

Preparing for Patrol Camp

Patrol camps are:

Challenging

Enjoyable,

Adventurous,

Activities involving **all** the patrol





Schedule for Patrol Camping:

It takes a few months to prepare for a patrol camp. It starts with patrols working together and running an active programme. The patrol will also need to practice and develop their skills.

Getting the Patrol Working

- Have patrol meetings
- Organise a patrol project
- Run a day activity in your patrol
- All members advance in the relevant Adventure Skills

Patrol Camp in the Troop

- Several patrols camp together, but operate separately
- Each patrol runs its own programme
- Plan, buy and cook your own menu
- Scouters are camping with you, but only provide support
- All members advance in the relevant Adventure Skills

Shared Patrol Camp

- Two or Three Patrols camp together
- Camp near to home
- Camp on a Scouting Ireland campsite with wardens
- Scouters will call out to you and check in regularly
- All members advance in the relevant Adventure Skills

Patrol Camp

- Camp on a Scouting Ireland campsite with wardens
- Scouters will call out to you and check in regularly





General and Technical Bits:

- The welfare of each Scout is very important.
- Attention to safety is also very important.
- Patrol camps are organised with the guidance of the Scouters Team.
- The Camp Leader should coordinate with the other patrols.
- It's a good idea to camp on Scouting Ireland campsites, with wardens, and to avoid caravan sites, holiday or entertainment centres.
- Each Scout participating needs to use the relevant Scouting Ireland Activity Consent & Medical Advice Forms.
- Separate sleeping, toilet and washing accommodation should be available for males and females.
- The Activity Leader must hold a Level 5 Camping Adventure Skills Badge.
- A qualified (over 16) First Aider should be available at the location of the overnight.
- Live the Scout Law and Promise.
- Follow the principles of Leave No Trace.

Programme Planning

You need to plan and run an active and balanced programme. When planning your programme you need to think about questions like these:

- Are there any aspects of your camp which would help members of your patrol make progress through the Crean Awards?
- Are Scouts working on Adventure Skills ?
- Are Scouts doing Special Interest Badges?
- Does everyone have a role?
- What facilities are available on or near the site?
- How long will cooking and wash-up take?
- Are you having a spiritual element to the programme? Running a scouts' own or attending a religious service?





Sample Programme

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Friday			Travel Set up camp Orienteering Supper
Saturday	Breakfast Pioneering	Lunch Environmental Project	Dinner Scouts' Own Campfire Supper
Sunday	Cooked Breakfast Sketch Maps	Lunch Break Camp Travel Return Equipment	

Budgeting

- List all your projected expenditure – expenditure categories might include campsite fees, food, and programme.
- Consider what suits you best, not just what is the cheapest Add in your contingency (around 15% of the total of other expenditure)
- Talk to your Scouter and see what they think
- Do a second draft, discuss it with the patrol and have each scout take one home

Sample budget for a patrol of seven

Camp Fees	70.00
Food	112.00
Equipment	25.00
Total Cost	207.00
Cost per Scout	29.60





Menu Planning

You need to plan a full balanced menu for the camp. The menu needs to accommodate the tastes and health of all the scouts and the partialities of the site. The scouts responsible for cooking should have experience of cooking on camp, especially in the way you will be using (eg: on gas or on an open fire).

Things to think about when planning a menu:

- Is it a balanced menu? Do you have enough fruit and vegetables?
- How much will it cost?
- Do any scouts have allergies & intolerances?
- Is there food that scouts won't eat?
- How will the food be stored?
- When will the food be bought? And, how will it be transported?

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Supper
Friday				Hot Diluted Drinks Fruit
Saturday	Ceral Bars Toast Fruit	Sandwiches Fruit Crisps Yogurt	Chicken Fried Rice Salad Cake	Hot Diluted Drinks Biscuits
Sunday	Porridge Scrambled Eggs Fruit Juice	Wraps Salad Crisps Yogurt		





Equipment

Make out a list of the equipment based on the programme and the menu. In the lead-up to the camp, the equipment should be checked and packed ready for transport. The Patrol Quartermaster should coordinate this. Things to think about:

- **Tentage**, including dining shelter – Take tents out and check for wear, that all parts are present and in good condition
- **Storage** – Is your patrol box fit for purpose? Is your water container clean and in good condition?
- **Lighting** – How are your lanterns? Do you have fuel?
- **Cooking gear** – Whether fire or gas, is your cooking equipment safe and usable? If in doubt, ask your Scouter.
- **Pots and Pans** – Do you have a stock of good quality pots and pans for cooking? Are handles secure? Does everything have a lid?
- **Cooking utensils** – Is there anything missing or which has seen better days? Are your knives sharp and storable safely?
- **Cooler box and ice blocks** – Do you have enough? Do any of your ice blocks leak?
- **Seating** – If you use tables and benches, are they up for a camp?
- **Axe and saw** – Is your patrol axe sharp? Is its head sufficiently secure to the handle? Does your saw blade need to be replaced?

Transport

Careful planning needs to be made for transporting people and equipment. You need a clear plan that everyone understands.

Lifts: For a local patrol camp, carpooling is the most cost effective and convenient way of getting to and from the site. Make sure a rota is made out, everyone has a lift, and everyone has the details.

Transporting the equipment: You can divide the equipment between the cars or if someone has access to a van or a trailer you can use that. Make sure you have plans to transport the equipment to and back from the campsite. Also, you will need to have access to the Group stores.





