

Ready for trouble

From an idea in
The Canadian Scouter

This month's theme is "Ready for Trouble" - training Scouts to look after themselves or help others during emergencies. Base your programs for the next month on related badge and test work and a selection of the following activities: small group and Section projects; visits; simulated emergencies and instruction.

Visits

Arrange visits to community services related to health and safety - filtration plant, sewage-disposal plant, laboratory, blood donor clinic, hospital, health department, and fire or police department. Have your Scouts prepare displays or give short talks following the visits, outlining the contribution of the service to the community.

Take in the nearest air-rescue centre or country fire control centre. Explore the subject of industrial safety through visits to major industry and construction projects. An example of a visit of this nature would be to a mine-rescue centre. Poisoning is a growing cause of death of youngsters in this country. Arrange a visit to the nearest poison-control centre. Find out how it operates. What are the causes of childhood poisoning? How can it be avoided? What first aid is required for poisoning?

Instruction

First aid is a basic preparedness subject. A Scout should be able to care for his own injuries without assistance from other people know what to do for others and how to do it. Plan a first-aid course using outside resource persons as instructors. The St. John Ambulance Association will be pleased to assist you; or have the Scouts attend a first-aid course offered to the community. Encourage them to earn

the appropriate stage to the First Aid Badge. Other subject areas for specialised instruction include:

Fire - types of extinguishers, alternative materials, fire fighting, forest and grass fires, rescue knots

Police - criminology, road safety

Life saving - Life Saving Target and Challenges, methods of resuscitation, throwing a lifeline

Bicycle/Car safety - road emergencies, protection of cars against theft, flats, and freeway travel rules.

Casualty simulation

Scouts need to be aware of what they would do - at home, in school, at play, downtown, camping - if emergencies arise. Realistic casualty simulation will do much to help them react properly and immediately when faced with emergency. Help them overcome shocked inactivity by alerting them to what can happen and giving practice in potentially shocking situations. Set up realistic situations to portray the following and have small groups cope with these "emergencies":

- burns and scalds
- auto accident
- electrical accident in the home
- grease fire in the kitchen

The emergencies portrayed can range from simple to complex problems - however; a child is far more likely to face simple emergencies in his/her daily routine.

Survival skills

When a person is lost, or as a result of disaster, left without customary resources, survival becomes paramount. Even in our most urban areas the possibility of prolonged power failure in cold weather necessitates resourcefulness and an ability to

care for oneself. Offer training in securing basic food, clothing and shelter. Include obtaining edible plants, capturing birds, animals and fish and lighting fires under adverse conditions. Practise building bivouacs, trapping and snaring. Seek assistance from survival experts, personnel from the armed services, forestry and other departments to serve as trainers in survival skills. Organise a lost-person search". Conceal a dummy and set out traces of "evidence" pieces or shreds of clothing and footprints. Have your Scouts develop on a map of the area a systematic approach to the search. Many police departments now make use of dogs in the search of lost persons.

Projects

Incorporate some of the following in your program as individual or small group projects: a scrapbook illustrating highway carelessness

- membership in a school-safety Patrol
- placing of warning signs at dangerous swimming
- accident prevention poster campaign
- home-safety check for inflammable materials, storage of poisons, faulty electrical appliances

- make a survival kit
- set out and light road flares
- change a car tyre

"Lost child" hike

Scouts are often called upon to assist in a search for lost persons, so it is helpful if they are trained in search techniques. This training can be dramatic by simulating the real thing. We suggest "A Lost Child" hike for a title, but the lost pilot, missing hunter, or similar name could be substituted for lost child. Choice of name depends on your part of the country and interests of your Scouts. The important thing is not the title, but rather the realism of the training experience. In lost person searches, Scouts are usually called into action by use of a Troop mobilisation plan. If the plan is organised on a Patrol basis, adult leaders call Patrol leaders to set the plan in action. Be sure to announce equipment needs either before or at the time of mobilisation calls. Here is a typical Patrol mobilisation plan:

Add or subtract from this plan according to the number of Scouts in the Patrol. If a Scout can't be reached, bypass him and contact the Scouts he was supposed to call.