

Baggy's guide to Camping Competition

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Introduction

Please note that this is a rough guide to the Barking & Dagenham Camping Competition. It doesn't contain any cheats, it doesn't contain ideas that will guarantee you to gain points. It is merely a basic collection of some important reminders about the rules and how to camp safely.

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Basic hints and tips

Work

Patrols must be seen to be working at all times. Camping involves periods of hard work and the camp will run much smoother if everyone in the patrol pitches in and helps. Only then will your meals be ready on time and will you actually have some spare time once you finish your jobs.

If you mess about or avoid work, or if some members of the patrol don't pull their own weight, all that will happen is you will be late for everything and the patrol will begin to argue amongst itself which achieves nothing but the loss of points and the wrath of the judges.

Times

You must stick to your program. If you are supposed to be doing something at a particular time make sure you ARE. Meals especially must be ready at the particular time you have told your judges. Plan ahead and make sure everyone in the patrol is aware what jobs need to be done and by what time they must be finished.

Program & Menu

There are plenty of points for your programme and menu. These are put together before you arrive so plan them carefully and present them in a neat and imaginative way. The judges are looking for an active programme, which includes some training and onsite activities. Free time will earn you no points if in your programme. Be sure that your program is realistic and has enough time built in for preparation of fires and food else you will find yourself unable to stick to it.

Menus should contain meals which you all like and will eat but they should not be just fried food. Vegetables and fruit are important for a balanced diet. Remember you have time to get it right!

Try and get your meals ready at the time you have put in your programme and remember to inform the judges when your meal is ready, so it can be marked. It is no good telling the judges that you have just eaten a great meal!

Inspections

Make a note of all the things that need doing during a site inspection so you can put them right before the next inspection. If a leader suggests something to do, pay attention, take notice and make sure it gets done.

Night Time

There are easy points to be had for being quiet (not silent) at 10:30 p.m., 11:00 p.m. and at 12:00 a.m. Also for all being awake and up at 7:00 a.m.

Site

Make sure your site is well set up, tidy and neat, and safe! You should have separate areas for cooking, fire, axe and saw. The site should be kept tidy of rubbish, food, wood and other items at all times for safety reasons.

When you strike camp the site should be left in a near perfect condition and it should be hard to tell you had even camped there.

Pitching Camp

- Carefully look round your site first
- Decide on the best and safest place to have your sleeping, cooking, fire and chopping areas
- Pitch the tents correctly and carefully, else you will regret it if the weather turns bad
- Stow all equipment neatly and securely
- Take special care of food to avoid poisoning, ill health or animals.
- Make a wood pile early and stack neatly different grades of wood
- Collect much more wood than you think you need, you will be surprised

Striking Camp

- Get as much done as possible the day before leaving
- Allocate jobs to your Patrol
- Wherever possible make sure the tents are taken down when dry
- Make sure the tents are packed away neatly with all the correct items, poles, pegs and accessories
- All cooking gear is to be cleaned (and inspected!) before packing away
- Rubbish is to be collected and you must ensure there is NOTHING left on the field but grass and mud
- Fire areas are to be cleaned. Make sure the fire is out and the ashes disposed of
- Spare wood must be piled neatly or returned to the woodpile

The only two things you leave behind you on breaking Camp are:

1. Nothing
2. Your thanks to the owner

Tips for the Patrol Leader

- Set everyone a good example by the way YOU behave
- Take a personal interest in each of your Patrol
- Remember your first camp and give younger campers the encouragement you needed
- Your fire is very important and if you treat it with care you will save yourself much time
- Give jobs to everyone in the Patrol and if necessary show them how to do them properly
- Notice all good effort and make sure you work hard at all times yourself
- Make any criticisms short and any encouragements big
- Enjoy yourself and the satisfaction of doing a difficult job well
- Keep an eye on the time and the jobs to be done
- Don't put off jobs until later, get them done now for your own safety and satisfaction
- Try to be cheerful in all that you do and keep the spirit of the Patrol up.

