

Camping Guide
of the
26th Northcote Scout Troops



C Dawkins
A Hobbs

Please return this booklet

Introduction

Camping is the main activity of our Scout Troops and we have held two-week summer camps since 1910. The objective of this booklet is: -

“To enlighten parents as to the general rules, routine, conditions, etc. covering camps, and to relieve them of any doubts as to the proper supervision, accommodation, and sense of responsibility on the part of the leaders in charge of the camps.” (EA Walters Scout Master)



To show each Scout what is expected of them and to give an outline of what will happen and how the camp is run.

No excuse should therefore arise, of any Scout not knowing what is expected of them, or doing the wrong thing. Parents should make it their responsibility to see that their child is thoroughly acquainted with the rules to ensure smooth running of camp.

Before we start some background information:-

Scouting is voluntary for both Scouts and Leaders.

The Scouters have to take their annual leave to attend summer camp.

The Scouters also pay to attend summer camp.

One of the reasons summer camp is such good value for money is everyone is volunteering, but we need all the Scouts to help both before and after summer camp - it doesn't just happen.

The Scout leaders are always glad to receive suggestions or give any further advice or information.

This booklet was first issued in 1926 by EA Walters (Scout Master). Revised in 1930 & 1934. Re-written in 1989 and re-issued in 1998.

Law of the camp

The Scout law is the law of the camp. In addition: -

No Scout is to leave the camp boundary without a Scouter's permission (the Scout must also report back upon their return).

Each Scout is trusted on their honour to carry out any duties given to them by their Patrol Leader or a Scouter.

Each Scout is responsible for themselves, their personal kit and share of the tent, to their Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leader is responsible for the patrol to the Scout Leader.

Patrol Sites

Each patrol will have its own patrol site, this is where they live, eat, and sleep. The patrol must see that this is kept clean at all times, including the tent, their personal kit, the dining shelter, and surrounding area.

Patrol Leaders must also see that no damage is done to the patrol equipment. The



provision of camp furniture and gadgets is an important duty of each Scout, and the Patrol Leader should give full support to each in the construction of the patrol site. This will require thought and preparation by the patrol before the camp.

Cost of camp

Summer camp has a surprisingly high turnover, In 1997 over £4000 passed through the books. Some of the major items were insurance, coach and lorry hire, food, Tee shirts, and site fees. Most of these items have to be paid for before we go to camp, therefore we ask for a non-returnable deposit and prompt payment of the balance.

All cheques for camp should be made payable to:

26th Bristol Northcote Scout Troop

Summer camp is not run to make a profit, just to break even. All the equipment used by the Scouts while at camp has been provided by other fund raising by the Scout Group. Each patrol has about £1500 worth of equipment.

Parents consent form

Before camp we ask all parents to fill out a consent form. This allows your child to go to summer camp and take part in all the activities. It also asks for certain information such as your contact address and phone numbers while we are at camp; your child's doctor and information about any prescribed medicines your child will require *while* on summer camp; and any different eating habits they may have (or think they have).



All medicines must be handed to the camp first aider before camp, for them to look after and administer. For medicines that have to be kept cool we have a small gas fridge.

All Scouts should report any cuts or feeling unwell to the camp first aider immediately, any dressings should be changed daily.

Several of the Scouters are qualified first aiders.

Pocket money & tuck-shop

There is no limit to the amount of pocket money allowed. The only thing to spend pocket money on is sweets at the Scout tuck shop, which is opened regularly. We would suggest that £1 per day on sweets is more than enough for any Scout. All pocket money is kept in individual accounts and the tuck shop is run on an account transaction basis i.e. No cash. There is no need for Scouts to have any cash while at camp.

The tuck shop sells a selection of sweets, chews, chocolate, canned drinks, stamps and postcards. If the sweet wrappers are not disposed of properly the tuck shop will be closed.

All left over pocket money will be returned at the fish and chip supper.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Camp Pennant

The patrols all compete for the camp pennant, which will be flying on the main flagpole for the summer camp and a plaque, which will go up in the hall. All the main activities an camp count towards the camp pennant, and winning the pennant shows consistency of effort and dedication.

Competition day

This is one of the most important days in camp. The fifty or so tasks are designed to test the Patrol Leader's ability to lead, organise, and plan the day with his patrol. Competition day was started in 1965 by Bill Loach, the Scout Master at the time.

