



Merit Badges. Older Scouts can concentrate on the First Aid and Emergency Preparedness merit badges this month. Depending on activities during the outing, they may also complete requirements in Cooking, Hiking, Camping, Lifesaving, and other outdoor-related merit badges.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

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

- Asking qualified parents to assist with first aid instruction.
- Inviting parents to the The Real Thing event.
- Asking parents to provide transportation to the site of the outing.

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 whether "The Real Thing" will be a single day or a weekend campout.
- Choose the site and secure permission, if needed.
- Ask the patrol leaders to inventory their patrol's first aid supplies and report deficiencies. Fill needs. Ask for help from the troop committee.

- Either plan the "emergency" situations the patrols will face during The Real Thing, or, if you want complete surprise, assign an adult leader to plan them. See sample emergencies later in this section.
- Plan details of troop meetings for the month. Assign patrol demonstrations, covering skills that will be needed for The Real Thing.
- Arrange to invite First Aid and Emergency Preparedness merit badge counselors to help with troop meeting instruction and to serve as judges for patrol performance on The Real Thing.
- Hold a junior leader training session on communication (*Scoutmaster Handbook*).

FEATURE EVENT

The Real Thing

The big event will be a practice exercise to test your patrols' reactions to emergencies. Set up emergency situations that will be within the skill levels of the Scouts. At least some of the situations should require making decisions in "life-threatening" emergencies.

Some of the emergencies take place in wilderness situations; others are in urban areas. The Scouts' family members or friends may play the parts of victims.