

Pipsico 2013  
Wilderness Survival Weekend  
Leader Guide  
(rev. 2/11/13)

# Wilderness Survival

This manual provides materials and information for the 2013 Pipsico Wilderness Survival Weekend Scouts and Scouters. This manual will assist the Scouts working towards earning Wilderness Survival Merit Badge. There is also a section of reference material for other counselors and fellow Scouters to use if they would like.

## Introduction

Wilderness Survival is a rewarding merit badge. The skills and knowledge gained during the course of working on this badge will help prepare you with the understanding and confidence that you can take care of yourself in an outdoor emergency situation. And learning how to survive in any circumstance is one of the purest examples of the Scout Motto "*Be Prepared.*" Learning the proper skills and having a few key pieces of the right gear in advance of an emergency can make the difference between an uncomfortable situation or a disaster.

The first step towards earning any merit badge is to read the pamphlet! Don't worry if some of the material doesn't make sense at first. We will cover the material in class. The requirements can be divided into three main parts:

1. Knowledge & Skills
2. Constructing a Survival Kit
3. Constructing & Sleeping in a Survival Shelter

I will also distribute a study guide. This information will help you structure your learning, provide reference and study material supporting each requirement, and serve as your notebook or journal for recording the experiments and your study plot observations. Keep all of your pages from the guide for your own personal record but please return the binder so I can use it for future groups (it's wise to keep copies of *all* of your merit badge work even after you have earned it in case records get lost or misplaced).

If at any point you have a question or are not sure of what has been covered or what needs to be done, ask me!

## Requirements, Pamphlet & Study Guide

The study guide is a supplement to the merit badge pamphlet. It includes worksheets for several of requirements, as well as additional reading material for most of the requirements. Use of this guide is not required. It is only to serve as a guideline to help you understand and/or complete the requirement.

Posted on event web page. [Click here or visit.](#)

<http://www.tidewaterbsa.com/PSR/special-events/wilderness-survival/>

## Personal Survival Kit

Building a survival kit is fun. It's an opportunity to collect items and gear designed for use when your safety and welfare may be at stake. The overall objective is to include items that will be useful tools in an outdoor emergency in securing the three main necessities; shelter, water & food. The fun part is to gather items that are small and often have multiple, creative uses. Size is important because if your kit is too large you are not likely to want to carry it with you on hikes and campouts. A survival kits safely stashed in your tent does no good in an emergency on a day hike! Multiple use items are important because you can carry fewer items, which keeps it small. Why carry two tools for two tasks if one tool will do them both.

Doug Ritter from the Equipped To Survive Foundation has spent a lot of time and thought in developing a small personal survival kit. He began this process as a pilot who noticed that most pilots where ill prepared for emergency landings. So he started to develop an emergency landing kit for his plane. From there he realized a good survival kit is critical in many other situations. So he started to design and test other kits, including a small personal survival kit (PSK) for everyday carry. Doug has graciously allowed us to reproduce the contents of his Mini PSK on our site. We will be using this list as the basis for building our own PSK kits for the merit badge. Adventure Medical Kits worked with Mr. Ritter to develop a pocketsize survival kit that contains most of the items needed. They offer a bulk order discount and we will assemble a group order for interested Scouts (and Scouters). The cost is actually much lower than it would be than to purchase many of these items separately on your own.

## Additional Materials

Here you'll find additional material that can help you learn Wilderness Survival skills and techniques. Some of this is in your Study Guide. But some of the material just wouldn't fit or was not directly related to requirements. I hope you take some time to browse this material and these sites so you become aware of what information or resources are available to you.

## Hand Outs

Posted on event web page. [Click here or visit.](#)  
<http://www.tidewaterbsa.com/PSR/special-events/wilderness-survival/>

## Articles (sorted by MB requirement)

Posted on event web page. [Click here or visit.](#)  
<http://www.tidewaterbsa.com/PSR/special-events/wilderness-survival/>

## Links

Posted on event web page. [Click here or visit.](#)  
<http://www.tidewaterbsa.com/PSR/special-events/wilderness-survival/>

