

TRIP PLANNING

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*"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."
(Proverbs 1:7)*

*"For I know the plans I have for you' this is the LORD's declaration 'plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. You will call to Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you' the LORD's declaration 'and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and places where I banished you' the LORD's declaration."
(Jeremiah 29:11-14)*

Planning and Conducting a Group Outing

Proper planning and preparation will insure a safe and enjoyable trip. A leader that involves the group in the planning process will best use the complete camping experience as a training opportunity. The group members will not only learn more, but will take more ownership in the outing. Depending upon the skill level of the group members, the leader might need to participate as actively as offering options and helping make decisions or as little as simply recording the group's decisions. Ultimately, the responsibility for a successful trip depends upon the leader and the preparations that are made.



Group Discussion and Decision Making

Purpose of going. Always have a purpose for going and repeat it often in order to keep focused on it during your planning process.

When to go. Plan well in advance. Select a date for the outing and mark it on the calendar.

Where to go. Have two or three places that you are familiar with, and let the group decide which place to go. After these decisions have been made, it is time to plan.



Let's Make Some Plans

First pray that God will guide you and draw everyone closer to Him on the trip. If your group is small and it is not desirable to divide into planning groups, then planning can be done as one group. Planning as a single group may take longer and may not involve all of the boys as well as if they had been divided into smaller groups. If your group is large, then divide into smaller groups. The following should be discussed:

- Food
- Equipment
- Clothing
- Games or activities
- Travel plans



Food Planning Group makes the following decisions:

- Number of meals.
- Menu for each meal.
- Cost of each meal.
- Who will purchase the food.
- Cooking gear needed for each meal.
- Who will bring what cooking equipment.



- Notes -

*"Commit your activities to the LORD and your plans will be achieved."
(Proverbs 16:3)*

*"Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."
(Proverbs 15:22)*

Various natural disasters occur in different parts of the world. We should be aware of these potential disasters and plan to help people in need by being trained and prepared to respond. RAs and Challengers can pray for and collect money that will be used for disaster relief.

- Notes -

Think about a friend who does not attend a church whom you might invite to go to your RA or Challenger campout.

Equipment Group needs to decide:

- If tents will be needed. If so, how many.
- Which hand tools will be needed (rake, shovel, limb loppers, broom, hammer, stakes, bow saw, etc.).
- If fire starting equipment will be needed.
- What fire extinguishing equipment (bucket for water, fire extinguisher, etc.) will be needed.
- Who secures the equipment.



“Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”
(Romans 12:1-2)

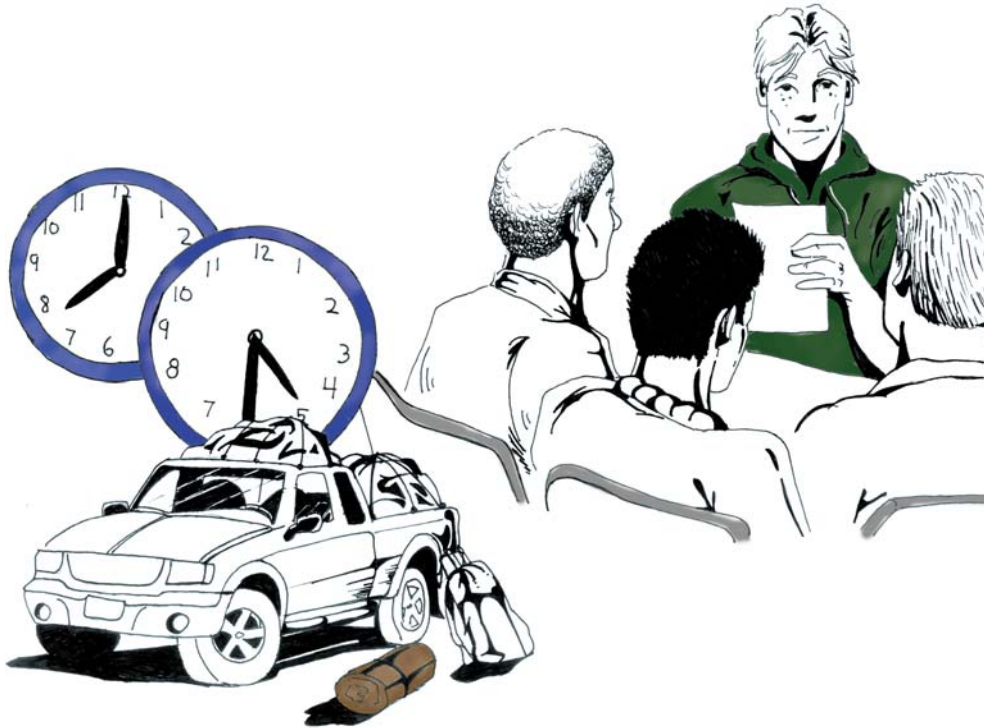
Clothing Group must consider:

- How many days you will be gone.
- The type of activities you will be doing.
- The season and probable weather conditions (summer, winter, spring, fall).
- The types of plants or other vegetation expected during the trip.
- Preparing a clothing checklist for each camper.



Games or Activities Group needs to decide:

- The purpose of each activity.
- The devotional times and a leader for each. Use as many people as possible.
- Who can provide musical talent in the group.
- Games that are not normally played at home.
- How to adapt the rules so that everyone can participate.
- What props or equipment are needed to play games.



*“Many plans are in a man’s heart, but the LORD’s decree will prevail.”
(Proverbs 19:21)*

*“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping Your word. I have sought You with all my heart; don’t let me wonder from Your commands. I have treasured Your word in my heart so that I might not sin against You.”
(Psalm 119:9-11)*

Travel Group, working closely with the leader, must decide:

- The length of the trip. (Remember, for a one night trip, it is not a good idea for a sponsor, who may have worked all day and then participated late in the day, to have to drive home the next day. Consider staying two days, to allow for more rest on the second night.)
- The mode of transportation (bus, van, hiking, bicycles, etc.).
- The cost of the transportation chosen.
- If a driver is needed. If so, secure one and secure a backup, just in case.
- The departure time.
- The estimated return time.
- How and when medical releases and information will be obtained.
- The special needs of any participants.
- The itinerary. Leave one with several people for emergency purposes.

Finalize Trip Plans

After completing their work, all the groups need to come together to discuss what each has decided, making sure everyone has their concerns addressed. Set a cost for the trip and make financial arrangements.

- Notes -

"The LORD spoke with Moses face to face, just as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his assistant, the young man Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the inside of the tent. Moses said to the LORD, 'Look, you have said to me, "Lead these people up," but You have not let me know whom you will send with me. You said, "I know you by name, and have also found favor in My sight." Now if I have indeed found favor in Your sight, please teach me Your ways, and I will know You and find favor in Your sight.'" (Exodus 33:11-13)

"All the ways of a man seem right to him, but the LORD evaluates the motives." (Proverbs 21:2)

Leadership Responsibilities

One of the primary concerns of the leader is for the health and safety of each member of the group. Listed below are items that each leader should consider before an outing. Carry this information with you on the trip.

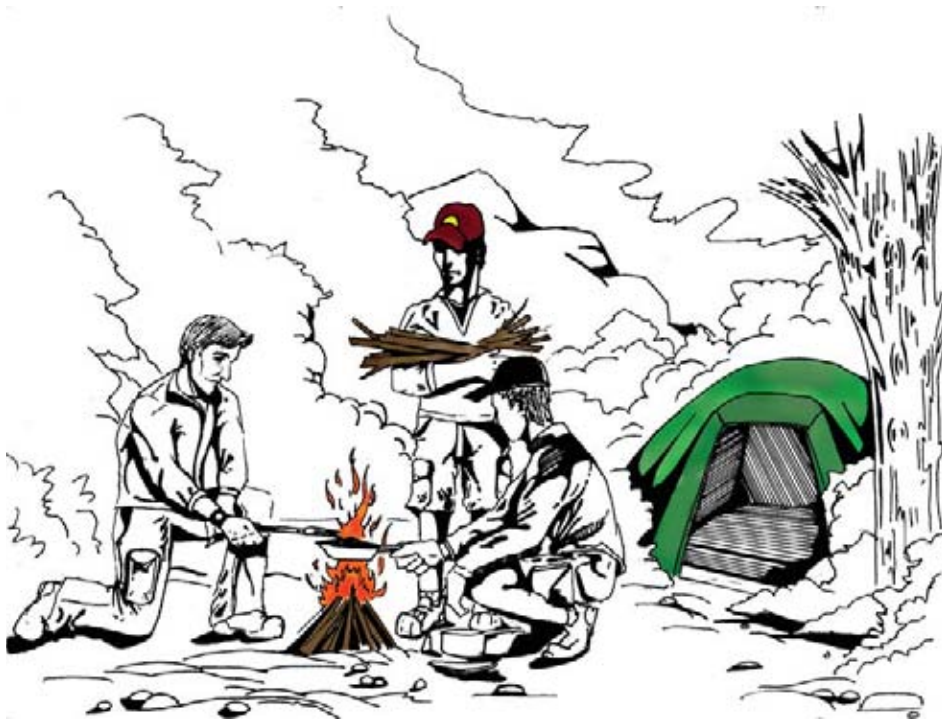
- Seek God's leadership in all matters.
- Secure sufficient help (one adult per 6 children - minimum of two leaders).
- Have someone trained in first aid and take a group first aid kit.
- Obtain medical releases and medical information forms for everyone.
- Get insurance coverage information.
- Identify location of nearest medical facilities.
- Know the special needs of campers (medical and social).
- Obtain emergency contact numbers (parents and agencies).
- Do not mix two unknowns. Be familiar with the capabilities of your group or be familiar with the camping area.
- File several copies of your trip plans with several responsible adults and parents. Trip plans should include your departure and estimated return times.
- Remain flexible and willing to adjust plans as necessary.
- Communicate any changes in travel plans to the appropriate people.
- Keep a positive attitude. It is contagious with campers!