Patrol Projects

These give the patrol the opportunity to show their ability to act on their own. Two days and one night are spent away from the main campsite, while the patrol undertakes a project such as pioneering, bivouacking, or conservation work. The project is the Patrol Leader's decision after consultation with the patrol. Needless to say, with the opportunity to be away from the Scouters the patrol projects are usually one of the most popular camp activities. It must be said though that the patrols are visited four times during the project.

Hikes

All Scouts are given the opportunity to leave the main site to complete an over night hike, the requirements of which will usually depend on the Scout's age.



The trek cart hike is for the first timers. On this hike two senior patrol leaders supervise the Scouts as they pull the trel cart with all their kit on, for about 10 Km

The Pathfinder & Explorer are hikes are aimed at the middle Scouts. On these hikes the Scouts would be in groups of four or five and would include the use of hike tents and a route of about 20 Km.

The Patrol Leaders hike is for the Patrol Leaders and can either be a dump hike back to camp or a cycle ride.

Cooking



All the Scouts are expected to participate in the cooking and washing-up within their patrols. All our cooking is done on wood fires.

Every attempt is made to provide a balanced diet and emphasis is made on a good breakfast. The Scouters always eat with the patrols, for several reasons but one has to be to keep an eye on what the Scouts eat.

During summer camp the patrols will cook everything from beans on toast to a full roast dinner and where possible we use fresh ingredients.

Duty Patrol

Each day a different patrol is appointed to be duty patrol and they have a few jobs to do, full details are give in the ~Patrol Leaders Survival Guide."

Water activities

Every summer campsite has some form of water (river or stream). Scouts are only allowed to use the water activities when supervised by the Scouters.

Parents day

This is on the middle Sunday of camp and all the family are welcome to join us for the afternoon. A map and directions will be available just before camp.

A rough outline of parents day is:

- 14:30 Arrive and welcome
- 15:00 Guided tour (by your son or daughter)
- 15:30 Use of the camp activities
- 17:15 Rally and notices (meet by the flag pole)
- 17:30 Troop barbecue
- 18:30 Depart

The troop barbecue is a time for sharing, with the patrol providing the bread, butter, tea and coffee, The troop providing the 'meat & heat' and the parents providing and swapping the rest (salad, cold meats, flan, sausage rolls, crisps, cakes, buns, fizzy drinks etc.).

Please don't forget to place your family order for the fish and chip supper. (See later).

Camp tee-shirts

Each year we have a new camp tee-shirt. The colour is determined by which patrol you are in. We only buy large and medium sized teeshirts, this is so a Scout can still fit into their first year's camp tee-shirt on their third or fourth camp.

Camp routine



- 0645 Camp horn - wake up
- 08:00 Breakfast
- 09:00 Inspection
- 09:40 Camp activities
- 1230 Lunch
- 14:00 Camp activities
- 18:00 Tea
- 19:30 Evening activity or free time
- 21:30 Cocoaorsoup
- 22:00 Camp horn - lights out & quiet

Before summer camp

The Patrol Leader is expected to organise their patrol rotas, duties and make sure the Scouts are aware of their responsibilities.

All the patrol equipment has to be checked, painted in patrol colours and made good before camp. This usually happens the weekend before camp and everyone should be there.

All Scouts should ensure that their parent's consent forms are returned and the balance of the camp fee is paid before camp commences.

All personal kit should, of course, be clearly named, and brought to the HQ on the Wednesday before camp for checking. It will then stay at the HQ so it can be packed onto the lorry.

The Patrol Leaders and their assistants pack the lorry on the Friday night before summer camp.

We leave for summer camp at 9:00am on the Saturday, so be at the HQ by 8:45 in full uniform with a bag containing the following: - Waterproof, Packed lunch, Set of camp kit to change in to, Coat hanger, stamped addressed postcard saying you have arrived safely. Remember not to leave your change of clothes (camp kit) in the kit you left at Scouts on the previous Wednesday.

During camp

On arrival at camp the first things to do are, get changed into camp kit, hand in your postcard and help unload the equipment from the lorry.



A camp tog is to be maintained at all times by the varying members of the patrol, utilising sketches and anecdotes of the camp activities.