### DAILY PROGRAM SCHEDULE (Monday to Friday)

FRIDAY	
1600 TO 2200	Gates open & registration begins. Unnits will check-in at GREGSON CENTER (at camp entrance) and proceed into ROTARY parking area.  Patrol method camping centered on campsite 6. Scout Trailers can be dropped at the closest area to the trailhead as marked.
2130	SM & SPL Meeting @ center of campsite 6.
2200	Gates closed. Late arrivals call for guidance.
SATURDAY	
0700	Reveille, Scouts break and pack up Patrol Camp areas. Breakfast, Patrol Method.
0830	Scout Masters, Crew Advisors, Event Counselors, and Senior Patrol Leaders/Crew Event Advisors (WS Leaders meeting)
0900	Opening Flag Ceremony & program begins.
1200	Lunch
1300	Program resumes.
1800	Dinner & resume program ASAP
SUNDAY	
0700	Reveille, Scouts break and pack up Patrol Camp areas. Breakfast, Patrol Method.
0900	Closing Flag Ceremony.

### FACILITIES

#### Campsites

Camping for this event will be in Camp Rotary. This is a primitive event without roads to campsites. Units/campers should plan and pack minimally. No vehicles will be able to get into the campsite. Rotary campsite 6.

#### Trading Post & Spending Money

The Trading Post will be closed and not accessible. Please do not rely on it to purchase anything you might forget. Check and recheck your gear.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

### Medicals

All Scouts and leaders should have completed parts A&B of the official BSA medical as a good habit for any Scouting event. They will not be collected, but should be readily accessible in the event of an emergency. The official BSA form is located here: [www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/whole.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/whole.pdf).

### Fires, Stoves, Tents & Open Flames

For safety reasons, there are to be **no open flames in tents**. This ban on open flames in tents includes a ban on the use of matches, candles, kerosene, propane or liquid lanterns in tents. Lighting in tents is to be provided by battery-powered lanterns or flashlights only. It is, however, acceptable to use a lantern under a dining fly. All cooking fires, campfires and stoves are to be attended while they are burning. Fires are only to be built in designated areas and must be extinguished so that they are cold to the touch when unattended. Spraying aerosol cans of any type (insecticide, deodorant, hair spray, etc.) are also prohibited in tents. The propellants in these products will damage the waterproofing treatment on the canvas.

## YOUTH PROTECTION POLICIES

Leaders are asked to review the Guide to Safe Scouting before attending camp and ensure compliance by their unit with policies as detailed in the Guide, particularly in respect of youth protection policies. Failure to comply with Guide to Safe Scouting and youth protection policies will result in disciplinary action. Key portions of the youth protection policies found in the Guide to Safe Scouting are reproduced below. Other Guide to Safe Scouting policies are also contained elsewhere in this guide.

Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members and protect their own privacy at all times. Except in emergencies, adults and youth may not enter each other's designated sleeping and shower areas. No Scout may share a tent with an adult who is not his own parent or guardian.

### Leadership Requirements for Trips and Outings

1. Safety rule of 4:

*No fewer than four individuals (always with the minimum of two adults) go on any backcountry expedition or campout. If an accident occurs, one person stays with the injured, and two go for help. Additional adult leadership requirements must reflect an awareness of such factors as size and skill level of the group, anticipated environmental conditions, and overall degree of challenge.*

2. Male and female leaders must have separate sleeping facilities:

*Married couples may share the same quarters if appropriate facilities are available. Male and female youth participants will not share the same sleeping facility.*

3. Single-room or dormitory-type accommodations for Scouting units:

*Adults and youth of the same gender may occupy dormitory or single-room accommodations, provided that there is a minimum of two adults and four youth. A minimum of one of the adults is required to be youth-protection trained. Adults must establish separation barriers or privacy zones such as a temporary blanket or sheet walls in order to keep their sleeping area and dressing area separated from the youth area.*

4. When staying in tents, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his or her parent or guardian.

### Responsibilities of Youth Members

All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Scout Oath and Law. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft, verbal insults, drugs and alcohol have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership in the unit. If a Scout cannot conduct himself in an acceptable manner, the unit may, at their discretion, arrange for the Scout to return home. The Camp's leadership team should not be expected to take over the role of the unit leadership in disciplining youth although they may serve as a resource to assist the unit in their efforts.

