

Preparing for Patrol Camp

A patrol camp looks something like:

- A patrol camping independently
- A PL and APL leading the Patrol
- Scouts camping and cooking for themselves
- Scouts running their own programme
- Scouts progressing in the Crean Awards and the Adventure Skills
- Scouts practising Leave No Trace
- Scouters and Families encouraging the camp
- SI campsites and activity centres supporting the camp



Schedule for Patrol Camping:

It takes a few months to prepare for a patrol camp. It starts with patrols working together and running an active programme. The patrol will also need to practice and develop their skills.

Getting the Patrol Working Sept - Dec

- Have patrol meetings
- Organise a patrol activity
- Run a day activity in your patrol
- Scouts advance in the relevant Adventure Skills

Patrol Camp in the Troop Jan - March

- Several patrols camp together, but operate separately
- Each patrol plans its own programme
- Plan, buy and cook your own menu
- Scouters are camping with you, but only provide support
- Scouts advance in the relevant Adventure Skills

Shared Patrol Camp April

- Two or three Patrols walk together
- Camp near to home
- Camp on a Scouting Ireland campsite with wardens
- Scouters will call out to you and check in regularly
- Scouts advance in the relevant Adventure Skills

Patrol Camp May - August

- Camp on a Scouting Ireland campsite with wardens
- Scouters will call out to you and check in regularly

Programme Cycles: Example Patrol Camps

Week 1: Troop meeting, with Patrol Corners

- Review the last programme cycle
- Begin planning for the camp

Week 2: Troop meeting followed by Patrol Leaders' Council

- PLC meets and discusses each patrol's plan
- Activity leaders book sites

Week 3: Troop Meeting

- Plan camp programme
- Look how the camp will help them progress in their Crean Awards and Adventure Skills
- Each patrol practices tent pitching

Week 4: Troop Meeting & Activity (Saturday)

- Each patrol makes menus and prepare for cooking activity
- Activity: Camp cooking challenge, each patrol builds an altar fire and table, and prepares a 3 course meal.

Week 5: Troop Meeting

- Make final plans and arrange transport
- Activity Leaders discuss plans with Scouters

Week 6: Troop Meeting & Troop Activity (Weekend)

- Get equipment ready
- Activity: patrol camp

Week 7: Troop Meeting, with Patrol Corners

- Return equipment
- Write camp log
- Send thank you cards
- Reviews the camp and generate new ideas for the next cycle.

General and Technical Bits:

- The welfare of each Scout is very important.
- Attention to safety is also very important.
- Patrol camps are organised with the guidance of the Scouters Team.
- The Camp Leader should coordinate with the other patrols.
- It's a good idea to camp on Scouting Ireland campsites, with wardens, and to avoid caravan sites, holiday or entertainment centres.
- Each Scout participating needs to use the relevant Scouting Ireland Activity Consent & Medical Advice Forms.
- Separate sleeping, toilet and washing accommodation should be available for males and females.
- The Activity Leader must hold a Level 5 Camping Adventure Skills Badge.
- A qualified (over 16) First Aider should be available at the location of the overnight.
- Live the Scout Law and Promise.
- Follow the principles of Leave No Trace.

Programme Planning

You need to plan and run an active and balanced programme. When planning your programme you need to think about questions like these:

- Are there any aspects of your camp which would help members of your patrol make progress through the Crean Awards?
- Are Scouts working on Adventure Skills ?
- Are Scouts doing Special Interest Badges?
- Does everyone have a role?
- What facilities are available on or near the site?
- How long will cooking and wash-up take?
- Are you having a spiritual element to the programme? Running a scouts' own or attending a religious service?

