

Camping Merit Badge Assignment

You must plan an outing (hypothetical) for your patrol to go on. This outing is to be a backpacking trip somewhere in Arizona. You will never earn your Camping merit badge until you satisfactorily complete and turn in this assignment to me. (Make sure to keep a copy for yourself)

Make sure to read this over completely, at least once, before starting!

- Print or type your "itinerary"
- Make it easy enough for other Scouts to understand
- It should include enough information so any Scout using it for preparation of the outing will be able to do a good job without asking too many questions.
- You may work on this with a buddy or two. Make sure to list names of everyone that worked on it. I only need one copy turned in. Remember, if it is a joint project, I expect it to be a cut above the ones completed by a single Scout!

Assume the following items as guidelines to stay within:

- I prefer a "real" trip. This is a trip that your PATROL and / or TROOP could actually do.
- Use all available methods of collecting information, but I want as much of your assignment to be in your own words as practical. Example: A printout of a map or picture is fine, but to just copy someone else's itinerary, or copy and paste from the internet is not acceptable.
- Outing starts & ends at Rover School, Saturday morning to Monday afternoon 2 days later.
- The PATROL is going to share main meals, so pick foods most everyone will enjoy.
- Wherever you backpack to, there will be water at the campsite, but it must be purified.
- Drive time to the trailhead should be no longer than six hours.
- The length in miles of the backpacking trip should be between 3 & 10 miles, each way.

Make sure to answer the following questions:

- Why are we going to this spot? (Swimming?, cave exploring?, Indian ruins?, etc.)
- What dates are we going?
- What time will we meet at Rover?
- What time will we be back at the end?
- Where is the trailhead located?
- Who are the drivers and riders?
- What is the route to drive there?
- Supply driving directions to the trailhead.
- How long will it take to get to the trailhead by driving?
- Will it be necessary to stop along the way to eat, get supplies, gas?
- How many miles in is the hike?
- How much water should we carry on the hike in and then out?
- Will the hike out be the same route?
- Supply a map with compass coordinates for the hike. (you may draw your own)
- What type of hiking conditions will be encountered?
- When we get to the campsite, what "improvements" if any are there?
- Do we need permission to hike & camp in this area?
- What kind of weather conditions can we expect? (temperature range, rain, etc)
- What clothing should we pack? (swimsuits?, snow gloves?, etc.)
- Can we have a campfire?
- What will our food menu be for each meal?
- Who will carry what "shared" equipment? (stove, water filter, tents, pots, etc.)
- What other personal snacks should we take?
- Prepare a duty roster for your PATROL while in camp.
- Do a "time line" so everyone knows what & when things can be expected to occur. (When will we get there?, when will we eat?, when will "lights out" be?, etc.)

I will answer questions if you need help, but first try to come up with choices of answers before you ask me! Example: "Do you think foil-packs or de-hydrated stew would make a better first dinner?" is a much better question than .. "What should we have for dinner?"

John Kwilosz - email: john@recycledmicro.com / day phone: 480-980-5429