

# OUTING GUIDELINES & INSTUCTIONS

## Troop 518 Document

This sheet is to be used as the instructions for the *Outing Planning Sheet*.

Outings are probably the most important single piece of the Scouting experience for the boy. The Troop has tried several methods over the years to get outing details published in the Troop newsletter and on the Troop web site in plenty of time to allow the Troop and its member families to properly plan for these outings.

As parents, we all know that much more information is needed than just throwing some clothes in a bag and jumping into the car. The Troop needs time to prepare a safe outing, and families want enough warning so that Scouting doesn't interfere with family plans.

The accompanying *Outing Planning Sheet* contains a timetable and all the questions the Troop needs answered to properly plan and prepare for an outing. It is the result of input from several ASMs and outing coordinators over several years. Not every question will need to be answered for every outing. (Obviously, when planning to camp in the National Forest, there may not be an emergency phone number or electricity sources.)

The goal of this process is to get your Scout introduced to the need for early planning. Try to have your son think through and solve as many of the questions as possible. Help your son use the Internet, phone books, and other Troop resources to locate hard to find phone numbers. Help them not get frustrated with this complicated task.

The **adult** is ultimately responsible for the timely delivery of the required information. However, we hope that the parent(s) see the value of involving their Scout, so that he begins to understand the need to plan ahead, and exactly how much work really is involved. The Troop feels these are the basis of our motto "Be Prepared", an important life skill.

All information should be reported back to the Scoutmaster, Committee Chairman **and** Troop web master for distribution to the Troop. **There should be at least three (3) reports.** The first at 3 months before the outing, the second at 6 weeks before, and the last approximately 2 weeks before. Obviously, the information will be sketchy at first with a lot of "educated guesses". As the time for the outing approaches, details will replace hunches, and everything will become more solid.

The information needed is the basic: who, what, when, where, and how much? It is the job of the Scoutmaster to answer the basic issues concerning timing and advancement features.

**Do not hesitate to call or ask the Scoutmaster, any Assistant Scoutmaster or Committee Member for assistance at any stage of this procedure.**