

# Packing For A Campout

## Troop 518 Training

The backpack and the "Action Packer" serve as this troop's standard packing devices. One of these two devices is used to haul and stow the Scout's personal items for each campout. The only exception is Summer Camp, when both may be required. Usually the Scoutmaster or SPL will name a packing preference when the campout is discussed at the regular troop meeting.

It is the Scout's responsibility to learn the packing requirements and arrive on time and properly prepared. Scouts who are not properly prepared will not be allowed on the campout.

Patrol items are stowed in the "Chuck Box" or the plastic food case. Patrol items include all those pieces necessary for the patrol to cook, eat and maintain the health of the patrol during the campout.

### Packing Guidelines

The following guidelines should help in your packing decision making regardless of which type storage unit is used. Remember it's important to:

- Keep it very small
- Keep it extremely lightweight
- Keep a variety of clothing for all types of weather
- Organize by placing like items into sets
- Keep sets individually protected against getting wet

### Action Packer

The "Action Packer" is a rugged, rainproof plastic case made by the Rubbermaid company. This troop uses the term to include any durable, outdoor rated plastic case. Whichever case the Scout selects, it must meet the following guidelines:

- The plastic packing case shall be no larger than 13 x 20 x 14 inches (approx 8 gallons)
- All personal items (except the sleeping bag) should fit easily inside
- The exterior should be well marked with the Scout's name and troop number
- The case shall be in good repair and be generally weatherproof by design

### Backpack

The backpack will be used to hold all the items included in the Action Packer. The only exception will be that the backpack will include the sleeping bag, stowed inside or strapped to the outside. The selection and adjustment of the backpack is discussed in another full page training memo.

The Scoutmaster or SPL may choose to specify the use of the backpack for backpacking trips, or on any campout where limited vehicle access may leave a long hike to the camping area.

### Chuck Box / Food Box

The Chuck Box and Food Box are provided by the Troop. Each patrol using a Chuck Box / Food Box is responsible for the care and cleaning of both. Each box pair is fitted with basically the same equipment, but this collection can be tailored to fit the individual patrol's needs. Each patrol uses the same box pair for each campout. It is up to the patrol's cook(s) to make sure all the necessary items are in the Chuck Box and the Food Box before the campout. The Food Box and all major items within the Chuck Box are marked with the number appearing on the end of the Chuck Box.

At a minimum, each Chuck Box should include:

- Two-burner camp stove \*
- 12-inch frying pan
- 10-inch stew pot with lid
- Coffee pot with lid
- Cutting board
- Plastic wash basin, rectangular
- Long nose butane lighter (empty)
- Spatula, ladle, serving spoon
- Can opener
- Hot pad holder
- 6-inch pairing knife
- 1 oz of dish detergent

\* Troop supplied items

On occasion the patrol may wish to check out a Dutch Oven \* from the Troop. These are carried separately from the Chuck Box and Food Box. Dutch Ovens must be returned clean and oiled.

The Food Box is stocked for each campout according to the menu. It may also contain common items like spices (salt, pepper, sugar), paper towels, charcoal, propane fuel, dining fly, rope, etc. After each campout, the Food Box will be cleaned of all food that might spoil and dining flies will be dried.

The patrol leader is responsible for making sure both Chuck Box and Food Box are clean, well maintained and that each is free from damage. Damage not reported becomes the responsibility of the individual patrol to repair or replace back to original.

### **Additional Suggestions**

**Wal-Mart** and **K-Mart** are excellent sources for the *Action Packer* or *Sterilite* weatherproof cases. They are usually found in the automotive, camping or plastic storage bin sections of the store.

A small size "Swing Away" brand can opener is highly recommended for each Chuck Box.

Garage sales are excellent sources for pots, pans and serving pieces.

Occasionally, backpacks can be found at **Play It Again Sports**, garage sales or from friends. See the *Choosing a Backpack* training memo.