly to outdoors and summer-time programs but problems in den programs were generally ignored. Once we started measuring retention at the den level, it became apparent that as many as a third of our drop-outs were from dens that had completely disappeared from our membership roles. Our den support has been systemically weak, and it is heartening to see how Cub Scouts 2010 emphasizes the den.

The delivery schedule has been markedly improved over those of earlier changes. CS-2010 will not come into general effect until the fall of next year. That provides time for updating support material like Training and Roundtable Guides. I remember the debacle when we introduced the new Tiger program in 2001 with no support – not even the boys' books – available for months – even a year - later. This is a significant change and I'm personally glad to see

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Calendar

October is Popcorn Month

- 1 Rockingham County Roundtable
- 2-4 Cherokee District Fall Family Encampment
- 8 Person County Roundtable -
- 9 Week 1 Council Fill-a-From Incentive deadline - 5pm at Council office
- 10 EAA - Young Eagles event
..... Fall Float Trip
- 15 Cherokee District Committee Meeting
- 16 Week 2 Council Fill-a-From Incentive deadline - 5pm at Council office
- 23 Week 3 Council Fill-a-From Incentive deadline - 5pm at Council office
- 30 Week 4 Council Fill-a-From Incentive deadline - 5pm at Council office
- 30 - 1 2009 Cub Family Camp SPOOKaREE

- 20 Door to Door Popcorn Pick-up - Rockingham County
- 26 Thanksgiving

December

- 3 Rockingham County Roundtable
..... Person County Roundtable -
- 8 Person County Popcorn money is DUE
- 10 Rockingham & Caswell Counties Popcorn money is DUE
- 17 Cherokee District Committee Meeting
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 25 Christmas

DE Minute

November

- 1 2009 Cub Family Camp SPOOKaREE
- 3 Election Day
..... Person County Popcorn Turn-in Product Order and Prize Order Forms Due
- 5 Person County Merit Badge College
..... Rockingham County Roundtable
..... Door-to-Door Product Order and Prize Order Forms Due - Rockingham & Caswell Counties
- 7 Cub Scout Leader's Pow Wow
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 12 Person County Roundtable -
- 19 Person County Merit Badge College
..... Cherokee District Committee Meeting
..... Door to Door Popcorn Pick-up - Caswell and Person Counties

District Commissioner's Corner

District Chairman's Notes

it seems to be scheduled in a deliberate, measured manner.

Another advantage is that there is a lot of advance information available on the internet. This does much to ameliorate rumors and apprehension. Many of my own questions that arose from the lack of information available at the national Meeting last June have now been satisfactorily answered. Lack of transparency has plagued program changes in the past. This is a huge improvement!

That doesn't mean everything will be perfect right from the start. There will be a learning curve for all of us and we should expect more changes as we gain experience. Our unit leaders are a clever lot and I expect that many of them will be suggesting all sorts of ideas to make it even better.

I heartily encourage every Scouter to sign up for the [https://myscouting.scouting.org/Scouting Community](https://myscouting.scouting.org/ScoutingCommunity) on My Scouting and join groups that interest you. This is the best venue to air your views to the Scouting world. So, login, sign up if you haven't and start participating. (You will need the ID number on your BSA membership card to register.)

Pack Meetings and Themes

I wonder how dropping themes will affect Pack meetings. Of course not all packs follow themes but most of the really successful ones do base their pack meetings and activities on some inspiring, fun idea. I have read two versions of how CS-2010 plans to organize Pack Meetings: one based on Character Connections and the second based on following National and/or Council activities. The first sounds sort of dull and the other begs the question: Isn't the mission of councils supposed to be to serve units, not the other way 'round? The promotional material pays lip service to retaining and even increasing the fun of Cub Scouting but I certainly hope that someone is busy working on it.

The good news is, that along with themes, goes a lot of the busy, cute craft projects that have been the bane of our program for so long. Let's replace craft with games, magic and outings.

Roundtables

A new Roundtable Guide that supports Fast Track and CS-2010 has been announced. I would expect the quality to be at least as good as the current one. Roundtables will change. A lot of the burden will fall on local districts to respond to the needs of the unit leaders they serve.