Sample Programme

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Friday			Travel Set up Camp Night Orienteering Supper
Saturday	Breakfast Pioneering	Lunch Environmental Project	Dinner Scouts' Own Campfire Supper
Sunday	Breakfast Sketch Maps	Lunch Break Camp Travel Return Equipment	

Budgeting

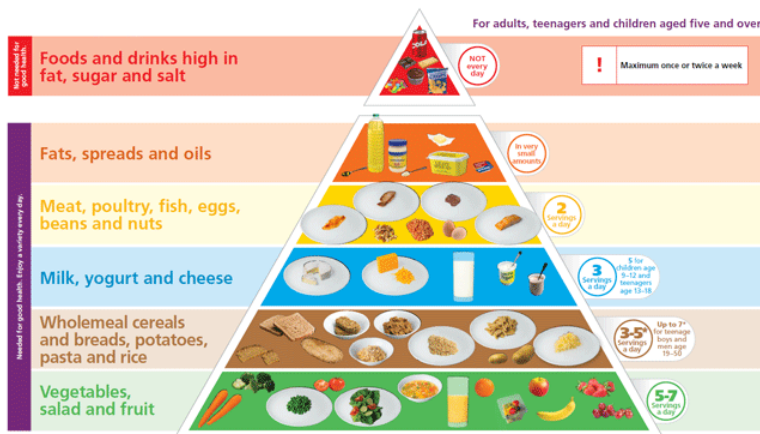
- List all your projected expenditure – expenditure categories might include campsite fees, food, and programme.
- Consider what suits you best, not just what is the cheapest Add in your contingency (around 15% of the total of other expenditure)
- Talk to your Scouter and see what they think
- Do a second draft, discuss it with the patrol and have each scout take one home

Sample budget for a patrol of seven

Camp Fees	70.00
Food	112.00
Equipment	25.00
Total Cost	207.00
Cost per Scout	29.60

Menu Planning

You need to plan a full balanced menu for the camp. The menu needs to accommodate the tastes and health of all the scouts and the partialities of the site. The scouts responsible for cooking should have experience of cooking on camp.



For info on a balanced diet, check out: safefood.eu

Things to think about when planning a menu:

- Is it a balanced menu? Do you have enough fruit and vegetables?
- How much will it cost?
- Do any Scouts have allergies & intolerances?
- Is there food that Scouts won't eat?
- How will the food be stored?
- When will the food be bought? And, how will it be transported?

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Supper
Friday				Hot diluted drinks Fruit
Saturday	Cereal Bars Toast Fruit Hot Drink	Sandwiches Fruit Crisps Yogurt	Chicken Fried Rice Salad Cake	Hot diluted drinks Biscuits
Sunday	Porridge Scrambled Eggs Fruit Juice	Wraps Salad Crisps Yogurt		

Equipment

Make out a list of the equipment based on the programme and the menu. In the lead-up to the camp, the equipment should be checked and packed ready for transport. The Patrol Quartermaster should coordinate this. Things to think about:

- **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? 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.
- **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?
- **Seating** – If you use tables and benches, are they up for a camp?
- **Axe and saw** – Is your patrol axe sharp? Is its head sufficiently secure to the handle? Does your saw blade need to be replaced?

Transport

Careful planning needs to be made for transporting people and equipment. You need a clear plan that everyone understands.

Lifts: For a local patrol camp, carpooling is the most cost effective and convenient way of getting to and from the site. Make sure a rota is made out, everyone has a lift, and everyone has the details.

Transporting the equipment: You can divide the equipment between the cars or if someone has access to a van or a trailer you can use that. Make sure you have plans to transport the equipment to and from the campsite. Also, you will need to have access to the Group stores.

Emergencies and Safety:

With the help of a scouter think out common risks associated with camping and then suggest what you would do. Here are some examples:

- **Risk** - An accident resulting in an injury. **Mitigant** – Ensure code of good behaviour by Scouts in place and take no silly risks
- **Risk** - An accident resulting in damage to equipment. **Mitigant** – Ensure all Scouts are trained in the proper use of all equipment
- **Risk** - Cancellation of accommodation booked. **Mitigant** – Arrange back up accommodation as a contingency
- **Risk** - Uncontrollable changes to travel plans. **Mitigant** – Have contact details for all relevant people and have an emergency plan for heading home
- **Risk** – Illness. **Mitigant** – Take all reasonable precautions in food preparation. Ensure first aid training up to date. Be aware of pre-existing conditions. Have an appropriately stocked first aid kit.
- **Risk** - Bad weather conditions . **Mitigant** – Have a Plan B and Plan C that are not weather dependant
- **Risk** - Loss/theft of money/equipment. **Mitigant** – Have back up funds available at short notice in an emergency

