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Wilderness survival merit badge worksheet

January 2018 Do this: Explain to your advisor the dangers you will most likely encounter while participating in survival activities in the wild and what you need to do to anticipate, prevent, mitigate or mitigate these hazards. Show that you know first aid for and prevent injuries or diseases that may occur in backcountry settings, including hypothermia, heat reactions, frostbite, dehydration, blisters, insect stings, tick bites, and snakebites. From memory, list the seven priorities for survival in a backcountry or wilderness location. Explain the importance of each with your advisor. Describe ways to avoid panic and maintain a high level of morale when lost and explain why this is important. Describe the steps you would take to survive in the following exposure conditions: Cold and Snowy Hot and Dry Wet Windy At or On Water Put together a personal survival kit and be able to explain how each item in it could be useful. (Sample Kit) Using three different methods (other than matches), build and ignite three fires. Do this: Show five different ways to get attention when lost. Demonstrate to use a signal mirror. Describe five ground-to-air signals from memory and tell what it means. It improvises a natural shelter. For the purpose of this demonstration, use techniques that have a low negative impact on the environment. Spend a night in your shelter. Explain to protect yourself from insects, reptiles, bears and other animals in the local region. Demonstrate three ways to treat water found outdoors to prepare it for drinking. It shows that you know the appropriate clothing to wear outdoors in extremely hot and cold weather and in humid conditions. Explain why it is usually not wise to eat edible wildplants or wildlife in a wilderness survival situation. Wilderness Survival Worksheet Follow Me, Scouts Requirements to This Merit Badge Are Copyright by Boy Scouts of America. They are reproduced in part here under fair use as a resource for Scouts and Scouters to use in winning and handing over merit badges. The requirements published by the Boy Scouts of America should always be used over the list here. If you have doubts about the accuracy of a requirement, consult your Merit Badge Advisor. Reading this page does not meet any requirements for any merit badge. According to national regulations, the only person who can sign on requirements is a merit badge advisor, duly registered and authorized by the local council. obtain a list of registered advisors for the merit badge or to start a merit badge, please contact the Scoutmaster or Council Service Center. Requirement 1a: Explain to your advisor the dangers you may most likely encounter while participating in survival activities in the wild and what you need to do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate or mitigate Dangers. COMMENT: While risk reduction is an important concept and while this requirement paves the way for learning about previously omitted hazards that cause 75% of deaths in the wild, this new requirement overlaps with requirements 1b, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. Requirement 1b: Show that you know first aid and prevent injuries or diseases that may occur in backcountry settings, including hypothermia, thermal reactions, frostbite, dehydration, blisters, insect bites, tick bites and snake bites. [emphasis added] COMMENT: A big improvement over the previous language, which required first aid knowledge for all possible diseases or injuries. However, it still omits the listing of first aid for heart attack and drowning, which causes about half of all deaths in the wild, and omits first aid for falls, which causes kills about another 25%. He still omits animal bites (rabies and plague). Requirement 2: From memory, list the seven priorities for survival in a backcountry or wilderness location. Explain the importance of each with your advisor. Page 20 of the pamphlet states that there is an order of priority for seven priorities for survival, without reference to the actual facts on the ground. The official priorities are, in this order: A. STOP (Stop /Think/Observe/Plan, a tool to help you properly think about to handle a survival situation and determine what you need to do and in what order. Admission there is a problem and thinking about it in a positive, productive, and creative fashion increases the chances for a good result. Control your fears and avoid panic. He decides to live. Focus on what you can do --- not what you can't do. Analyze your situation and plan an action plan only after you have considered all the difficult aspects and take into account your safety at all times. Don't judge unnecessarily fast. you think about your situation is the key to survival in an outdoor emergency. B. First aid - Serious first aid problems need to be dealt with in accordance with the appropriate mental approach. First aid may be your priority. Scouts are more likely to need first aid information and skills than the general population. C. Shelter - Staying at or close to 98.6 F is essential for survival. If the survival situation occurs in dangerous cold or heat, getting sheltered as well as you can (starting with clothing) is critical - the first priority. D. Fire - Fire is not a need for survival, but a tool that addresses several survival needs, including staying at 98.6 when it is cold; signalling; purifying water; And Morale. E. Flag - If you are lost and want to be found rather than make yourself visible. A signal is something that stands out from the surroundings due to its color,