Training

Training will have to be updated as well. There should be much that was useful from the pilot programs. The quality of the present training is the best I have seen in my forty odd years of Cub Scouting. The group headed up by Ted Rohling and Sam Thompson raised the bar for training manuals to new heights last year and it would be a shame to lose that quality. Unless Ted or someone with equivalent background and education is involved in producing the updated training, I worry about what we might get.

The same concerns may also apply to updated versions of other resources such as The Cub Scout Leader Book and the How To Book. Both of those are presently as good as they have ever been. It would be shameful to mess these up with a rushed update.

Parents

There has been some question as to whether Fast Tracks could potentially turn Cub Scouting into a drop-off day care program, rather than a program that stresses family involvement. I hope not. Home and family involvement has been one of greatest attractions of Cub Scouting. It makes our program rather unique, not only in Scouting but also in programs for American youth. Over and over we see the strongest and most successful packs are those that make parents and families an important part of their programs.

So far it seems that some advancement will be completed in the den, presumably as part of fun or adventurous activities and other advancement will be completed at home. This has worked admirably in the Tiger program for some eight years now.

I must admit that some of the presentations at the National Meeting last June were

disappointing in the way they dismissed parent participation but I'm not sure that they were truly representative of CS-2010.

Conclusion

There is much to cheer about in this venture. There is a promise and an expectation that many of the barriers that have hampered leaders in the past may now be removed. I look forward to it.

But there is also a huge challenge ahead. Getting it right will take a lot of time and a lot of hard work. Don't expect things to fall in place overnight or work in every den, every pack in every neighborhood. For instance, small packs with multi-rank dens will have difficulty fitting into this. Things that work well in one locality will fail in another.

A lot will depend on the make-up and dedication of the various committees and advisory panels that become parts of the process. Updating support materials and creating new versions require that the people involved meet with each other, often several times. Getting a group of Scouters together who represent diverse communities and factions of Cub Scouting is a time consuming and expensive procedure.

Trying to do it on-line may not work. When I was organizing a committee of about two dozen experienced, mostly IT-capable Scouters for a Jamboree exhibit, I was devastated to realize that emails, chat groups and such were of little

help. Face-to-face discussion beat everything else for what we were trying to do. My spectacular friend, Sue Hauser, had much the same experience when she led the task force writing the first Tiger Book. I had helped her set up a private Yahoo group for her committee, but only when the entire group got together in Nashville did everything jell and the process took off. A lot of what has to be done now will take lots of travel and lots of meetings. Don't expect instant success.

It will also take professional input that is intimately familiar with Cub Scouting, especially what goes on in dens. This isn't trivial. Most professional Scouters were never den leaders and must rely on volunteers who were. Sort of accidentally, I took over the den leadership when my grandson's DL was suddenly posted to Europe. After some thirty-five years of adult Scouting experience, serving on three National task-forces, and four years as Council Vice president, I thought being a den leader would be a snap. Boy, was I wrong! No one knows what it's like to lead a den until you face that gang in blue busting through the door and challenging you to do your best. My experience as a parent, Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, or instructor failed to prepare me. Being a DL is an adventure that has to be lived.

I don't expect CS-2010 to be perfect, just better.



SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

Emergency Preparedness Award

From www.scouting.org and www.usscouts.org

Emergency management, emergency preparedness, and disaster services are common throughout the United States—we take care of each other. By whatever name, these activities encompass mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery related to any kind of disaster, whether natural, technological, or national security. Emergency preparedness means being prepared for all kinds of emergencies, able to respond in time of crisis to save lives and property, and to help a community—or even a nation—return to normal life after a disaster occurs.

It is a challenge to be prepared for emergencies in our world of man-made and natural phenomena. The Emergency Preparedness BSA program is planned to inspire the desire and foster the skills to meet this challenge in our youth and adult members so that they can participate effectively in this crucial service to their families, communities, and nation.

The emergencies of today's world demand more than ever that our young people and adults be trained as individuals and as units to meet emergency situations. The importance of this training is not new to the Boy Scouts of America, as Scouting has always taught youth to be prepared for all types of emergencies. Since Scouting began in the United States, Scouts have responded to the needs of their communities and nation in time of crisis.