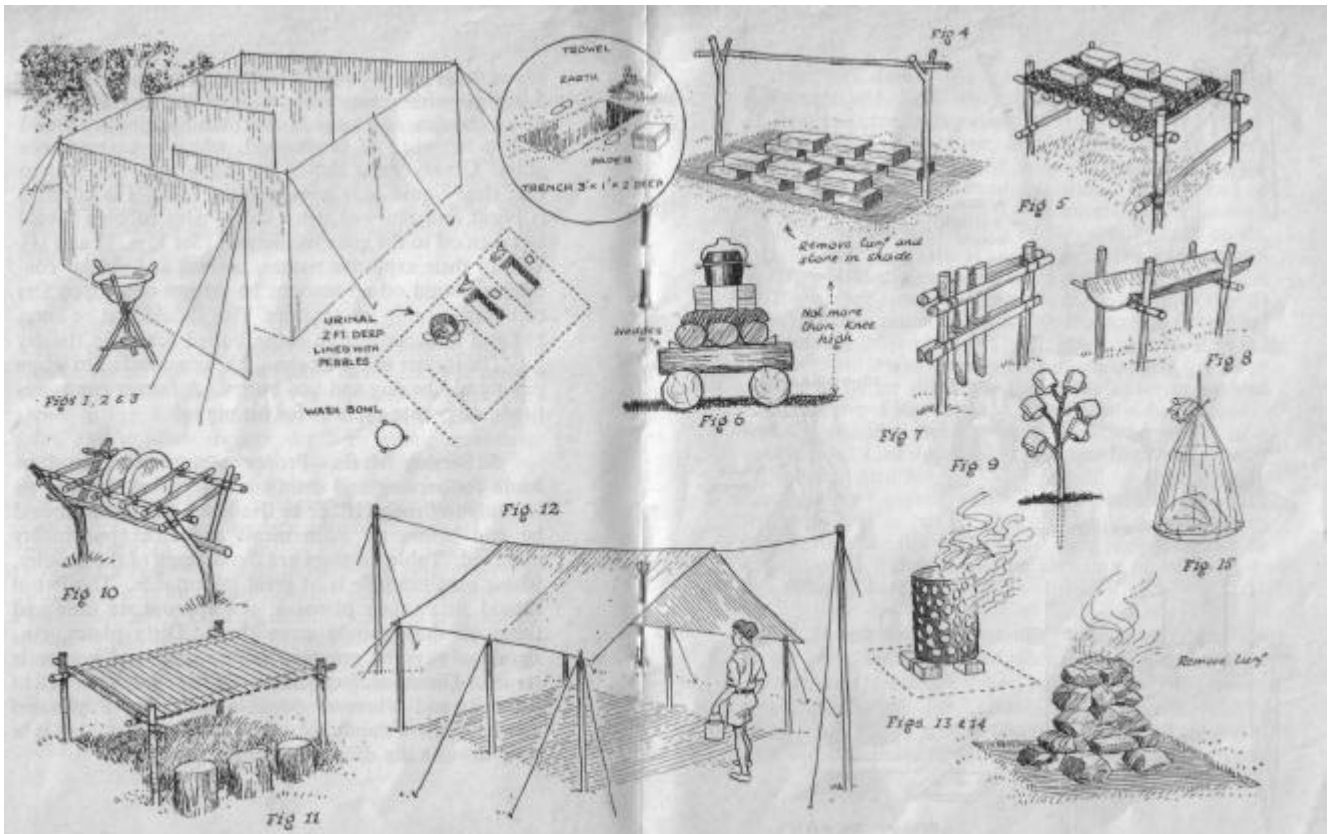
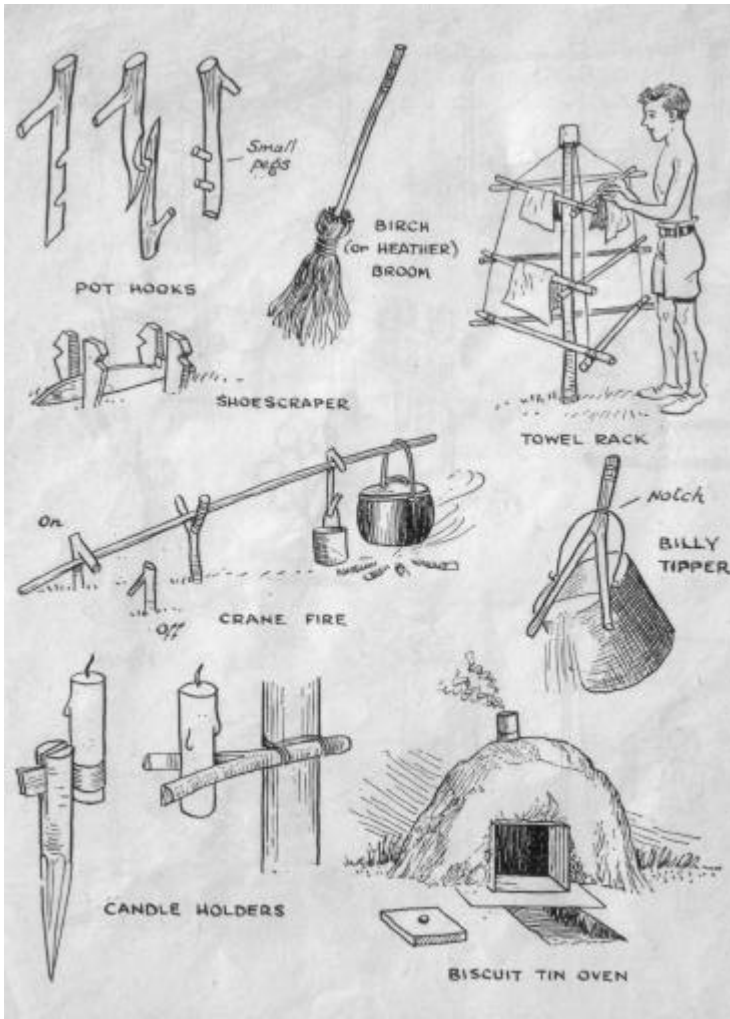
Cooking and washing up