### Unit Responsibilities

Adult leaders units are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and interceding when necessary. Parents of youth members who misbehave should be informed and asked for assistance in dealing with it. The BSA does not permit the use of corporal punishment by unit leaders when disciplining youth members. The unit

committee should review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the parents of the child to determine a course of corrective action including possible revocation of the youth's membership in the unit. If problem behavior persists, units may revoke a Scout's membership in that unit. When a unit revokes a Scout's membership, it should promptly notify the council of the action. The unit should inform the Scout executive about all incidents that result in a physical injury or involve allegations of sexual misconduct by a youth member with another youth member.

## GENERAL

### **Alcoholic Beverages & Drugs**

Alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited. Prescription drugs must be held at the Health Lodge unless otherwise specifically approved by the camp's Health Officer.

### **Bicycles**

Scouts and Leaders are permitted to bring their bicycles and helmets to camp. It is the responsibility of the Troop leader to make sure that all bikes the Troop brings are safe to use and properly maintained. Please review the mountain bike policy in the appendix to this Leader's guide before bringing any bikes to camp.

### **Cell Phone Policy**

We would request that Scouts not to take cell phones to program sessions or, at the very least, to turn them off during sessions. Use of cell phones during program sessions is inconsiderate to other participants and, in some cases can be extremely dangerous (Scouts using axes, climbing, lighting fires, etc, should not be distracted by a ringing phone).

### **Electronic Devices**

Radios, cell phones, CD players, video games, and other personal electronic devices detract from the camping experience and provide an inviting target for theft. Do not bring them into camp. If you permit them during travel to and from camp, please leave them in the car during your stay at camp. Youth campers are not permitted to have two-way radios or pagers in camp, as these have proven to be highly disruptive of the camp routine.

### **Initiations, Hazing & Military Training**

Corporal punishment, hazing, initiation of any sort, and military training and drill are not permitted in the Boy Scouts of America.

### **Pets**

No pets are allowed in camp. Please ensure that anyone planning to visit your troop during the week is also aware of this rule.

### **Smoking**

Anyone under 18 years old is prohibited from using tobacco in any form while at camp. Adults who smoke must do so out of sight of any youth members. Smoking is prohibited in any tent or building. Cigarette butts must be field stripped and placed in a trash receptacle.

### **Uniform and Dress Code**

The use of the official BSA uniforms is at the discretion of the units for this event.

Closed-toe shoes must be worn at all times.

### **Vehicles in Camp**

Only in designated parking areas. There will be no vehicular access to campsites.

### **Weapons, Knives, Full Axes, Fireworks, Firearms**

Pipsico provides all necessary and appropriate equipment for our shooting programs. Personal firearms, ammunition, bows and arrows are not permitted in camp. Also, no water guns are permitted at camp. Sheath knives are prohibited in camp by Tidewater Council policy. Pocketknives may be carried by adult leaders and any Scout who has earned the Totin' Chip. Fireworks & firearms of any kind are prohibited in camp. LEO's please notify the council prior to camp of any special requirements by your department.

## HOW TO GET TO CAMP

Pipsico is located in Spring Grove, Virginia, approximately midway between Norfolk and Richmond. It is about 25 miles off Interstate 295 from Hopewell, Virginia.

Pipsico is centrally located to a host of attractions. The first permanent English settlement at Jamestown is a short distance via the nearby ferry. Many fascinating historical sites from the first 250 years of American history are within easy driving distance (an hour or so). Among these are Colonial Williamsburg, restored colonial plantations, the Revolutionary War battlefield at Yorktown, and Civil War battlefields around Richmond and Petersburg.

For those who want more modern adventure, local amusement parks include Busch Gardens and Water Country USA. A moderate drive from camp brings visitors to the Naval base in Norfolk, the NASA Langley Research Center, the Atlantic Ocean beaches and boardwalk at Virginia Beach, and much more.

If you are coming from outside the local area, we would be glad to have you as our guests in Camp Rotary for a few extra days so you can add some of these world-class attractions to your summer camp experience. With advance notice, we can provide breakfast, dinner, and box lunches on the days you are in Camp Rotary for a nominal cost.



**CAMP ROSTER FOR TROOP/CREW \_\_\_\_\_**  
*(please complete this roster before checking in at camp)*