Emergencies and Safety:

With the help of a scouter think out common risks associated with camping and then suggest what you would do. Here are some examples:

- **Risk** - An accident resulting in an injury. **Mitigant** – Ensure code of good behaviour by Scouts in place and take no silly risks
- **Risk** - An accident resulting in damage to equipment. **Mitigant** – Ensure all Scouts are trained in the proper use of all equipment
- **Risk** - Cancellation of accommodation booked. **Mitigant** – Arrange back up accommodation as a contingency
- **Risk** - Uncontrollable changes to travel plans. **Mitigant** – Have contact details for all relevant people and have an emergency plan for heading home
- **Risk** – Illness. **Mitigant** – Take all reasonable precautions in food preparation. Ensure first aid training up to date. Be aware of pre-existing conditions. Have an appropriately stocked first aid kit.
- **Risk** - Bad weather conditions . **Mitigant** – Have a Plan B and Plan C that are not weather dependant
- **Risk** - Loss/theft of money/equipment. **Mitigant** – Have back up funds available at short notice in an emergency

Safety Checklist

- Do you have emergency contact details for the scouters and the campsite?
- Will you always have a charged phone available? Is there way of charging a phone?
- Is the Camp Leader aware of any medical conditions and the actions that need to be taken if a situation arises?
- Do you have a safety plan in place?
- Do you have a fully stocked first aid kit?





Keeping Families Informed

It is important to keep families informed what is involved in patrol camps, some people may be initially uncomfortable with the idea of a patrol camp. Check out the form at the end of this document as an example of a letter to send home to families. Some points to raise:

- Camping is an extremely important to the Scouting programme.
- Scouting seeks to train each team in such a way that it becomes self-sufficient both in terms of skills and as a working team of young people able to undertake different challenges.
- One of the most important opportunities for the Patrol is the opportunity to camp as a team on their own with adult support at a distance. This is no ordinary undertaking and a Patrol will have carefully planned for such an event.
- Patrol Camps are planned, well in advance, under the guidance of the adult Scouter.
- The Camp Leader has special training in the area of organising a camp and in leadership and responsibility.
- The Patrol has the skill set required – organisational ability, cooking skills, camping skills, first aid and an awareness of safety.
- A plan of action, budget for the event, programme, equipment list, emergency plans etc. are carefully drawn up and are fully reviewed by the adult Scouter in consultation with the Scouts.
- The camp must take place on a recognised campsite owned by Scouting Ireland and with a warden staff available on site (experienced adults who manage the campsite).
- Parents must provide written approval for Scouts to the camp.
- During the camp, adult scouters will visit the Patrol over the weekend to check on progress and well-being and will be in effect 'on call' should any difficulties arise.
- Camps are supported by their own adult Scouter. Adults are near at hand on the campsite in case of emergency, normally less than a few hundred meters away. So, the Team feels it is alone but in fact they are holding the camp in a controlled and safe environment.



Patrol Camp Checklist

Location

A suitable campsite that scouters are happy with

Scouters are happy with the location

Emergency services can access the site

The location is booked

Administration

We have a camp timetable

We have a wet weather plan

The Camp Leader is aware of any medical requirements

We will have a charged mobile phone available

We will have all bookings printed and in a folder

Finance

We have a well-planned budget

We will have contingency funds with us

Transport

Transport is booked

There is enough flexibility in our transport plan in case of delays

We know if any Scout is prone to travel sickness

Equipment

Our tents have been tested in wind and rain

Our tents are large enough and we are trained to use them

We have safe and tested cooking equipment

We know how to use all our equipment safely

We have sufficient cleaning and food hygiene equipment

We have food storage materials which allow for segregation of food

We have a cooler box or other method of storing chilled food

Training

The Camp Leader has stage 5 Camping Adventure Skill

There is a qualified First Aider on site

We know the limits of our skills

Emergency

We all know who to call in case of emergency



Camp Details

Date of Camp _____ Location of Camp _____

Meeting at for departure _____ Returning home at _____

Team Leader in Charge _____

Number of Scouts attending _____ Cost of the camp _____

The Team camp outlined above has been planned with the approval of the Scouter team of

and has undergone the checks and balances as outlines above. We the Scouter team have confidence in the Patrol that they have the capabilities to undertake this adventure and therefore seek your approval for your child to attend the camp.

Scouters name _____ Phone _____

Team Leaders name _____ Phone _____

Campsite warden _____ Phone _____

See Formal Parental/Guardian Permission to Attend Approval Form overleaf





(This form can also be used for Scouts, Venture Scouts and Rover Scouts if required)

Parental/Guardian Permission to Attend a Team Camp Approval Form



This approval form only relates to the Team Camp outlined overleaf. You will as Parent/Guardian have signed other forms from the Section related to Medical Details and general permissions for your child. This information is still relevant and you do not need to fill in another form for this camp.

This form solely relates to the camp listed and the details as listed. A parental/Guardian approval form is required for any Team Camp that your child attends.

We/I the Parents/Guardian of

_____ are happy to provide Permission for our child

_____ to attend the Team Camp as listed and outlined.

Date of Camp _____ Location _____

It is our understanding that the Scouters of the Section/Group have provided the necessary training to all the young people embarking on this adventure and they are confident in the leadership of the Team Leader and his/her Team to undertake this adventure in a responsible and safe manner.

I/we are also aware of the phone numbers of the relevant contact people and understand the circumstances of the camp and that a Scouter will be 'on-call' and formally visit the Team over the period of the camp.

Name _____

Date _____

Contact Number _____

Address _____

Any special notes

