

BOY SCOUT ROUNDTABLE SPECIAL FEATURE

Low-Impact Camping (15 min.)

Learning Objectives	By the end of this session, the Scouter should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define low-impact camping• Explain the BSA definition of low-impact camping• Explain the BSA definition of wilderness and primitive areas• Explain low-impact activities
Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Fieldbook</i>, No. 3200• Wilderness Use Policy (handout)• <i>Low-Impact Camping</i>, No. 20-126• Flip chart and markers, easel• Low-Impact Camping slides, AV-668, cassette, AV-668C (optional)• Low Impact Quiz and answers (one per participant)
Introductions	The instructor introduces himself and any faculty members assisting in the presentation.
Opening Remarks	Ask the participants to define "wilderness area" and "primitive area." After responses, provide the definition: "Primitive and wilderness areas are public areas designated by the federal or state government. These lands have specific limitations on their use as defined by federal and state governments."
Definition	Low-impact camping involves the skills, techniques, and attitudes that can give older Scouts a true wilderness experience.
BSA Camping Techniques	Include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pretrip plans<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gear that blends with the environment• Take trash bags and pack-out containers• Twelve or fewer people2. Travel<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay on trail• Let muddy trails dry out3. Campsite<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free of delicate plants• No ditching• Camp out of sight

4. Fires

- Use backpacking stove
- If wood fire, use only wood on ground
- Be sure fire is out, and cover fire scars with twigs

5. Sanitation

- Wash away from streams
- Pour wash water in a hole
- Dig latrine 6-8 inches deep
- Cover latrine and wash water holes
- Pack out trash

6. Courtesy

- Avoid loud noise
- Leave flowers and plants
- No pets

7. Parts of low-impact camping can be applied to every camping outing

Note: Distribute copies of Low Impact Camping Quiz and answers. Suggest using the quiz as a troop leader introduction to stimulate interest in putting on the course.

Low-Impact Activities

Low-impact camping is not a full troop program for a long-term experience. This type of camping is for older, experienced Scouts who camp in small groups. Activities are to be quiet, thoughtful, subdued, and designed to blend with the environment. For this reason, low-impact camping takes careful planning and practice. Obtain some low-impact activity suggestions from the group and also provide some ideas.

Discussion

If time permits, ask whether anyone has questions.

Adjourn

Thank the group for its participation. Adjourn for the next activity.