From its beginning, the Scouting movement has taught youth to do their best, to do their duty to God and country, to help others, and to prepare themselves physically, mentally, and morally to meet these goals. The basic aims of Scouting include teaching youth to take care of themselves, to be helpful to others, and to develop courage, self-reliance, and the will to be ready to serve in an emergency.

In addition to the millions of youth and adults who are active members of the Boy Scouts of America, millions of former members were trained in Scouting skills that prepare them for meeting

emergencies. They are a built-in source of help to meet the challenge of readiness for any emergency situation. As Scouting units across the country begin planning an emphasis on emergency preparedness, this foundation of former members can be a resource for support—a trained group to help assure a response that will benefit the homes and communities of our nation.

When an emergency occurs, it affects every youth and adult member of BSA in the immediate area, creating the responsibility to respond first, as an individual; second, as a member of a family; and third, as a member of a Scouting unit serving the neighborhood and community. Because of these multiple levels of responsibility, the Emergency Preparedness BSA plan includes training for individual, family, and unit preparedness. Special training in all three areas is a prerequisite for BSA members conducting any type of emergency service in their communities.

Individual Preparedness

The primary emphasis of this initial step in the program is to train members to be mentally and emotionally prepared to act promptly and to develop in them the ability to take care of themselves. Teaching young people to know and be able to use practical survival skills when needed is an important part of individual preparedness.

Family Preparedness

Since family groups will be involved in most emergency situations, this part of the plan includes basic instructions to help every Scouting family prepare for emergencies. Families will work together to learn basic emergency skills and how to react when faced with fires, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, explosions, warning signals, fallout protection, terrorism attacks, and other emergency situations.

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Tiger Cub Requirements

1. Complete Tiger Cub Achievement 3*â•”Keeping Myself Healthy and Safe. This achievement covers a family fire plan and drill and what to do if separated from the family.
2. Complete Tiger Cub Elective 27*â•”Emergency! This elective helps a Tiger Cub be ready for emergencies and dangerous situations and has him discuss a family emergency plan with his family.
3. With your parent or guardian’s help, complete one of these three activities.
 - a. Take the American Red Cross First Aid for Children Today (FACT) course.
 - b. Join a safe kids program such as McGruff Child Identification, Internet Safety, or Safety at Home.
 - c. Show and tell your family household what you have learned about preparing for emergencies.

Wolf Cub Scout Requirements

1. Complete Wolf Cub Scout Achievement 9*â•”Be Safe at Home and on the Street. This is a check of your home to keep it safe.
2. Complete Wolf Cub Scout Elective 16*â•”Family Alert. This elective is about designing a plan for your home and family in case an emergency takes place.
3. With your parent or guardian’s help, complete one of the following activities that you have not already completed for this award as a Tiger Cub:
 - a. Take American Red Cross Basic Aid Training (BAT) to learn emergency skills and care for choking, wounds, nose bleeds, falls, and animal bites. This course includes responses for fire safety, poisoning, water accidents, substance abuse, and more.
 - b. Make a presentation to your family on what you have learned about preparing for emergencies.
 - c. Join a Safe Kids program such as McGruff Child Identification program. Put on a training program for your family or den on stranger awareness, Internet safety, or safety at home.

Bear Cub Scout Requirements

1. Complete Bear Cub Scout Achievement 11*â•”Be Ready. The focus of this achievement is the best way to handle emergencies.
2. Make a small display or give a presentation for your family or den on what you have learned about preparing for emergencies.
3. With your parent or guardian’s help, complete one of the following activities that you have not already completed for this award as a Tiger Cub

or Wolf Cub Scout:

- a. Take American Red Cross Basic Aid Training (BAT) to learn emergency skills and care for choking, wounds, nose bleeds, falls, and animal bites. This course includes responses for fire safety, poisoning, water accidents, substance abuse, and more..
- b. Put together a family emergency kit for use in the home.
- c. Organize a safe kids program such as McGruff Child Identification program. Put on a training program for your family or den on stranger awareness, Internet safety, or safety at home.

* Achievement and elective numbers could change; the achievement or elective title determines what the requirement is.