It is important that if you see a job that needs doing - Do it - don't leave it for someone else to do,

Whilst at camp we like to recycle. All glass should be washed, Aluminium cans should be crushed, and all other tins should be burnt first and then crushed. All other rubbish should be burnt at the patrol site once you have finished using the fire for cooking.

Recycling boxes are situated by the store tent.

After camp

When we return from camp the lorry will have to be unloaded into the hall, and everyone is expected to help with this.

The camp is not complete until all the equipment is cleaned, repaired, painted and put away. This takes place on the Saturday afternoon after summer camp, starting at 2 o'clock and every Scout should be there to help. We are often all tired after two weeks away, but it is essential that everyone helps. Please bring along a clean tea towel.

Fish & Chip supper

The last traditional camp activity is the fish and chip supper on the Saturday evening after camp. All the awards are presented including the camp pennant. All the parents, brothers, and sisters of the Scouts are invited to attend. Scouts get free fish and chips; every one else must order and pay for theirs on parent's day.

If, when sorting out your personal kit at home, you find something that is not yours, please bring it up to the fish and chip supper where there will be a lost and found table.

WHISTLE SIGNALS

Patrol signals.

1	Bulldogs	Bulldogs report to the Scouters
	Cobras	Cobras report to the Scouters
	Eagles	Eagles report to the Scouters
	Falcons	Falcons report to the Scouters
	Foxes	Foxes report to the Scouters
	Merlins	Merlins report to the Scouters
	Peewits	Peewits report to the Scouters
	Stags	Stags report to the Scouters

Other Signals

PL's	PL's to report to the Scouters
Rations	QM to collect the food rations
Tuckshop	Followed by the patrol signal
SPL's	SPLs report to the Scouters
Alarm	Patrol fall in outside their site & the PL reports at the double to SL

The Scouters will be pleased to advise or, what to get and where to either buy or hire any of the above list, especially the waterproofs, walking boots and sleeping bags, which are the only specialised items of personal kit required for summer camp.

There is no colour code on camp, just please don't bring your best clothes, they will get wet, muddy, and smoky.

One main problem we have at camp is feet. Every morning the grass is wet with dew (or rain) and the Scouts often wear big trainers, which get soaking wet, and then don't dry out, keeping the Scouts feet wet for the rest of the day. Over eighty years of experience has shown us that the best camp foot wear is canvas daps, - deck shoes or plastic sandals, which although wet in the morning soon dry out. We have also found that wellington boots are not the answer as feet sweat and the boots rub on the legs.

Basic camp kit is tee shirt, jumper, shorts, and daps without socks.

Safety and responsibility

All activities are run in accordance with the Scout Association's rules and regulations. The Scouters are fully trained by the Scout Association, and with the extra fathers and 'old hands' at camp there is usually an adult to Scout ratio of about 1 to 3.

The Scouters cannot accept responsibility for personal equipment, clothing and effects, and the Scout Association does not provide automatic insurance cover in respect of such items.

A few notes

- Pull your weight to make your patrol and the camp a success.
- Hygiene and cleanliness are especially important at camp - always wash your hands before having anything to do with food
- Help keep a good supply of fire wood handy.
- Keep the fire buckets full of clean water.
- Pick up any litter that, you see and burn it.

- Don't play around the tents, Especially with washing up liquid as this will damage the canvas.
- If it's wet, use the dining shelter not the steeping tent.
- If there is anything you don't understand, ask, and keep asking until you do understand.
- All of the sleeping tents have waterproof ground sheets.

A full programme and menu are placed on the notice boards at the HO before summer camp. Please read them and if there are any concerns please see one of the Scouters.



The Scout leaders are always glad to receive suggestions or give any further advice or information. But please see us AFTER any Scout meeting.

Weekend camp

This booklet has been written with summer camp in mind. Weekend camps are training camps when everyone can learn how to set up a patrol site, pitch tents and cook on wood fires.

- o Scouts do not need uniform, hiking boots or swimming costume at weekend camp.
- o Arrive at the Scout field in camp kit between 6:00 and 6:30 on the Friday night, having already eaten.

Please ask if you don't know where the Scout field is.

If you have a paper round or Saturday school, please inform a Scouter when you leave and return to the campsite.

As many people as possible are required to unload the van at the HQ after weekend camp, the Patrol Leaders and their assistants must be there.