

Camp Preparation Activities

From a collection by Alison Whitehead.



Build a Model Campsite

Brainstorm with the girls for a list of everything they might find at camp. Write the list on a large sheet of paper. Include everything - tents, camp building, flag pole, lake/river, canoes, campfire, trees, rocks, grass, possums, campers, etc. Have the girls, either individually or by Patrols, make specific items on the list. Have available scraps of construction paper, fabric, popsicle sticks, cardboard, twigs, glue, play dough or plasticine, paint, yarn, scissors, etc. The girls create the objects, then glue them on a piece of plywood (45x60cm is a good size). This makes a great display.

On strips of paper, print words such as pitch, strike, guy ropes, runners, grommet, upright, ridge pole, tent pegs, lats, tinder, kindling, gadget, inspection, etc. Stick the papers around the room. Girls go in small groups to define the words. Call everyone together and have a quick group discussion to clear up any misinterpretations. This is a good gathering activity.

Minature Gadgets

Build a plate rack, mug tree, boot scraper, clothes hanger, sun dial, chopsticks, firewood rack, pot hook or fire tongs. Use souvlaki sticks, pencils, twigs, thin dowels etc. You'll need some twine or wire twist ties for these projects.

Duties

Gather a number of articles, e.g., can-opener, tin of soup, dishcloth, flag, songbook, box of matches, stick of wood, scrub brush, ladle, scouring pad, bucket, etc. Place all the items in a pillowcase. Write the names of camp duties (Cook, Health, Colours, Campfire, Wood and Water, Sanitation - or whatever is appropriate for your camp) on pieces of paper. Before starting the activity, discuss the different duties that have to be done at camp. Girls then take turns reaching into the pillowcase, pulling out one item and telling which duty it goes with. Some items may be used by more than one duty Patrol.

Mystery Bags

Seal nature items in cloth bags. Pass them around the Unit. After everyone has had a chance to feel the objects, have the girls take turns telling what they think they felt. Let everyone have a look at what was in the bags and then search for similar items around your campsite or meeting place.

Why Not..

- Use this as a “night before camp” programme and combine with first camp for the camp badge.
- Have an open day/night and use these as round robin activities for a wide game.
- Train your patrols/unit with these activities before they head out on camp.