

Outpost Hike Instructions

Follow these instructions as closely as possible:

Before proceeding further, hold a quick patrol meeting and select one member as the *patrol pathfinder*. He should be the Scout most skilled in map and compass.

- The patrol pathfinder should carefully review the enclosed directions. He should share this information with the patrol.
- Meanwhile the patrol leader and assistant patrol leader should review the division of patrol food and equipment and make sure each patrol members gear is complete.
- When this is done the patrol should report to their Scoutmaster for the start of the outpost hike.. The pathfinder leads the way during the hike.
- As you travel along the trail to your outpost site, make a sketch map indicating your route of travel. Note significant landmarks, distances, bearings, natural features, etc.
- Upon arrival at your outpost site, set up your patrol camp for a comfortable overnight stay. Enjoy the experience of camping together as a patrol on your own.
- After you have settles in, hold a patrol meeting and evaluate your patrol's performance on the adventure trail. Use the Adventure Trail score sheet to evaluate each station.
- When you have completed this evaluation, open the envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL—ADVENTURE TRAIL". In the envelope are the adventure trail score sheets completed by your White Stag staff members at each station. Compare these evaluations to your own.
- Hold a short reflection on the results. Try the following questions for starters:
 - Which leadership skill did we really try to use? How did we do?
 - Which leadership skills didn't we use? Why?
 - What was difficult about trying to use those skills?
 - Why are some skills easier to use than others?
 - Why are some skills harder to use?
 - How do you feel about trying to apply these skills?
- As you review the evaluation, what do you see as the real purpose of the adventure trail?
- How do you feel about the evaluation done by staff?
- Agree on three or four of the most important ideas that came out of this reflection. Write these down in your notes so that you can share them with the troop tomorrow when you return from your outpost.
- After dinner, plan and hold a patrol campfire. During the campfire, the patrol leader opens the sealed envelope marked "SECRET ORDERS" and read the enclosed letter to your patrol from staff.
- Your patrol is schedules to return to your patrol site by 8:15 tomorrow. After you have eaten breakfast, have all your gear packed, and have the camp policed and your fire dead out, you may check out with the adults present and begin your return hike.

Good hiking, good camping, good Scouting and Godspeed!