



The Phoenix Challenge 2010 – The Big Bang

Document 03b

The Phoenix Challenge & Campcraft

The Phoenix Challenge has a number of functions within the Scout programme. Many of the activities on the event will test a patrol's ability to adapt to different situations and to solve problems. However, this is not the primary aim of the Campcraft section of the event.

Just as the MPC/Sionnach programmes promote lightweight camping standards, one of the chief roles of the Campcraft section of the Phoenix is to promote the use of Campcraft skills and to set basic standards for their use. It is hoped that by promoting Campcraft skills in this way that troops will in turn incorporate a high standard of these skills into their standing camps and in patrol activities throughout the year.

While it is true to say that there is no one 'right' way of doing Campcraft, there are a number of basic principles and rules to be observed when constructing a campsite, from the pitching of a tent, to the storage of food, to the construction of a gadget. These principles and rules form the basis for the Campcraft guidelines issued for the competition.

When it comes to designing gadgets, the guidelines should be kept in mind at all times. They ensure that a gadget is going to be safe and will function as required. In this way, basic standards of Campcraft are maintained, while individual patrols are still free to produce their own designs.

Beyond the promotion of Campcraft skills, the Campcraft section of the Phoenix will also test a patrol in a number of ways.

- **Leadership and teamwork.** The building and maintaining of the campsite will require the PL to be in charge and for the patrol to work together over the four days.
- **Organisation.** The patrol's ability to have an organised approach to a task is tested to the full, as will be their time management skills while constructing the campsite.
- **Delegation.** There will be much work required to maintain a campsite over four days, and the patrol's ability to divide up and carry out these various tasks will be tested.
- **Safety & Hygiene.** A patrol's ability to maintain a safe and hygienic campsite over the four days is well and truly tested.

In short, the Campcraft section of the Phoenix is a major test of the patrol's ability to work together as a unit.

Camcraft Guidelines

These guidelines are intended to explain to a participating troop what the examining team will look for over the four days of The Phoenix Challenge.

Please read **all** of this information **carefully**.

General Information

- The size of the site will be **182m²** for **all** patrols. Sites will be marked out in advance, and patrols should not alter their allocated site. **Note** that every best effort will be made to ensure that all patrols are given a square site; however some sites may vary slightly from this to take account for the space available in The Phoenix Challenge camping field.
- The layout of each site is up to the participating teams.
- Gadgets may be free standing or driven into the ground. However, 'guy lines' supporting gadgets are **not** allowed. Note: All holes must be filled in for final inspection.
- No pre-fabricated gadgets are allowed. This refers specifically to the tying of lashings (typically tri-pod lashings) in advance of the competition. Any such lashings found on check-in will be dismantled. This does **not** refer to table-tops, fire trays, patrol boxes, etc.
- Troops **are** allowed to have the different gadgets bundled together, colour coded for identification, etc, upon arrival if they so wish.
- Tents may be of any type. However an Icelandic-style Ridge tent is recommended.
- Fire extinguishers **are banned** on patrol sites. Past experience has shown that, in general, Scouts do not know how to use them, and often the wrong types of extinguishers are brought. Buckets of sand and water should be provided instead, (Note: Sand buckets should be covered to protect from the elements) and fire blankets may also be provided. No gadget is required for the fire point. However, a clearly defined fire point should be present on all sites. The Location of the fire point is important, it should be relatively central but not impeding general access to the site or any other gadget.
- Water treatment facilities do **not** need to be constructed on patrol sites. Experience has shown that these gadgets have been rarely used correctly in the past.
- The cutting of sods is not allowed. Fire trays must be used.
- Please note that no equipment or timber poles/spars will be supplied to participating patrols. Each patrol must supply all of their own equipment for the event.

Campcraft Assessment Guidelines

The following will be assessed over the duration of The Phoenix Challenge.