Selecting a Campsite

If you will be packing in to a campsite, stop early before everyone is tired and worn out. You will need time to find a good campsite. Selecting a good campsite will include considering whether the site will be used for a base camp (several days) or a trail camp. You will need to remember the following guidelines:

- Camps should be kept away from the trail and kept out of sight so that other campers and hikers will not be disturbed. Campsites should be at least 150 feet from a natural water source, if possible. Keep away from shorelines or waterfalls; a campsite near these areas decreases the beauty for everyone else.
- Find a smooth area with a gentle incline to carry rain water away from the site. Look for a place that if rain occurs, it will not run in and flood your campsite. The area should be clear of rocks and other debris. (Rocks are not very comfortable under a sleeping bag.)
- Stay away from dry riverbeds and areas with signs of previous flooding, swamp plants and dangerous places under overhangs.
- Watch for signs of bad weather. Consider the prevailing winds, lightning strikes, and escape routes in case of a fire.
- Cooking on an open fire takes a lot of wood; try to use downed (fallen) wood or deadwood instead of green wood.
- Locate and make latrines a safe distance from camp and away from any water source (a minimum of 150 feet where possible). Keep the latrine area clean by disposing of toilet paper and human waste by covering with soil.
- Always use the “Good Gardener” concept. This practice promotes “leave it better than you found it” so that the next campers think they are the first ones to ever be there.



- Notes -

Build your life upon a solid foundation. Strive to learn and follow Jesus' teaching.

“Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, The LORD is One. Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your strength. These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7)

- Notes -

*"Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and wondrous things you do not know."
(Jeremiah 33:3)*

*"This is what the LORD says: Stand by the roadways and look. Ask about the ancient paths: Which is the way to what is good? Then take it and find rest for yourselves."
(Jeremiah 6:16)*

Taking the Next Step

Begin with simple trip plans until you have developed the outdoor living skills necessary for more advanced outdoor adventures.

Hiking - Simple hikes to earn campcraft patches and to explore God's creation.

Camping - Requires more planning, skills, and equipment. Start with a one-night campout and then expand to multi-nights as skills grow.

Backpacking - Taking outdoor living skills to the next level by learning to live with the items that can be carried in a backpack.

Trip Camping - Extended trips into the outdoors by utilizing various types of transportation.

Primitive Camping - The ultimate in your camping experiences. A combination of all of the above skills and many of the activities can be used to experience the thrill of living off the land.



Tips on Trip Planning

- When you have decided on a camping location, get information from resources located near the area. There may be places of interest nearby that can be enjoyed.
- Determine the emergency services available to your camping area.
- Carry a charged cell phone for emergency use.
- A trip log (journal) may be purchased or created. Use your journal to record the positive experiences, those needing improvement and observations made in nature. The journal is a good resource for planning future trips as well as making a scrapbook for recording names and addresses.
- A camping library is inexpensive and useful. Books on first aid, nature, and cooking are useful. Books on general campcraft will cover items that will prove to be beneficial in a camp.
- Now that we have the trip planned, the next important thing is to help each Royal Ambassador and Challenger to learn the outdoor living skills needed for a successful outdoor experience.

