Planning a Patrol Camp

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

'Camping with the Stars' is a new initiative which aims to help you and your patrols organise adventurous, youth-led camps during the summer. The Scout Team will be producing a series of resources to help patrols plan their own camps, individually or with their troops. In this document, we'll look at picking a location, budgeting, and making gear lists.

Yours in Scouting,

Úna O'Grady,
Programme Commissioner (Scouts)

Getting Started

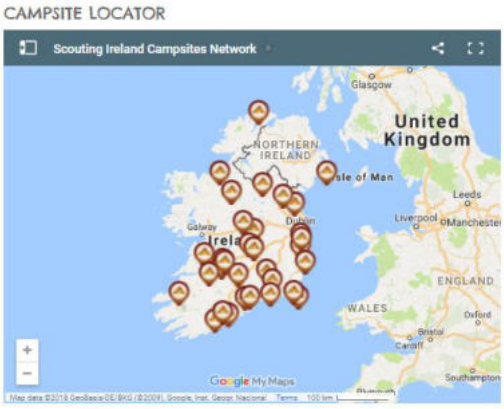
Planning a Patrol camp requires a lot of organising and brainstorming as a Patrol. The key to running any successful camp is to distribute tasks amongst all of the Patrol members and make sure that everyone has an opportunity to share their ideas! As a first step, take a look at some of the items below and begin to discuss as a Patrol who would be best suited to organising each:

TASK	PATROL MEMBER(S) RESPONSIBLE
Picking and Booking a Location	ALL
Choosing Dates for the Camp	ALL
Preparing a Budget	
Giving Parents and Guardians Notice	
Arranging Transport of Scouts and Equipment	
Making a Patrol Gear List	
Making a Personal Gear List	
Notifying Scouters and the Patrol Leader's Council	
Planning the Programme (and theme)	
Looking at what Programme you would like to cover (Crean Awards, Adventure Skills, Special Interest Badges etc).	

Picking a Location

There are lots of considerations to bear in mind when picking a location for a camp. Discuss with your Patrol some of the below points:

- What location will best suit the type of programme we would like to do (hillwalking, raft building, pioneering, backwoods etc.)?
- How will we get there?
- How far away are we (or our families) willing to travel?
- How much are we willing to spend on camp fees?
- Do we want to go to a campsite that offers activities?
- Do we want to go to somewhere we are familiar with or somewhere new?



Campsite/Activity Centres: scouts.ie/Scout-Centres
Scout campsites are agreat venue for patrol camps as they have the facilities and volunteers to help you run your camp. This directory has info on all Scouting Ireland campsites, camp fees, activities that they offer, as well as providing directions to the campsite.

The Budget

To make a budget for a Patrol camp, break it down into manageable elements.

Income (not all may be applicable)	Expenditure (not all may be applicable)
Scouts	Programme / Activities
Scouters	Travel / Mileage
Donations	Food
Money carried over from previous events	Venue
	Awards
	Contingency
	Miscellaneous

If you have a number of factors to price in your budget, assign tasks out amongst members of the patrol to research quotes for the various products and services. Where possible, you should try to obtain at least 3 different quotes for each item of expenditure to compare your options.

Below are some tips and guide prices for budgeting for an activity or camp.

- €5 per person per night is an average cost for camping fees.
- €5-€7 per person per day for food- this can be done for less or more depending on the event and planned menu

- 10% contingency should be budgeted for 'just in case' scenarios- this can be kept if not spent for the next event (or perhaps finish a camp with a pizza night)
- Make it affordable for participants & value for money
- Too cheap & it could be memorable for the wrong reasons
- Too expensive & you might not get the take up required

FOX PATROL- LOUGH DAN CAMP BUDGET			
Income:		**Expenditure:**	
Scout Fees	200	Campsite Fees	80
Fundraising	100	Food	80
		Activities	56
		Equipment	27
		Contingency	30
Total:	300	**Total:**	273
Balance:	27		

Don't forget a budget is a plan & it can change!

- Venue - High season prices maybe more expensive so get a quote in writing / email before hand
- Activities - Increase or decrease in numbers attending may push up the cost - combat this by trying to agree deals beforehand.

Preliminary Gear Check
At this stage it's not vital that you prepare all your gear. But it is important to see if there's anything your patrol may need to buy of borrow in the run up to camp.

The categories to think about are:
Tentage, including dining shelter – Take tents out and check for wear, that all parts are present and in good condition
Storage – Is your patrol box fit for purpose?
Water Storage – Is your water container clean and in good condition
Lighting –How are your lanterns? Do you have fuel?
Cooking gear – Whether fire or gas, is your cooking equipment safe and usable? If in doubt, ask your Scouter.
Axe and saw – Is your patrol axe sharp? Is it head sufficiently secure to the handle? Does your saw blade need to be replaced?
Is your patrol **camera** working?
Pots and Pans – Do you have a stock of good quality pots and pans for cooking? Are handles secure? Does everything have a lid?
Cooking utensils – Is there anything missing or which has seen better days? Are your knives sharp and storable safely?
Cooler box and ice blocks – Do you have enough? Do any of your ice blocks leak?
Games gear – Do you need to replace any of your games gear, like decks of cards, Frisbees, etc
Seating – If you use tables and benches, are they up for a week long camp?
Pioneering timber – Do you have enough quality timber?

Transporting people and equipment

Transporting the people

Public transport is always worth examining. Check out bus and train options online. How close to the campsite can public transport get you?

Private Bus Hire can be a costly option but is often the best solution. The Patrol consults yellowpages.ie to find bus companies to request quotes from. They also contact the campsite to see if they have any recommendations. They get at least 3 quotes

Lifts is often a great option for a Patrol camp because it only takes 2-3 cars to get the whole Patrol to where they need to go.

Transporting the equipment

Do you have the use of a van or trailer to transport your equipment? If not, you can consider renting equipment (some National Centres have equipment available to rent) or bringing less equipment so that you can carry it in your rucksacks.

Give Families notice about the camp

It's time to let those at home know what the plan for camp is. It might also include other details like:

- Information for first time campers
- Details about programme
- Notice if any particular expensive gear will be required
- Requests for assistance with lifts, gear, fundraising
- Rough timetables

Programme and Theme

When putting together the plan for camp it's key that you think about which elements of the ONE programme you are going to use.

- Are there any aspects of your camp which would help members of your patrol make progress through the Crean Awards?
    - What roles can the Scouts doing their Terra Nova Award do?
    - Do the Scouts doing their Endurance and Polar Awards have opportunities to organise and lead activities?
- Are Scouts working on Adventure Skills ?
- Are Scouts doing Special Interest Badges?
- Does everyone have a role?

- Does your Patrol or Troop have a theme for the camp? What might be a fun **theme** (e.g. Vikings, Harry Potter, Eco-Warriors, the Romans)?
- What **ceremonies** might you use to make the camp meaningful? Consider:
    - Will this be anyone's last camp before they move to Venture Scouts?
    - Is this anyone's first camp?
    - Does anyone need to be invested?