HOME TROOP OBSERVATION

CAMPSITE SELECTION & SET-UP

Make notes during and after set-up of your home troop’s campsite:

SAFETY: Did your troop place tents in areas that were safe from falling tree limbs and appropriately oriented for possible inclement weather?

ENVIRONMENT: Did your troop adhere to the principals of Leave No Trace by selecting an area for tents and cooking that either
- utilized previously used areas (urban and camporee settings) or
- minimized impact on pristine areas by camping on hard surfaces (backcountry)?

YOUTH LED: Did the youth leaders of your troop make decisions about campsite set-up, location of patrols, and layout of shared areas?

Are there deficiencies that could be turned into teaching moments now or at future meetings or outings?

THE PATROL METHOD

Make notes during and after set-up of your home troop’s campsite:

Are Scouts camping with their usual patrols, or with patrols formed only for this outing? Why is it important for them to camp and work as an actual patrol as often as possible? How could the current practice be improved?

Does the patrol demonstrate Scout Spirit? Is a patrol flag displayed? Is a patrol cheer/yell used? Do Scouts work cooperatively and solve problems?

Is a patrol leader in charge of each patrol? Is this the usual patrol leader (or assistant), or someone filling in for this outing?

Does the SPL (of the troop or the outing) solicit cooperation by working and communicating with his patrol leaders, who then carry information to the rest of the patrol? Why is it important for this hierarchy to be used even in informal settings like camporees?

Are there deficiencies that could be turned into teaching moments now or at future meetings or outings?
CAMPOREE OBSERVATION
FLAG PROTOCOL

Make notes while participating in a camp-wide flag raising or lowering:

Did Scouts take the lead in conducting the flag ceremony?

Was proper flag etiquette used?
- handling and folding of the flag
- display of the flag relative to the space and relative to any other flags
- color guard commands
- assembly at attention until order ‘at ease’

Are there deficiencies that could be turned into teaching moments now or at future meetings or outings?

CAMPOREE OBSERVATION
CAMPFIRE PROGRAM

Make notes during the camp-wide campfire program:

Is the campfire built in a safe area? Are fire buckets on hand and full of water?

What type of fire lay is utilized? Why is this type of lay most appropriate for the purpose?

Does the campfire program have a theme that is evident throughout?

Does the Scout in charge of the campfire program show leadership and confidence?

Did the fire and the program content rise together to a crescendo, and then slow to a thoughtful end?

Was the program concluded with a Scoutmaster Minute appropriate to the theme?

Are there deficiencies that could be turned into teaching moments now or at future meetings or outings?
HOME TROOP OBSERVATION
CAMP COOKING

Make notes during and after set-up of your home troop’s campsite:

SAFETY:
Is the cooking area appropriately located so that fuel and other hazards are managed well?

Is food properly stored before and after preparation to avoid contamination or spoilage?

Are dishes properly washed using the 3-pan method?

Is food nutritious, well balanced, and appropriate for the outing?

ENVIRONMENT:
Is waste properly disposed of?

Is litter minimized by thoughtful pre-planning?

YOUTH LED:
Is a duty roster posted and followed?

Did Scout cook and eat in patrols? Did each patrol prepare a menu that challenged the Scouts to try new cooking methods or master others?

Did the Grubmaster work within a budget when purchasing food? (A typical budget is $10 for a weekend -- $2 per meal and $1 per cracker barrel for each Scout.)

Are there deficiencies that could be turned into teaching moments now or at future meetings or outings?

CAMPOREE or HOME TROOP OBSERVATION
INTERFAITH WORSHIP SERVICE

Make notes during the camp-wide Scouts’ Own service (or your troop’s display of reverence):

Was a youth Chaplain’s Aide in charge of preparing and conducting the service?

Was the content welcoming and appropriate for all present, regardless of religious background or beliefs?

Were there elements of reflection, participation, and fellowship?

Are there deficiencies that could be turned into teaching moments now or at future meetings or outings?