Webelos Scout Requirements

1. Earn the Readyman activity badge from the community badge group.
2. Build a family emergency kit, with an adult family member participating in the project.
3. With your parent or guardian’s help, complete one of the following that you have not already completed for this award as a Tiger Cub or Wolf or Bear Cub Scout:
 - a. Take a first aid course conducted by your local American Red Cross chapter.
 - b. Give a presentation to your den on preparing for emergencies.
 - c. Organize a training program for your Webelos den on stranger awareness, Internet safety, or safety at home.

A good resource for information is www.ready.gov

When a member has fulfilled the requirements appropriate to his age/program segment, a completed application is submitted to the council. Upon approval, an Emergency Preparedness pin is awarded. The pin may be worn on civilian clothing or on the uniform, centered on the left pocket flap. The award may be earned more than once; for instance, as a young person advances through the ranks and is capable of more complex preparedness activities, but only one pin may be worn. You can get the application at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/Publications/EmergencyPreparedness.aspx>

Boy Scout & Varsity Scout Requirements

Participate in creating an emergency plan for your home and for your troop or team's Scouting activities. Be sure you know the details of both emergency plans.

Earn the First Aid or the Emergency Preparedness merit badge.

With your troop or team, including its adult leaders, participate in emergency preparedness training conducted by community emergency preparedness agencies.

Venturer and Sea Scout Requirements

Complete all of the Emergency Preparedness core requirement number 4 (page 17, Ranger Guidebook).

Do one of the following:

- a. Complete the First Aid core requirement (page 16, *Ranger Guidebook*). This may be fulfilled either by completing the standard American Red Cross first aid course *When Help Is Delayed* or by completing the American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Course.
- b. With your crew, including its adult leaders, participate in emergency preparedness training coordinated by community emergency preparedness agencies.

ADULTS - Volunteers

Emergency Preparedness

From www.scouting.org and www.usscouts.org

This would be great way to set the example - you go out and earn the Emergency Preparedness Award, too!!! (See background information above)

Unit Volunteer Scouter Requirements

This award is available to all registered Scouters who serve a unit, including all leaders and committee members.

Do any three of the following:

- a. Develop an emergency preparedness program plan and kit for your home and be sure all family members know the plan.
- b. Participate actively in preparing an emergency plan of action for your Scouting unit meeting place. (This includes all locations where you might have a meeting.)
- c. Put together a unit emergency kit to be kept at your unit meeting location. (This includes all locations where you might have a meeting.)
- d. Take a basic first aid/CPR course, or participate as an active volunteer in a community agency responsible for disaster preparedness.

Council/District Volunteer Scouter Requirements

Do any three of the following:

- a. Develop an emergency preparedness program plan and kit for your home and be sure all family members know the plan.
- b. Take a basic first aid/CPR course.
- c. Participate as an active volunteer in a community agency responsible for emergency disaster preparedness.
- d. Participate actively in developing an emergency preparedness program for a council or district activity. Example: a camporee, Scouting show, fun day, etc.



New Leaders

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When you say to someone that they are your last hope, you are telling them they were not your first choice. It is not a compliment.

Tell them they will not be alone. There are other leaders. There is an almost infinite amount of literature. Both written on paper and on the web. There is training for new leaders, Cub Scout Position Specific, and continuing training, Roundtables. Also, supplemental, Pow Wow, Danger Zone, Philmont Training Center, and more, there is advanced training, Wood Badge.

And you get to wear a snazzy uniform!!!

Recruiting New Leaders

Excerpts from "Selecting Cub Scout Leadership,"
No. 13-500.

Be sure to read the whole pamphlet!!

The Key Three of your pack (The Chartered Organization Representative, the Committee Chair, and the Cubmaster) as well as all the members of the committee should be familiar with the steps of selecting and recruiting quality leaders for your Pack. The key to the process is found on the pamphlet, "Selecting Cub Scout Leadership," No. 13-500.