movement, sound or shape. F. Water - Water is often critical for survival. In high heat, water may be needed in a few Dehydration interferes with the functioning of our body, including straight thinking. G. Food – Food is listed last in the pamphlet and it seems not to be considered as a priority at all: Don't worry about food. However, food is an important necessity, however, not as important as water. COMMENT: The requirements ignore the need to navigate the safety to avoid problems or to deal with it (self-rescue) and the needs to conserve energy and sleep. These are critical omissions and conflicts with other official B.S.A. literature while the pamphlet discusses the importance of leaving travel information with the responsible parties that will miss you, that the critical tool does not find its way into the requirements. Requirement 3: Discuss ways to avoid panic and maintain a high level of morale when lost, and explain why this [sic] is important. COMMENT: The former editions of the pamphlet asked the candidate to explain to maintain a positive mental attitude without expressly explaining how this goal could be achieved. The 2008 edition (2007 edition with colored images) urges in the text (p. 19) Keep a positive attitude, explained as a conscious choice to . . . Endure. It then discusses the STOP process as the first invariable priority, which implies that STOP is a way to maintain a positive attitude, to avoid panic, and to maintain morale. OTHER COMMENTS: (a) Be positive about your problem situation. Things went wrong, but you're not helpless. There are things you can do to make the situation better. As a Scout, you have skills and experience that will help you. Having a shelter and fire (light) built before dark helps you conclude that you are safer and that you will do it by emergency. Are you getting dark? So what if? It's getting dark in every camp you've experienced. Noises in the dark? That's normal. Nothing new there. You left a travel plan at home, so you'll be lost, and help will be on the way. (b) where, where Realistic and creative thinking are the keys to survival. Requirement 4:Describe the steps you would take to survive under the following conditions: a. Cold and snow b. Wet (forest) c. Hot and dry (desert) d. Wind (mountains or plains) e. Water (ocean or lake) COMMENT: The pamphlet overtly overted the clothes very much waterproof-breathable and ignores the existence of polyester, dating material to a period of decades ago, when the first waterproof-breathable were uncritically welcomed, polypro was king, and wool was the number 1 layer of insulation. The pamphlet inconsistently suggests both T-shirts and shorts and long-sleeved shirts and warm weather pants and shows many illustrations of Scouts at Philmont in Shorts and no head of articles (Crispy Critters) Requirement 5: Put together a personal survival kit and explain how every item in it is useful. COMMENT: The text does not explain the reasoning behind a personal survival survival kit (PSK); namely, a collection of basic tools so small and light that he will never be tempted to leave it behind. The pamphlet confuses a PSK with Ten Essentials approach when selecting tools for a wilderness trek. Requirement 6: Using three different methods (other than matches), build and ignite three fires. COMMENT: While the text (p. 29) recognizes that the need for survival is an ability to start a fire with something other than matches and lighters, the requirement continues to technically allow any means other than matches (such as a butane or propane torch). Much of the information in the pamphlet about the fire was incorrect. Hard forests, it would be oak, are bad choices for fire-by-friction. The illustration that accompanies the discussion of natural stone and steel is a rod of ferrocerium (flint man like this in a lighter or Hot Spark), and such a tool would be easy to break if the steel strike against the edge of the stone (not that the ferociousium rod has an edge) (The correct technique is, of course, to scrape the ferrocerium rod with a sharp , hard edge.) Charred canvas is not mentioned, but it is almost essential for most to make fire-of-friction or with natural stone and steel. Natural flint is not common in much of North America. The best firewood is not dead and downed, but is dead and attached to the tree or shrub (amazing pamphlet advises that it does not leave any trace to be followed even in a situation of survival. Inconsistently, it also says the opposite.) The Teeeye Fire has become the only laic illustrated in scout literature, and is the only laic illustrated in the pamphlet. There are other, more