Safety Checklist

- Do you have emergency contact details for the Scouters and the campsite?
- Will you always have a charged phone available? Is there way of charging a phone?
- Is the Camp Leader aware of any medical conditions and the actions that need to be taken if a situation arises?
- Do you have a safety plan in place?
- Do you have a fully stocked first aid kit?

Roles in organising a Patrol Camp

Every scout has a part to play in your Patrol Camp. Everyone should be involved in making the programme as successful, fun, and interesting as possible. This is a quick guide to helping you have everyone involved.

Participation: Scouts on their Terra Nova Award

You will mainly be getting used to the way the Patrol works. You will participate in the programme through partaking in activities and holding specific roles in the patrol, such as grubmaster or photographer.

Active Involvement: Scouts on their Endurance Award or assistant activity leaders

In the second year, Scouts take on more responsibility. You become more active in the Patrol and Troop by starting to organise parts of activities, holding more challenging roles (such as Treasurer or Quartermaster), and by passing on your skills to others. For the camp, you will plan, prepare (get equipment ready, understand the skills involved, know the schedule etc.), run, and review specific parts.

Leading: Scouts on their Polar Award or Activity Leaders

Scouts in their final year take on leadership roles, usually as PLs and APLs. You will run the camp with help from other scouts, and ensure everyone has a part to play. Also, your Scouters are there to support you and give advice when you need it, make sure you keep them up to date on everything that is involved.

Supporting: Scouters

Adult Scouters are mainly there to provide support to you, the Scouts, in running the programme. They work with the Activity Leaders by providing advice, guidance, and encouragement. Scouters have overall responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of all the scouts, and in preparing for and controlling risk.

Scout	Individual	Patrol
Terra Nova	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Equipment • Working on Crean Awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role agreed by the Patrol • Taking part
Endurance (APL / Activity Leader)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Equipment • Working on Crean Awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role agreed by the Patrol • Taking part • Running a part of the activity • Preparing (plan, equipment etc) • Helping others
Polar (PL / Activity Leader)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Equipment • Working on Crean Awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running the activity • Leading by example • Preparing (plan, equipment etc) • Coordinating • Helping others • Sharing skills • Ensuring safety • Informing Patrol of schedule • Making a budget, buying supplies • Booking venues and activities • Informing Troop of schedule
Scouter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Equipment • Working on Scouter Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Patrols & Scouts • Ensuring safety • Assisting when needed • Working with Activity Leaders • Help with budget, planning, bookings etc • Coordinating with Scout Group • Acting as a role model



Activity Youth Leader Checklist

Programme

We have a planned programme for the activity

It helps all Scouts progress in their Crean Awards

Location

A suitable venue that you & Scouters are happy with

Emergency services can access the site

The location is booked

Administration

We have an activity timetable

We have a wet weather plan

You and the Scouters are aware of any medical requirements

We have a charged mobile phone available

We have all bookings printed and in a folder

Finance

We have a well-planned budget

We will have contingency funds with us

Transport

Transport is arranged/booked

There is enough flexibility in our transport plan in case of delays

Equipment

We have all the equipment needed

We have tested all the equipment

We know how to use all our equipment safely

Training

We have the appropriate training for the activity

Emergency

We all know who to call in case of emergency



Scouter Checklist

Programme

The Patrol/PLC have a planned programme for the activity

It helps each Scout progress in their Crean Awards

We know what supports the Patrols/Troop needs

Location

They have a suitable venue for the programme planned

Emergency services can access the site

The location is booked

Administration

They have an activity timetable

They have a wet weather plan

You and the Youth Leader are aware of any medical requirements

They have a charged mobile phone available

They have all bookings printed and in a folder

Finance

They have a well-planned budget

They have contingency funds with them

Transport

Transport is arranged/booked

There is enough flexibility in the transport plan in case of delays

Equipment

They have all the equipment needed

They have tested all the equipment

They know how to use all our equipment safely

Training

We/they have the appropriate training for the activity

Emergency

All the Scouts know who to call in case of emergency

Campsites and Activity Centres

Scouting Ireland's campsites and activity centres can be great venues that can facilitate a patrol camp. They can provide:

- A safe site, with facilities
- Activities
- Volunteer staff who can support the patrol
- Local knowledge and advice
- Some have a 24hr presence of volunteer staff

Tips for working with a Scouting Ireland campsite:

Search through the directory and find the campsite which suits your needs (location, activities, budget).

- The PL or APL contacts the campsite and explains their plan
- Book any programme needed
- Get contact details for the site
- Some campsites might need a deposit in advance, the treasurer should send this on

Campsite/Activity Centres: goo.gl/DYpgYK

This directory has info on all Scouting Ireland campsites, camp fees, activities that they offer, as well as providing directions to the campsite.



Keeping Families Informed

It is important to keep families informed what is involved in patrol camps, some people may be initially uncomfortable with the idea of a patrol camp. Check out the form at the end of this document as an example of a letter to send home to families. Some points to raise:

- Camping is an extremely important to the Scouting programme.
- Scouting seeks to train each team in such a way that it becomes self-sufficient both in terms of skills and as a working team of young people able to undertake different challenges.
- One of the most important opportunities for the Patrol is the opportunity to camp as a team on their own with adult support at a distance. This is no ordinary undertaking and a Patrol will have carefully planned for such an event.
- Patrol Camps are planned, well in advance, under the guidance of the adult Scouter.
- The Camp Leader has special training in the area of organising a camp and in leadership and responsibility.
- The Patrol has the skill set required – organisational ability, cooking skills, camping skills, first aid and an awareness of safety.
- A plan of action, budget for the event, programme, equipment list, emergency plans etc. are carefully drawn up and are fully reviewed by the adult Scouter in consultation with the Scouts.
- The camp must take place on a recognised campsite owned by Scouting Ireland and with a warden staff available on site (experienced adults who manage the campsite).
- Parents must provide written approval for Scouts to the camp.
- During the camp, adult scouters will visit the Patrol over the weekend to check on progress and well-being and will be in effect 'on call' should any difficulties arise.
- Camps are supported by their own adult Scouter. Adults are near at hand on the campsite in case of emergency, normally less than a few hundred meters away. So, the Team feels it is alone but in fact they are holding the camp in a controlled and safe environment.

Parent Guardian Permission to Attend a Team Camp Approval Form

This approval form only relates to the Team Camp outlined below. You as Parent/Guardian have signed other forms from the Scout Troop relate to Medical Details and general permission for your child. This information is still relevant, and you do not need to fill in another form this camp.

This form solely relates to the camp listed and details as listed. A parental/guardian approval is required for each Team Camp that your child attends.

We/I the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of:

Are happy to provide permission for our child to attend the Team Camp as listed and outlined.

Date of Camp: _____ Locations: _____

It is our understanding that the Section/Group Scouters have provided the necessary training and support to all the Scouts participating in this adventure, and that they are confident in the leadership of the Team Leader and their Team to undertake this camp in a responsible manner.

Name & Date: _____

Contact Number(s): _____



Camp Details

Date of Camp _____ Location of Camp _____

Meeting at for departure _____ Returning home at _____

Team Leader in Charge _____

Number of Scouts attending _____ Cost of the camp _____

The Team camp outlined above has been planned with the approval of the Scouter team of

_____ and has undergone the checks and balances as outlines above. We the Scouter team have confidence in the Patrol that they have the capabilities to undertake this adventure and therefore seek your approval for your child to attend the camp.

Scouters name _____ Phone _____

Team Leaders name _____ Phone _____

Campsite warden _____ Phone _____

See Formal Parental/Guardian Permission to Attend Approval Form overleaf