

10.4 - OVERNIGHT ACTIVITIES FOR CUB SCOUTS

INTRODUCTION

This statement covers sleep-overs, pack holidays, Group, District, Region and Branch camps.

The central purpose of any Scout activity should be to contribute to the personal development of the participating youth members; and this is best achieved by the Scout Method - learning by doing and activity in small groups.

Leaders in the Cub Scout Section are charged with the responsibility to prepare Cub Scouts for the wider family of Scouting. Part of the preparation process should include an introduction to some form of camping.

Camping activities can encourage the development of social living skills and positive self image as well as being a wonderful way for Leaders to get to know the Cub Scouts in their care.

Perhaps more importantly, a camp can be a touchstone experience in a youth member's life which will last long after any Pack meeting.

KINDS OF ACTIVITIES

The kind of camping will depend on the present experience of the Cub Scouts as well as that of the Leaders in the Pack.

Sleepover

If the majority of the Pack have not had any prior Cub Scout camping experience, then a sleepover in the Group headquarters is a great way to start. If your Group does not have a hall, ask a Group that does. The duration of the activity need not be more than twenty-four hours and could include a campfire, games, test work and meals.

Pack holidays usually refer to a weekend camp either under canvas or in a building. They involve one or two nights away from home, and often are programmed with a theme to touch on specific aspects of the award scheme.

Combined Pack holidays (where two or three Cub Scout Packs from the same or other Groups camp together) can allow a sharing of people and material resources as well as providing youth members with an opportunity to get to know others outside their Pack.

Group camps, where Joey Scouts with parents, Cub Scout Packs, Scout Troops, Venturer Units and Rover Crews camp nearby, reinforce the family nature of Scouting. Programming would include opportunities for Cub Scouts to mix with other Group members but not to be swamped by them; that is, all activities in which Cub Scouts participate must be suitable and appropriate for the Cub Scout Section.

District, Region and Branch camps are usually focussed on aspects of the Cub Scout award scheme. Link and Sixer and Second camps usually involve members of the Scout Section and are specifically designed to encourage the development of leadership and prepare youth members for imminent progression to the Troop.

Camps involving Cub Scouts should normally be for one or two nights; rarely longer than three nights.

CAMPING FACILITIES

The site needs to be safe (eg far enough away from busy roads), and of a size and location suitable for the number of participants and the programme planned.

Parents and Leaders need to be able to gain ready access to the site in all weathers for setting up, medical emergencies and evacuation.

There must be sufficient toilet and body washing facilities to ensure privacy and accessibility for youth and adult members.

Adequate cooking facilities are needed for the proposed menu and to cater for the numbers attending.

An activities area such as a marquee or hall needs to be available for use.

PROGRAMME

The programme should be varied, challenging yet suited to the mixed range of abilities of youth members in attendance and to what the site offers. It should also be relevant to the Cub Scout award scheme.

A separate wet and dry programme of activities allows for all weather contingencies and is an essential part of programming.

It should include special activities not normally done during Pack meetings.

Programmes with a central theme allow concentration on specific parts of the award scheme.

A good turn or service project should be included at some stage during the camp.

The activities should be fun to do.

Meal times and bed times need to be clearly posted so that all participants know where and when they occur.

It is strongly suggested that the Cub Scouts themselves share the responsibility for generating jobs and rules necessary for the running of the camp, eg setting tables, clearing dishes, washing up routines, etc.

Supervised free time should be included in the programme to allow youth members to rest and recuperate. Leaders and other helping adults will also need rostered time off.

SAFETY FEATURES

Ensure all medical, physical and dietary requirements are catered for.

High risk activities, eg swimming, need special care, consideration and staffing before they can be done safely.

A qualified First Aider must be in residence throughout the camp.

PERMISSION AND APPROVAL

A Notification of Activity Form must be completed, and approved by the Group Leader, before the activity is announced to the Pack or notified to parents.

A wet and dry programme must be forwarded to the GL with the notification form.

The evacuation plan, together with a map showing access to the camp site, must also accompany the notification form.

Necessary permits for activities such as open fires, fishing and fossicking must be obtained before the activity is started.

Indemnity forms signed by parents (with emergency contact number of parent) is required for each youth member participating in the camp.

A kit list should be supplied to each family prior to the camp detailing items required (and those not required) to be brought to camp.

SUPERVISION

The adult to youth member ratio must be at least 1:6.

A Leader appointed in the Cub Scout Section must be in charge. This Leader must have 12 months Pack experience, have successfully completed a Pack Holiday course, and have already planned and assisted with another Cub Scout camp; OR have had at least three years' Pack experience; OR holds a Cub Scout Woodbadge.

There must be another Leader appointed in the Cub Scout Section assisting.

The cooking team must be a separate group of people and not required to supervise youth members as part of the general one adult to six youth members ratio.

Staff who have other qualifications required for activities, eg water activities, must be present whilst those activities are being run.

Although Cub Scout Instructors are considered part of the camp team they must not be left in charge of Cub Scouts.

AUTHORITY

The policy statement was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 18 November 1981 amended on 28 April 1993.