Trip Planning – Biking

- Notes -

Have lots of advanced planning and training before engaging in a biking trip. Plan to use back roads (not frequently used) and biking trails. A prepared leader will travel the planned route in advance before taking his group.

Careful consideration should be taken for the following: food, clothing, equipment and spare parts, tools, and medical needs. Make sure that all bicycles are road-worthy. Advanced training for a bike trip includes taking short trips with the group beforehand to build up their stamina.



Overall Suggestions for the Trip

- Don't overextend the group!
- When you start getting tired, stop before fatigue sets in. Exhausted bikers are more likely to have accidents.
- Start the trip on a full stomach, munch on snacks and drink liquids often to maintain a high energy level.
- Watch for signs of heat exhaustion! Be sure to use a hat or cap to protect from the sun.
- Wear layers of clothing so that some clothes can be taken off as the trip progresses.

Equipment that Might be Needed

- Helmet
- Map, compass, GPS
- First Aid kit
- Tire repair kit
- Air pump, extra tube
- Screw driver and wrench
- Cell phone
- Poncho or raincoat
- Flashlight
- Thermal Blanket (emergency blanket)



- Notes -

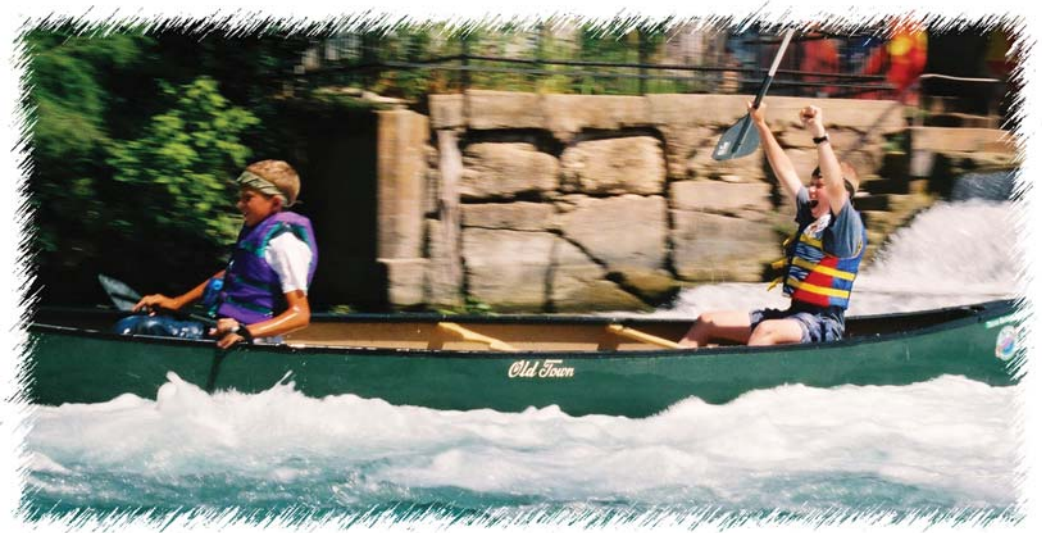
*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
(Acts 1:8)*

Plan with your RA or Challenger group a mission project that would include using the skills you have learned in trip planning.

Your life can be compared to a journal with each day beginning with a blank page. Daily reflect upon the day's activities and ask the Lord to help you evaluate your life.

Trip Planning – Canoeing

Canoe trips can be taken on large lakes and rivers. Individual and group preparation is essential to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. It is highly recommended that all participants be physically qualified and trained in canoeing and in the type of camping experience needed for the trip. As with other types of trip camping, it is good for beginners to experience shorter or easier trips before taking longer or more difficult ones. Everyone should be proficient and comfortable at swimming. Life jackets must be worn at all times while in or near a body of water. To keep essential items dry, store them in a watertight container (5 gallon paint bucket, dry bag, etc.). Plan to tie down everything in the canoe.



Evaluation of the Trip

Upon the group's return from any camping or outdoor experience, sit down and have a round table discussion on the good points and things about the trip that need improvement next time. Having the campers keep a journal (log) of their activities while on the trip will greatly aid in evaluating the trip.



*“Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”
(Proverbs 15:22)*