effective and safe fire sets, such as Log Cabin or Hunter's Fire. Requirement 7:Do this: a. Show five different ways to attract attention when lost. B. Demonstrate to use a signal mirror. c. Describe five ground-to-air signals from memory and tell what they mean. COMMENT: Smoke signals can be seen for miles and the fire is visible even further in the dark. A whistle can be heard for longer distances and uses much less energy than screams. A mirror or other object reflecting the sun can make you visible to a helicopter or airplane. Millions of people were trained that three flashes, three whistles explosions, three smoke signals - three of any signal - stands for distress (HELP!). Requirement 8: Improvise a natural shelter. For the purpose of this demonstration, use techniques that have a low negative impact on the environment. Spend a night in your shelter. COMMENT: B.S.A. is caught between Leave No Trace and the wishes of the owners on the one hand and, on the other, a desire for candidates to learn something about building an oportune shelter of leaves, herbs, and So they try to have it both ways: natural, but with little impact on the environment. (unnatural materials are only around Halloween.) A realistic requirement would be to make a shelter of one or two plastic garbage bags and a frame of dead and light branches -- unless the situation allows the construction of a rapid vegetation shelter. The main takeaway from building a brush shelter is that scouts almost invariably greatly underestimate the time and work required to build a shelter that isolates and keeps out the rain. Be creative and use your surroundings the best you can. The shape of the soil can block the wind in some places, just like the trees or brush. If it's cold, try to find shelter and build a safe fire. If in very hot weather get out of the sun and dry wind. In the cold it can be easier to sleep in the day and stay up at night by a warm fire. In very hot weather, you may also want to seek shelter and/or sleep during the day. The pamphlet illustrates the Inadequately dressed Scouts for hot and sunny conditions and offers inconsistent advice on deserted clothing. Requirement 9:Explain to protect yourself from insects, reptiles and bears. COMMENT: Omits very significant categories of animals with which there are unpleasant interactions: 1) homo sapiens; 2) rodents and other small mammals Partial overlap with requirement 1. Requirement 10: Demonstrate three ways to treat water found outdoors to prepare it for drinking. COMMENT: The discussion on chemical disinfection of water is incorrect. Although it eliminates some risks, chlorine (except chlorine dioxide) and iodine are not fully reliable for the treatment of wild water in accordance with all private and public authorities (W.M.S.; Red Cross; Mayo Clinic; U.S.C.D.C. U.S. Surgeon General; U.S.E.P.A.), as outlined in other B.S.A. literatures, there are inadequate discussions from where water is more likely to be found in nature. There is no field-time filtering discussion. Only commercial filters are discussed. There is no discussion of: digging mini wells near a body of water; SODIS (q.v.); or boiling without metal containers. There is no discussion of dew collection or the use of sweat bags. The combination of any commercial filter and chlorine or iodine is extremely safe. Newer filters eliminate all microorganisms. Requirement 11: Shows that you know the appropriate clothing to wear in your area on a night in extremely hot weather and extremely cold weather. COMMENT: While layers are mentioned, there is no explanation of what materials or construction are used for different layers. Polyester wool is not mentioned, nor are polyester wicking garments. Although polypropylene is mentioned, it is outdated compared to wicking polyester garments. There is no mention clothing as a barrier to insects, thorns, poisonous plants, or other sources of scars and cuts. MBP suggests a hat with edges for warm weather, omitting the need to avoid sunburn in cold weather. It repeatedly shows illustrations of Scouts Scouts Sunny mountain scenes without any hats. There is no discussion of eye protection from solar radiation in summer or when snow covers the ground. Requirement 12: Explain why it is usually not wise to eat edible wildplants or wildlife in a wilderness survival situation. COMMENT: Food is a need, but it is usually the least important need for wilderness survival. A person can usually survive for several days without food. While you should use whatever food you have with you, collecting wild foods uses energy and is unlikely to produce as many calories of energy as you use trying to gather. If you can purchase food easily, then go for it. (Eating protein and carbohydrates increases dehydration if the water is in short supply.) GENERAL COMMENT: There is good information in bmp, but also internal conflicts, conflicts with other B.S.A. literature, omissions, and simply incorrect information. There is no table of contents and the material does not follow the requirements. External links[edit] Links[editing]

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