- You will need a good fire to be maintained at all times
- It can be useful to keep some hot water on the fire at all times
- Food must be prepared in a safe and clean environment
- Plates, cutlery, pots, pans and cooking utensils should be washed up immediately after use
- Washing up must take place in hot water with washing up liquid
- Food should not be allowed to stay out in the open for too long
- Tea towels should be hung up to dry whenever possible

Gadgets

Constructing some camp gadgets will help make you camp run much smoother

- Pot holder over the fire
- Wood store
- Table
- Noticeboard
- Plate rack
- Mug rack
- Knife holder
- Food storage
- Shoescraper
- Broom
- Towel rack
- Candle holder
- Billy tipper
- Flag pole
- Bowl stand
- Bin
- Washing up area



Rules: St. George's Camping Competition

Teams

To consist of a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 8 Scouts

Composite patrols are allowed

Troops are allowed to enter more than 1 patrol at the organiser's discretion

Maximum of 2 PL's and 1 APL **or** 1 PL and 2 APL's. Any extra PL's or APL's will not be eligible to compete. Please list the names of your patrol for the judges.

Judging

To arrive at 9:00 a.m. Saturday for a 9:15 Inspection.

Inspection will be judged on each Troops known choice of uniform as well as neatness (top half of uniform only)

Programme

This is to be handed to the judges during inspection. Remember to keep a copy for the patrol. Times for meal inspections should be included as points are gained for keeping within 5 minutes either side of the time given for meals.

The following times must be included in the programme as they provide some structure for you to plan your programme around.

Saturdays Lunch	You need a packed lunch from home
Site & kitchen inspection	3:30 p.m. Saturday (This is to make sure you have a safe and usable site)
Saturdays Dinner	between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Thriftwood site campfire	8:30 p.m. on Saturday.
Saturdays Supper	no later than 10:15 p.m.
Lights out	10:30 p.m.
All patrol members to be up at	7:00 a.m. Sunday
Sunday Breakfast	between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
Full site/kitchen inspection	between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Patrols are to have correct things)
Scouts Own	11:00 a.m. on Sunday (Each patrol is asked to contribute)
Sundays Lunch	between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Final gear inspection	between 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sunday (marked on all equipment and tents)
Final site inspection	4:00 p.m. Sunday. (If not packed away patrols will lose marks)

Equipment

Patrols may bring a table with them but all other gadgets must be made from materials found on site. You are required to make 5 gadgets, which will be marked.

Sites

Sites are to be allocated after inspection has taken place.

Menu

This is to be handed in during inspection. Remember to keep a copy for the patrol.

Write clearly what food is to be prepared and eaten (e.g. Potatoes should be stated as boiled, fried, tinned, powdered etc.)