(A) The Site. This will include assessment of the following:

- Sleeping Tent(s)
- Store Tent
- Dining Shelter
- Campsite Gadgets, to include:
 1. Table & Seating
 2. Alter Fire
 3. Food Preparation Area
 4. Waste Disposal
 5. Dresser
 6. Washing Area
 7. Wood Pile & Chopping Area
 8. Gate Way
- Boundaries
- Fire Point
- First Aid Kit
- Layout and use of space

Note: It is of primary importance that all patrols build a site that is safe for their use over the duration of The Phoenix Challenge. With this in mind patrols should only construct **safe** gadgets that they can competently build. I.e. bringing a fold out table and chairs is better than a poorly constructed table & seat. While patrols will not attain full marks for a fold out table and chairs, they could still be awarded greater marks than they may have received for an unsafe table & seat.

(B) Safety. Site safety is of paramount importance. During all visits by the campcraft inspection teams, site safety will be assessed. Patrol Leaders will be notified by sub-camp staff if any parts of their site are deemed to be unsafe, and consequently will be expected to make corrections.

The correct storage of all equipment, but especially axes, saws and gas appliances, is of great importance.

(C) Hygiene & Cleanliness. Along with site safety, hygiene & cleanliness are probably the most important aspects of campcraft. As with safety, these will be assessed on all visits by the campcraft inspection teams.

Food should be stored correctly at all times. This especially refers to perishable foods. Freezing facilities will be provided for the freezing of ice-packs and time will be set aside each morning for the changing of ice-packs in cool boxes. Please ensure you have twice the amount of ice-packs you require [to allow for change over] and please ensure they are clearly marked with permanent marker / paint with your troop details.

Cooking and eating utensils, as well as all work surfaces and cookers, should be properly cleaned after each use.

(D) Availability of Water & Fire Wood. There should be an ample supply of both on your site at all times. You will need to ensure that you have enough supplies to keep the alter fire as a functional fire for cooking food, boiling water etc for most of Friday as a minimum.

The Phoenix Challenge 2010

NOTE: There will not be firewood available in Larch Hill; you will need to ensure you bring ample supplies with you.

Site Inspection Guidelines - Tentage

Tents and Shelters will be marked both for their standard of pitching as well as their maintenance in use.

- Tent(s) - Standard of pitching
- poles used correctly
 - tent walls taut
 - guy lines used correctly
 - pegs used correctly – angle of peg, etc.
 - doors/porches used correctly
- Sleeping Tent(s) - Maintenance of tent
- interior tidy
 - groundsheet & sacking used correctly (Icelandic-type tent)
 - porch and inner tent used correctly (lightweight /dome tent)
- Storage Tent - **Note** : Where an ‘outside’ store set-up is used, the shelter must provide adequate shelter against the elements.
- Storage within tent
- food & non-food items stored separately
 - equipment items stored separately
 - use of space & general organisation within the tent
 - items not against the walls of the tent
 - there should **not** be a groundsheet in the store tent
 - all storage boxes (both food and equipment) must be raised off the ground – this can be done by means of a campcraft gadget or any other means
 - it is **not** permitted to attach any store gadgets to the tent poles
 - it is preferred that all items, especially food items, are stored within boxes, and not in an ‘on the shelf’ manner
- Dining Shelter - Standard of pitching
- poles straight and in line, (in the case of a pioneering structure being used, the ridge pole will have to be straight and the tripods/quads pods should be in line with each other)
 - guy lines straight
 - pegs used correctly – angle of peg, etc.
- Shelter design
- adequate cover for the entire patrol
 - shelter design that will keep out the elements
 - adequate room to move about under the shelter
 - adequate access which should allow movement in & out of the shelter without stooping or ducking

Site Inspection Guidelines – Gadgets

For each of the items listed below, safety is assessed at all times.

On all gadget items, the suitability of the design, the soundness of construction and the standard of lashings are assessed at all times.

All gadgets should be used for their purpose at all times. Gadgets built but not actually in use, for example a dresser without pots on display, etc, will not be able to gain maximum points.

Depending on design, some of the gadgets mentioned below may be combined into one gadget. Alternatively, some of their functions may be separated into different gadgets. Regardless of the design used, it is important that all the functions of the items listed below are catered for on the site.

