

# Scouting AT HOME Badgework



SCOUTS  Outdoors Challenge



## Choosing a campsite

### You will need...

- Felt-tipped pen or a pencil
- Print of the site plan

### Things to think about ....

Camping is very much part of Scouting, an activity undertaken by most Members at one time or another during their 'Scout life'. A lot of time and effort can be invested in camping and so it is important to get it right for all concerned.

A good camp will be remembered for many years, and so will a bad one! A bad experience can put people off camping for life so it is our responsibility to try and ensure that all camps are successful ones.

Two of the factors that will affect the success of a camp are where you choose to camp - the place and the environment, and the layout of the site - making sure that the basic facilities are available and well planned. The choice of where to camp depends on several factors;

- Safe drinking water should be available within a short distance. If none is available or you are uncertain of the quality of the water, the water should be boiled or purifying tablets used.
- The site must be well drained and unlikely to flood. Avoid clay and peat soils and sites adjacent to the sea, a river, or other stretches of water.
- Make sure there is sufficient level ground for all tents and recreation areas.
- If a sunny aspect is preferred, the tents should be pitched facing south east to get the morning sun.

Continued on the next page ..



Fairly  
clean



Not too  
messy



Quite  
messy



Highly  
messy

### Original source:

- Scouting February 1973
- Author - Doug Mountford
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## Things to think about (continued) ...

- The site should have an adequate supply of wood for open fires, if permitted, and for the construction of camp gadgets.
- Check that there is protection from the prevailing winds.
- The site should be accessible for vehicles; a road or track is therefore essential.

Make sure that your Patrol's camp area is an individual site, that is easily accessible, and yet self-contained; however, do be beware of natural hazards. Do not camp directly under large trees because of the risks of falling branches, a lightning strike or the continual drip of water after rain has stopped. Avoid overhanging cliffs with risk of falling rocks and rock slides.

Every site will be different, with varying facilities available. However, whatever type of camp you are planning, the layout of your site is important so that those taking part know where certain things are, how they are organised and how they can make the most of the facilities available. After all, your site and its surroundings are going to be home for a while - don't make life too uncomfortable!

## What you do...

- There are lots of considerations to bear in mind when picking a location for a camp. In this exercise three sites that are available for camping are shown on the site drawing.
- Each has some advantages; none is ideal. The only water tap (★) is nearest to site C. Site A has the best supply of wood and site B the largest area of level ground.
- Write down the merits and drawbacks of each site on the back of the drawing before you decide which one to choose to camp in.



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# Choosing a Site