The quality of any program, whether it's a Scouting program or any other program, is directly related to the leadership. The stronger the leader, the stronger the program. Selection of leaders is the responsibility of the unit committee and chartered organization. This shown by the requirement to have the Committee Chair and the Chartered Organization Representative sign the new leaders application prior to submission to the local council. The Chartered Organization (as well as the Committee) may seek advice from the BSA local council about the process. Your Unit Commissioner should be actively helping you in this process.

How does a committee or an organization actually go about selecting and recruiting the best person for the job?

Step 1 - Gather a Selection Committee

The head of the organization or COR appoints a selection committee. In the case of an existing unit, the unit committee is the logical starting place. However, parents and others may be invited to participate in the process.

Step 2 - List the Qualifications

After a committee is brought together, they then make a list of qualifications the candidate should possess. These traits should be listed on a flip chart for all to see.

Step 3 - List the Candidates

With the qualifications agreed upon, the committee then brainstorms a list of all possible candidates. All candidates mentioned are placed on the list and no committee member may disqualify candidates at this time. With the candidate list developed, the committee then numerically prioritizes the list.

Step 4 - Organization Approval

Since the leadership is the responsibility of the chartering organization, the institution head should provide his approval of the committee's selection.

Step 5 - Call on the Prospect

Now the committee selects a visitation team (usually three people) to visit the number one prospect on the list.

The committee should consist of someone knowledgeable about the Scouting program, someone representing the organization, and someone who has influence with the prospect.

Step 6 - Approach the Prospect

The interview should occur at the prospect's home. After a presentation is made to the prospect, the influential person should ask the prospect to serve. If the prospect is unable to serve, an alternate position should be offered.

If the number one prospect has declined, the number two prospect becomes the top prospect and the process begins again with the institution head.

When the prospect Says Yes; Now What?

Once the prospect has said yes, three things need to occur. First, an application is completed. Second, immediate training should occur. This may be Fast Start or some sort of personal coaching. This needs to occur within 48 hours of his commitment to do the job. Third, an announcement should be made to the organization, other leaders of the unit, and parents as to the prospect's acceptance of the position.

Be sure to get your own copies of Selecting Cub Scout Leaders, No. 13-500; and Selecting Quality Leaders, No. 18-981.

Comment from commissioner Dave -

My personal Rule #1 - Do NOT beg, you are offering this person a tremendous opportunity to help youth grow to succeed in our world. Approach them on a high plane. Keep the conversation upbeat.

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“Bearmuta Triangle”

The primary objectives of laying out camp are to find a safe sleeping area and to leave as little trace that you were there as possible. This means respecting wildlife that might be interested in your “Bearmuta Triangle” and insuring that you don’t contaminate ground water or leave anything behind. The Bearmuta Triangle is formed by the (1) the fire ring & cooking (dining), (2) the bear bag, and (3) the sump (cooking waste water) “smellable/bear areas”. [The Backpacking Equipment List indicates which items are stored in the bearbag [BB] and sump or dining areas [SD].] The tenting area should be safely outside this triangle because animals are likely to travel between these areas, and crewbies don’t want to be in their path. To prevent being a bear lollipop, no food should EVER be in the tent, packs (with cover) should be hung outside, and a sleeping bag stuff sack or tent bag NEVER used as a bear bag. Shoes should not be left on the ground. Actually, in the Pennsylvania mountains, bears are not the only “critters” to guard against. Crewbies may encounter racoons, porcupines and skunks. All are attracted to smells or salt and can “maul” a pack. Below is a simple illustration of an appropriate camp layout.

Sanitation — Do not bathe or do laundry or dishes in or near a stream. Dig a 6-8 inch deep “cat hole” at least 200 feet from water, trails, or campsite in an organic (not sandy or rocky) site for fecal waste. After use, the soil is replaced. At Philmont they encouraged us to stir it with a stick to aid decomposition and to use the stick to mark the spot for other backpackers. Woman’s sanitary items should not be buried; they should be sealed in an airtight plastic bag and packed out. Urinate on rocks and gravel well away from camp and water sources. Deer and rodents [and porcupines] are attracted to urine and sweat because of the salt. They do damage by pawing up soil to get at it and can chew holes in clothes, boots and camping gear. This is part of the reason not to leave your boots outside on the ground at night and to hang your packs. [A related problem in Pennsylvania is porcupines chewing on car radiator hoses and salt-treated lumber — that is

the reason you often find “moth balls” under cars at trail heads and attached to salt-treated lumber.]