Saturday's evening meal **MUST** be prepared from fresh foods, no tins or packets will be allowed except for gravy, soy sauces etc. and custard.

All cooking to be done on open fires.

Please remember that points are awarded for cooking and presentation.

You need a packed lunch from home for Saturday afternoon as you will be setting up camp.

Visitors

All visitors including leaders should report to the judges once the competition has begun. No one will be allowed on sites unless a judge accompanies them.

Rules: Len Bridge Challenge Trophy

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Equipment

Patrols may bring a table with them but all other gadgets must be made. As a patrol try to make 5 gadgets to help you at camp.

Menu

Saturday Lunch	Packed lunch from home
Saturday Dinner	Meat, fish or vegetarian piece. Pasta or potatoes and vegetables Any dessert. Hot or cold drink
Saturday Supper	Hot drink and biscuits/cake
Sunday Breakfast	Cereal Cooked Breakfast Hot or cold drink
Sunday Lunch	Patrol Surprise It is up to the patrol to think about what they would like. You must include a meal with a dessert and drinks.

Camping is FUN

This is **NOT** a competition nor is it a race, it is a challenge. The challenge is for each Scout to gain new skills and the confidence to camp as a patrol. The leaders will also be camping over the weekend. They are here to give each patrol as much help as they require, they are not here to judge you. If you patrol needs any help for any reason ASK.

The trophy will be presented to the patrol that the leaders have seen to achieve the most and who have worked well together over the weekend.

Remember camping is fun.

General Camping Tips

Tents

Don't walk on tents: The weight of your body forces dirt into the fabric making tiny holes that will leak and shorten the life of the tent.

Don't touch the walls of a tent when it's raining: When it rains the fabric of a patrol tent will swell up and fill the tiny holes between the threads. If you touch the canvas it disturbs the pattern, water will come through and it will drip.

If you DO touch the walls during rain then run your finger down the canvas from the point it is dripping to the side wall. The drip will now be down the wall and not on you.

If you remove some of the guys from a tent it will fall down on top of the people inside

Walk ROUND guy lines, don't step over them. If you trip on a guy, it can either break part of the tent or part of you. It is a good habit to get into and when you are carrying something (like a Dixie of boiling water), that is the time you will trip and end up in hospital

When you put up a tent, put all the small bags (pole bags, peg bag etc.) and any spare items (spare pegs, mallet etc.) inside the biggest bag. It is easy to loose a small bag or a spare peg, but difficult to loose a big bag with a load of stuff in it

Hang, if possible, the tent bag and contents.

Sleeping Bags

Air your sleeping bag every day: During the night all your sweat and sometimes breath will build up in the bag, making it damp, and unless you open your bag to the air then it will still be there the following night.

Store your sleeping bag inside out on a coat hanger, not rolled up: This stops the fibres from breaking and makes sure that all the moisture has gone from one camp to the next.

Night time

Don't go to bed in dirty clothes: You will wake up feeling sticky, damp and cold. During the day your clothes absorb your sweat but you are moving around and your clothes are drying off so you don't notice it. At night the trapped sweat will cling to your body and lowering your temperature. It's best to keep a change of clothes just for sleeping in because that keeps your sleeping bag clean, keeps you warm and dry.

Go to the loo before you go to bed... (a) it saves you from having to get up in the night, stand on your PL's head and walk to the loo block; (b) the specific heat capacity of water is relatively high - it needs a lot of energy to keep a full bladder warm - so you will also stay warmer...

Don't go to sleep with your contact lenses in, it hurts in the morning!

It's fun to have your torch on half the night in the tents, but you'll use up the batteries on the first night and attract all the insects in the neighbourhood into your tent. And the adults can see the torches from outside...

Footwear

Don't walk around the site in bare feet: you WILL tread on a sharp stone bit of glass etc and cut your feet, possibly leading to infection and almost certainly you will be sent home early.

Make sure you can reach your wellie sticks from the door of your tent without going outside it (Wellie sticks tend to be used more by Guides)

When you get up in the morning the field will be wet. Wear waterproof boots (or sandals).

If wearing sandals, don't wear socks. They get wet and stay wet all day (unless it's very hot). Result - manky feet.

If your feet are wet at night, dry them before going to bed.

