Camping and Outdoor Education

Basic Pathfinder Staff Training
Sunday 9th February 2014
Objectives

To develop an awareness of basic camping and outdoor skills necessary for outdoor leadership.

- Philosophy of camping
  - Basic camp planning
  - Types of camping
  - Basic components of good camping
  - Nature study
Philosophy of Camping

Outdoor living holds a tremendous potential in spiritual values and character-building elements.

It is therefore recommended that, outdoor living compose a large segment of the year’s Pathfinder programme.

The experience that is gained through fellowship in camping and the skills developed in outdoor survival will be very helpful to God’s people in the time of trouble.
Recreation in the Open Air

“There are modes of recreation which are highly beneficial to both body and mind… Recreation in the open air, the contemplation of the works of God in nature will be of the highest benefit.” *Messages to Young People, pages 380, 381.*
You are responsible for planning a camp this year. Write an equipment list as a group for either a moving camp or a static camp. What would you take with you?
Benefits to the Individual

- Intimate knowledge of nature
- Nature’s blueprint for balance
- Meaningful spiritual awakening
- Understanding of natural resource conservation
- Self-respect and self-confidence
- Pride in the ability to improvise and make do
- Feeling of at-homeness
- Respect for the dignity of work
- Pride in good health and physical fitness
- Realistic sense of values
- Feeling of pride in serving others
Benefits of Camping Activities

- Develop lifetime hobbies and sometimes a vocation; Encourages one to try to improve own performance
- Having safe fun; Develop a desire to investigate and learn
- Learning how to balance work, play, rest and vigorous activity; Education on the wise use of leisure time
- Learning how to enjoy activities that don’t cost a lot of money; Develop appreciation for serious and thoughtful spiritual programmes
Spiritual Values in Camping

- Closeness to nature
- The experience of harmony and order
- God’s great creativeness
- Adaptability
- Co-operative fellowship
Basic Camp Planning

- Planning a campout
- Program planning
- Guidelines for a good campout
- Basic hiking list
- Country code
The Task of Planning a Camp

In your groups, identify and list the following:

- Reason for camping; What transportation will be used
- What equipment you need - Tents; Gear – general; personal
- What will be in your First-aid kit; Who will comprise your camp personnel
- What food do you need to bring
- Theme; Have you done prior inspection of campsite
- What permissions do you need; Consider hygiene needs; Any safety concerns?
- Have you notified parents, Pathfinders and church board?
Planning a Camp

• Unit & Individual Planning
  ▪ Menu; Correct wearing apparel
  ▪ Sleeping bag and ground cover
  ▪ Personal first-aid kit
  ▪ Backpack packed properly
  ▪ Cooking utensils; Campfire
Program Planning

• Weekend campout
• Camporee
Guidelines for a Good Campout

• General rules for running the camp
• What to bring
• Cooking arrangements
• On the go
• When you come back
Types of Camping

• Site Camps
  □ Good to have at least one each year
  □ Have a purpose to your camp
  □ Don’t overburden with theory
  □ Good to achieve a variety of things such as: Pathfinder class work; Lashings /knots; Fire building; Orienteering; Nature honours
Types of Camping

- Travelling Camps
  - Designed to bring out initiative, courage, resourcefulness, strength and ability
  - Encourage the ones who drift to the rear and slow the ones who race to the front
  - Leadership skill building; Teamwork
  - Reconnaissance trips must be made prior to the camp taking place
Basic Components of Good Camping

- Selecting a site; Water supply
- Fuel supply; Sanitation
- Camps and shelters
- Fire building – warmth, cooking, purify water, dry clothing, signal for help
- Outdoor cooking
Basic Hiking List

- Food
- Clothing
- Personal
- Above all
- Remembered and recited often
Country Code Activity

What rules would you expect a visitor to your home to obey; for example, which places are out of bounds or can they ‘access all areas’? What would visitors be allowed to do or say and what would cause an offense or be against the rules in their family home? What would happen if they left the front door open or dropped sweet wrappers on the kitchen floor?

• In groups of twos think of five golden rules on how to behave when you are in the countryside; for example, meeting people, closing gates, encountering animals, walking across unspoilt landscapes.

• The twos should join into fours and compare their total of 10 rules and then decide which are the best five (avoiding repetition).

• The fours should join into eights and again agree the best five rules before feeding back to the rest of the group. You must give a reason for each rule.
Country Code

Countryside Code - advice for the public

• Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
• Leave gates and property as you find them
• Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
• Keep dogs under close control
• Consider other people
Nature Study

- Importance of Nature Study
  - “Go to the ant, … consider her ways…” Prov. 6:6
  - “Behold the fowls of the air…” Matt. 6:26
  - “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow…” Matt. 6:28
  - Creator’s objective in making the Sabbath
  - Use of the book of nature in soul saving
Objectives of Nature Study

- Interest the Pathfinders in the things of nature
- Help the Pathfinders to develop inquiring minds
- Give the Pathfinders the benefit of education from God’s other book
- Develop character
- Cultivate a sense of preservation and conservation
- Gain true wisdom
- Help Pathfinders understand what it means to “Fear God and give glory to Him…”
Nature Games for Sabbath

- Sabbath Song Nature Hike
- Sabbath Bible Nature Hike
- Creation Week
- Nature Matching Game
- Nature Identification
Other Nature Study Pointers

- Know why you are having a field trip
- Know your route; Conduct your trip well
- Plan for after the trip as well
- Plan using proper study methods
- As leader, do your homework!
- Make nature trips interesting
- Conduct risk assessments
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