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|-----------------|---|--|
| Table & Seating | - | the table-top should be a flat piece of wood, and should not be free to move |
| | - | the height of the table and seating should be appropriate for the size of the patrol members - no scout on the patrol should have to 'reach up' to the table, and neither should any patrol members feet be dangling in mid-air while seated |
| | - | free movement in and out of the seating should be possible |
| Alter Fire | - | the top of the fire tray should be at least 45cm and no more than 75cm off the ground. It is also important that the bottom of the fire tray is not too close to the ground as it will scorch the grass |
| | - | all timber and sisal in the immediate area of the fire tray should be heat protected with mud and/or tin foil |
| | - | the fire tray should not be free to move |
| | - | the fire tray should be level |
| Food Prep Area | - | the work surface should be waist height for an average Scout |
| | - | the work surface should not be free to move |
| | - | the work surface should be level |
| Waste Disposal | - | the gadget should be simple in design (example given) |
| | - | waste bags on the gadget should be clear of the ground |
| | - | waste bags should not be allowed to more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full |
| | - | provisions should be made for Burnable and Disposable rubbish. Burnable rubbish should be burned on site |
| | - | There will recycling facilities available and appropriate bins should be provided. |
| | - | The facility for recycling will be located at the Sub Camp tent all patrols are encouraged to make full use of these. |
| Dresser | - | all items stored on the gadget should be clear of the ground |
| | - | ideally, all utensils, cooking and personal, should be catered for on the dresser – this has the added bonus of removing clutter from the store tent |
| | - | the gadget should be constructed so as to allow storage of utensils securely – ie. they will not be blown off by wind, etc. |
| | - | the usage of bamboos and elastics to provide 'slots' for plates, etc. is permitted |

The Phoenix Challenge 2010

- Washing Area
- basins, drying areas, etc. should be waist height for an average Scout
 - ideally, provision should be made for the storage of water containers
 - ideally, separate basins should be provided for utensil and personal washing
- Wood Pile
- fire wood should be graded – kindling to heavier wood (3 grades of firewood should be considered)
 - the wood should have adequate protection from the elements and sufficient wood should be available to light a fire
- Chopping Area
- some form of plastic should be used to define a chopping area
 - the area should be adequate to allow safe chopping of wood – ie. an arm’s length clearance in all directions
 - the area should have some form of boundary
 - use should be made of a chopping block
- Gate Way
- **this should only be constructed after the rest of the site has been finished**
 - it should allow for easy access to the site – both width and height clearance for adults (It is recommended that the gate be at least 2m high and 1.2m wide)
 - it should be safe in design
 - it should have some form of patrol identification (sign, flag, notice board, etc.)
- Boundaries
- a single boundary line is sufficient – double boundaries are not recommended
 - correct knots should be used at the boundary poles – round turn and two half hitches at the start and finish, and clove hitches or marlyn spike hitches on intermediate poles
 - interior boundaries, are rarely done well and are mostly more of a hinderance than a help. If they are used they should be kept simple
- Fire Point
- this should be clearly identified and should be in a central location
- Layout
- different areas of the site should be clearly defined, but not necessarily with boundaries
 - the fire should be kept at the furthest point from the tents (in particular the sleeping tent(s))
 - relevant items should be located together
 - the use of space is important - it should be possible to walk around the site, in particular around the back of and in between tents.
- Axe & Saw
- May be stored on the wood-pile gadget, in the chopping area **or** in the store tent
 - It is important that these tools are store in a **safe manner**
 - Used safely at all times in accordance with “The Scouting Trail”

A note about Tri-pods & Quad-pods

Where free-standing campcraft is used, the majority of gadgets are built using Tri-pods or Quad-pods. It is important that these items are **braced correctly**. Failure to do so can result in a structure collapsing if knocked against. This would be especially dangerous in the case of tables and alter fires.

- In the case of Tri-pods, braces should be lashed on around the three sides of the structure, preferably with the braces low to the ground (especially on heavier gadgets). An alternative is a T-bar structure, although this can allow the back leg to swing if it is not done correctly.
- In the case of Quad-pods, diagonal braces or braces on all four sides should be used, again preferably low to the ground.
- Where one of these structures is braced by other parts of the gadget, then there may not be a need to use braces as described above. The important point is that on any tri-pod or quad-pod, none of the legs should be free to move. If in doubt use one of the above systems.

Typical Basic Designs for waste disposal gadget:

(Note: you do not have to use one of these designs)