Food

No food in sleeping tents: Squirrels especially will eat through tents/rucksacks/sleeping bags/plastic storage boxes even training shoes to get to food. Leave it in the store tent where it will be kept safe.

Fire

If smoke from the fire is in your eyes, don't rub them, just move yourself to the opposite side of the fire

It is traditional at the campfire for the young people to sing louder than the person leading it

Kit

You can save a lot of time and worry by keeping your kit nice and tidy inside your bag with the waterproof on the top. Label everything you can as well (nail varnish to mark cutlery and plates, threads sewn into socks, underwear, labels in uniform and other clothes). Otherwise you will either get home or find something is missing, or you will spend several agonising days searching for X only for it to turn up at the bottom of your bag's extra pocket on the last day.

Always assume that birds/squirrels/insects have been crawling over you cooking kit at camp and wash it before use.

Help others and look out for their stuff and they'll help you and look after yours.

All personal kit should be clearly marked with the owner's name. Breaking camp can often be a confusing time; please return anyone else's kit which has been acquired at the end.

The camp organisers can accept NO responsibility for personal equipment, clothing and effects.

The Scout Association DOES NOT provide automatic insurance cover in respect of such items

Read the kit list and make sure you pack your own gear so that you will know which clothes are yours.

The same applies to keeping warm and dry, put extra layers / waterproofs on before you get cold or wet. Don't leave it until it's too late.

When you get up at night it will be a lot colder outside than in your tent / sleeping bag. Keep a jumper close to hand and put it on.

Even if it's very hot, keep your t-shirt on. Sunburn is worse than almost anything else on camp.

Always expect it to rain. Keep waterproof clothing somewhere convenient. Wet legs and shorts dry quicker than trousers.

Another reason for packing your own kit is that Mum does it so much better - which means that you'll never get it all back in.

Wear socks in bed unless it is very hot. Hats for when it is cold.

Similar thing applies to Thermarests. They shouldn't be left rolled up.

Take bin bags, they take no room and are great for separating clean / dirty / wet kit.

Mothers should put a coin underneath the soap, and recover it afterwards.

Troop will be cooking on open fires and using axes / knives etc. Both the wood they will be using and the circumstances of its use may cause damage to clothing. All clothing, then, should be "old". Please do not send school trousers & shoes.

Work

Expect to work: Every mealtime there are certain jobs to be done and everyone works until they are all done that way everybody finishes in the quickest time. If you are given a job and finish first, expect to help someone else until you have all finished, that way you won't ever end up the last one working by yourself.

Make sure you eat, sleep and drink enough. Camps are busy, active and can be hard work as well as being fun. You will enjoy yourself more if you avoid getting hungry tired and thirsty.

Toilets & Bins

If you didn't eat it or drink it and it is not toilet paper, it does not go in the toilet or lat, it goes in a bin somewhere

Don't forget to flush the loo. The toilet fairy isn't on the kit list and so won't be at camp and therefore can't flush the loo after you like it does at home.

Leaders

Find out if Skip takes milk and/or sugar in their tea/coffee. If you are first up, make Skip a cuppa. That way, when they get up, they will be in a good mood for the rest of the day.

If you are first up, wait until 07:00 before making Skip's cuppa.

Do what you like on the site during rest hour, just leave things as you find them and leave the leaders alone

If you make a mess go and ask an adult for things to clean it up - if you're lucky they might even help you and if not at least you are less likely to be in trouble

Don't make practical jokes unless you are willing to be repaid in kind AND you KNOW it is SAFE and FUNNY

Thriftwood Rules

Hello!

I am Sydney Squirrel, the son of the notorious 'Cyril', welcome to my home. (Cyril's now in a retirement home.) My friends and I hope you have a happy stay at camp. We like having visitors to our woods; it's a time when we can raid stores, rucksacks, and other places likely to conceal food. "Anything for a change from boring acorns and chestnuts". We hear that campers have a few tried and tested methods to reduce losses.

- Store all food in secure metal containers.
- Leave a "Squirrel flap" for ease of entry.
- Do not leave sweets in bags and clothes.
- Leave out a cheap present for us.
- You have been warned - we are prepared - "Are you?"
- I love chocolate

Banned

- Aerosol cans
- Portable sound systems
- Electronic games (gameboy, tamagotchi etc)
- Large sums of money
- Valuable watches / jewellery