Cooking and Fires — It is the cooking - dining - fire corner of the bearmuta triangle that often ends up closest to the tenting area. Food spills occur and they must be cleaned up by treating the spill like any other food — putting it in the “yummy” bag and packing it out. Lightweight fueled stoves are more efficient and faster for cooking than fires, and they leave minimal impact. Always read and follow instructions provided by the stove manufacturer. Cool stoves before refueling, refuel them and store fuel away from where the stove will be lighted or used. Let any spillage dry before lighting. Never use stoves inside a tent. Open fires are usually discouraged, and sometimes prohibited. However, when a fire is built, always check for and follow local regulations. USFS and PHL note:

- ◆ Fires should not be built near overhanging branches, slopes, stumps, logs, dry grass, leaves or firewood. Use an existing fire ring if available. Otherwise, dig a fire pit about six inches deep, keeping the sod intact for replacement. Scrape away any burnable material within 10 feet.
- ◆ Have plenty of water handy and a shovel for throwing dirt on the fire.
- ◆ Keep the fire small to reduce impacts and the danger of a wildfire. Start with dry twigs and small sticks, followed by larger sticks and logs, pointing them toward the center to be gradually pushed in. Burn dead and down wood only, and only that which is necessary.
- ◆ Be sure your match is out, holding it until it is cold, then break it so that you feel the charred portion.
- ◆ Never leave a fire unattended, even for a few minutes.
- ◆ Allow the fire to burn down to white ash; do not try to put a fire out by scattering it. Drown the coals thoroughly with water, stir the remains, drown it again, and stir again (where water is scarce, damp dirt and sand may also be used).
- ◆ Feel all materials with your bare hand to make sure it is “dead out”. Make sure that no roots are burning. Do not bury coals—they can smolder and break out. A practice we learned at Philmont was to plant a dry stick in the ground in the middle to demonstrate the fire was “dead out”.

- ◆ Only after the fire is definitely dead out, accumulated ash from the firepit is scattered away from camp.

Cooking Cleanup — Scrape off food scraps and seal them in an airtight plastic bag (“yummy bag”), store it with other food, and pack it out. The sump strainer is used to separate scraps from “gray/waste water”. Wash dishes and dispose of “gray” water at least 200 feet (WUP) (NPS says 100 feet, PHL says 50 paces) from water sources. NPS recommends that gray/waste water can be disposed of in “vault” toilets [ones with concrete septic tanks] or that it be “broadcast” by throwing it over a wide designated area (otherwise designated the “sump” area). This is the “difussion” philosophy; make a wide area only mildly “smellable”. The other is the “concentration” philosophy used at Philmont; make one small area “smellable” so that you know where animals will be attracted. All gray water was put down a deep “sump” to be soaked into the ground away from the tenting area. Note the common safety features are that (1) only the most minimal food (that passing through the strainer) gets disposed, and (2) disposition of the gray water occurs away from the camping/tenting area. PHL warns against washing dishes near a water spigot because of possible contamination of ground water. Don’t throw food, scraps or garbage/trash into “pit” toilets [ones which just use a hole in the ground], nor bury it, because bears and rodents will easily retrieve it. Do not burn trash, scraps or garbage, pack it out. [PHL doesn’t rule out thoroughly burning food and NPS cautions that any food falling into the fire must burn to ash.] A bear drawn to a camp by the smell of buried food scraps or garbage in the firepit may begin to associate food with people, a lesson it will remember all its life. Then they have to be killed. As they drilled into us at Philmont: “Feed a bear - Kill a bear”.

Always use biodegradable soap. [NPS discourages campers from using any soap, if possible, because even biodegradable soap will contaminate fresh water if precautions aren’t taken.] Use a scrub pad to remove tough “cooked-on” parts. Once all visible food is removed, rinse

dishes, pots & utensiles in boiling water. Everything should be left to air-dry (even if “towel-dried” first) in the sump or dining area. These procedures guard against inadvertently contaminating your pack or its contents. Before each meal, sterilize dishes, pots & utensiles for at least 30 seconds in boiling water — to disinfect any contamination from packing, ground contact or airborne things “dropping in”. Together, proper washing, rinsing and sterilizing will prevent diarrhea, dysentery and other ailments. [Anyone who has suffered from these on a backpacking trip takes cooking cleanup vveerrrry seriously!]

