

# OUTDOORS UNDER CANVAS AND INDOOR HOLIDAYS - PARENTS MEETING

**Please remember your Region Outdoor Activities Committee are there to advise on all camping queries.**

Regulations about outdoor camps and indoor holidays are made with a view to safeguarding the girls. It is necessary for a Leader to obtain appropriate camping qualifications before taking the girls away on an outdoor camp or indoor holiday (refer *Guidelines*).

## FORMS

A form requesting permission must be completed by the Leader and approval of District Leader and the Region Outdoor Activities Committee obtained before the camp/holiday is held.

**(NOTE:** Once camping qualifications have been gained, you need only complete "Notification to Camp" - this is sent to the District Leader when the camp date is set - then to the Region Outdoor Activities Representative.)

## PERMISSION OF PARENTS OR CARE GIVER

Approval of the Guide's parents or care giver must be obtained. Permission forms may be purchased from the Guide Shop.

## PARENTS' MEETING

It is essential to hold a parents' meeting. Not only does this meeting save time, but also questions raised by one parent may assist another. It is a good idea to draw up an agenda to help you to run the meeting.

### Sample Agenda

<b>1. Welcome:</b>	<i>Introduce staff.</i> Explain the qualifications you and other staff members hold. This will reassure parents that although camp/indoor holidays appeal to the girl's sense of adventure, the health, safety and happiness of the girls is your first concern.
<b>2. Apologies:</b>	These should be noted and followed up.
<b>3. Aim of camp or holiday:</b>	<i>Extension of the Unit program.</i> An opportunity to use practical skills learned. Guides learn to live and play together.
<b>4. Location:</b>	Where the camp/holiday is to be held, facilities available, transport and directions for getting there. <b>Note:</b> If staying for more than two days, the address where mail can be sent, and if there is a visitor's day.
<b>5. Duties of girls during camp or holiday:</b>	Stress that girls have discussed and are happy with allocated duties. Explain the duties and that at the Unit meetings prior to the camp/holiday, the girls will be trained in the necessary skills.
<b>6. Program:</b>	Show parents a sample of a days program and explain the rules the girls have agreed on.
<b>7. Fee:</b>	Explain that the fee includes: rent, food, cleaning equipment, craft materials, small treats, treasure hunt "bits and pieces", log book, transport etc. A balance sheet will be prepared and made available at the end of the camp/holiday.
<b>8. General:</b>	Date when forms and final moneys need to be in. Advise if pocket money is necessary.
<b>9. First Aid:</b>	Read out all items in your First Aid kit list. Give parents an opportunity to advise if a girl is allergic to anything on the list.  The health form is to be completed the <b>DAY BEFORE THE CAMP OR HOLIDAY.</b> Explain that <b>ALL</b> medication must be handed to the First Aider and clearly labelled with instructions.  Tetanus injections - when are boosters due?  Are there any sleep walkers? – it is important to ask this question every time, particularly if double-decker bunks are being used.

	<p>Ask about bee sting - fly spray - sunscreen- mosquito repellent - detergent - bush and scrub - allergies.</p> <p>Are parents members of any ambulance scheme?</p> <p>Plans made in case of illness, First Aider on staff and doctor on call. Parents will be notified if their child has need of medical attention.</p> <p>Ask if there are any bed-wetters.</p> <p>Do the girls understand about menstruation?</p>
<b>10. Catering QM:</b>	<p>The QM needs to know if anyone is allergic to certain foods or if there are any foods not acceptable for religious or ethnic reasons. As girls have planned their menu it is accepted that apart from foods they cannot eat - everyone <b>MUST</b> have a go.</p>
<b>11.Swimming:</b>	<p>Advise if swimming is to take place and of necessary precautions.</p> <p>Explain life savers' qualifications and the buddy system.</p>
<b>12 Kit List:</b>	<p>Show appropriate informal uniform and explain if buying new slacks, shorts etc. to purchase approved colours. Mention that a pack of dye can often do the job! <b>THONGS ARE NOT WORN</b>. Emphasise that parents should let the Guide pack her own cases/pack. This is part of the program and is an opportunity to put skills learnt into practice.</p> <p>Show a bedroll, suitable pack or overnight bag and drawstring bag for mess gear. <b>STRESS THE NEED FOR EACH ITEM OF THE KIT TO BE LABELLED WITH THE GIRL'S NAME.</b></p>
<b>13.Parents' Help:</b>	<p>Transport required to and from.</p> <p>Old net or curtains for food covers.</p> <p>Any donations of food, fruit etc. passed in or required.</p>
<b>14.Any questions:</b>	<p>Assure parents that homesickness is not at all common. The girls are with friends and adults they know well.</p>
<b>15.Close meeting:</b>	<p>Please do not limit your invitation to mothers only - ask the fathers along as well - their practical approach is tremendous. Good luck with your parents' meeting.</p>