



### PARENT PARTICIPATION

The patrol leaders' council can involve parents in the program feature this month by:

- Asking qualified parents to assist with instruction for camping skills.
- Inviting parents on the campout.
- Asking parents to provide transportation to the starting point for the backpacking trek into camp, if necessary.

### PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL

The PLC should meet in the middle of the previous month to plan troop activities for this program feature. If you don't complete all items on the following agenda, continue planning at PLC meetings after each troop meeting.

- Decide on a campsite for the easy livin' campout. If permissions will be needed, assign someone to secure them.
- Plan the special activities for the campout. See the ideas on these pages.
- If special gear or tools will be needed, assign someone to obtain them; seek help from the troop committee, if necessary.
- Inventory the troop's camping equipment, if this has not been done recently.
- Plan details of troop meetings for the month. Assign patrol demonstrations for the month, covering skills that will be needed for campout activities. For example, if star study is planned, assignments might be:
  - Patrol A—Show how to find five major constellations.
  - Patrol B—Show how to find north by any star.
  - Patrol C—Show how to photograph the sky.
  - Patrol D—Tell where to find the visible planets in the night sky.
- Hold a junior leader training session on understanding the needs of the group (*Scoutmaster Handbook*).

### FEATURE EVENT

#### Easy Livin' Campout

The primary purpose of this campout will be to make all your Scouts feel "at home" under canvas or nylon. The patrol leaders' council should take special care to see that it is a model camp so that younger Scouts will understand what good camping is.

The campsite might be the troop's usual place, the local council's Scout camp, or a state or county park. In choosing the site, remember that Scouts working on camping skills must backpack in and out.

To encourage the patrols to take particular care in setting up and living in their sites, plan a formal site inspection party through the weekend. Have the patrol leaders' council or the adult leaders inspect each patrol site as is done at camporees, giving ratings for cleanliness, neatness, fire safety, and good sanitation practices.

#### Campout Activities

Obviously the activity schedule will depend in part on the weather and what the site offers. If it's summer and there is a waterfront nearby, the Scouts will want to swim. Great! But the troop must swim safely. If you're at the council camp, you can be sure of safe swimming just by following the waterfront rules. If not, be sure to follow the BSA Safe Swim Defense. It is explained in the *Scoutmaster Handbook* and the *Boy Scout Handbook*. Similarly, if you have access to canoes or rowboats, follow the Safety Afloat plan (*Scoutmaster Handbook*).

There are many other possibilities for campout activities. The troop might concentrate on one Scoutcraft skill, such as pioneering, star study, fishing, orienteering, conservation, tracking and trailing, bird study, or nature lore.

Or, especially if you have a lot of young Scouts, the patrol leaders' council might plan for instruction and practice in a