Bear Bag — Hang ALL food and scented items at least 300 feet from your tent (downwind if possible), 10 feet above the ground and 4 feet from the tree trunk or any substantial limb. Bears’ curiosity may attract them to any odor, even if it isn’t food-related, so all “smellables” go in the bear bag. Avoid contaminating sleeping gear with food odors; do NOT use sleeping bag stuff sacks, tent bags, or clothing bags for food/smellables storage. NEVER eat or keep any food, or anything that held food, in your tent because the odor will linger [that means your backpack too!!]. Do NOT sleep in clothes with food odors; they should be hung like food. At Philmont, we kept separate clothes inside our sleeping bag just for that purpose and only those clothes and our boots remained in the tent. Besides making the smellables unattainable, hanging the bear bag difusses the smell, making it somewhat harder for animals to pinpoint its source. [This is one reason, other than getting out of sightline, that hunters often use “tree stands”.] There are bear-resistant canisters available, but bearbags are generally more practical for backpacking. Putting food etc., in cars is not an advisable alternative because bears can easily rip into a car. [For evidence of black bears’ ability to “car clout” look up the article “Yosemite Bears Prefer Toyotas and Hondas For Late-Night Snacks,” Wall Street Journal, January 13, 1999, pages A1, A8. by John Fialka.] In hanging the bear bag, tying a rock to the rope to weight it for slinging over a limb or cable can be dangerous if the rock comes

loose or swings back; consider placing some sand or soil in a bandana, sock or small stuff sack (the size of a tent stake bag) instead — it is softer if it does strike someone.

Water — Purify all water by using a portable water filter, bringing it to a full boil for one minute, or using water purification tablets [or liquid]. PHL recommends that even water that has been filtered should be boiled (most effective method) or treated using iodine to be effective in killing waterborne bacteria and viruses (giardia treatment time depends on water temperature).

Tenting — Pitch tents on high ground where they will not damage vegetation and do not dig trenches around them. Be careful not to camp too near to streams that could rise in a flash flood — where the valley is narrow but drains a large area. Although you want to avoid low ground, you may want to avoid the tops of bald hills when there is the possibility of lightening. Sleeping inside a closed tent is preferable because it puts a barrier between you and rodents or other animals that may carry and transmit diseases and insects whose bite hurts or may stimulate an allergic reaction (insect repellent cannot be used in the evening because it is a “smellable”). Rodents are a problem at many camping shelters/grounds, because of the attraction of food remnants, and hantavirus pulmonary syndrome infections from Washington to Florida, California to New York have been linked to rodent bites and droppings. [Look up the article “Unwelcome Guests: Summer Vacation Spots May Lure Infected Mice,” Wall Street Journal, June 21, 1999, page B1, by Marilyn Chase.] Ticks may transmit Lyme disease. Rodents are a primary food source for snakes, which are known to snuggle up to warm objects. [Reportedly, a lady hiking the Appalachian Trail awoke one morning to a tickle on her tummy, only to find that a Copperhead had crawled into her sleeping bag with her to take advantage of the warmth on a cool night. One of our scoutmasters found a skunk circling a boy who decided to sleep on the porch of a cabin along with his candy.] Most modern tents have good ventilation when the rain fly is left off on warm dry nights.

ONE TWO LAST THINGS

Santa Clara County Council

You are blessed

- If you woke up this morning with more health than illness. You are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.
- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation
- You are ahead of 500 million people in the world.
- If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death
- You are more blessed than three billion people in the world.
- If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep. You are richer than 75% of this world.
- If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace you are among the top 8% of the world’s wealthy.
- If your parents are still alive and still married you are very rare, even in the United States.
- If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.
- If you can hold someone’s hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.
- If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.
- Have a good day, count your blessings, salute your friends and relatives that make these things possible, and pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

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Moderate

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Tougher

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Toughest