

**TROOP 81
FIRST CLASS LEVEL**

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Why is it advisable to unbuckle your pack's hip belt and loosen the shoulder straps when crossing a stream?
Answer: This action shifts the center of gravity point which provides more stability. Also, with loosened straps, you can quickly slip off the pack if you happen to fall.
2. What precautions should you take when installing a new lantern mantle?
Answer: New mantles give off toxic fumes when first burned. *Avoid breathing the smoke from burning mantles.*
3. Why is black plastic preferred over clear plastic for tent ground cloths?
Answer: Black plastic blocks light which helps prevent moisture condensation.
4. Liquid-fueled lanterns or stoves should never be completely filled with gas. Why?
Answer: The tank needs an air pocket for pressurization.
5. When lashing a tripod, why should the frapping be kept loose?
Answer: Loose frapping will allow the poles enough movement to form a tripod.
6. What is dehydration?
Answer: Dehydration is the loss of essential body fluids due to physical exertion and other means. Replenishing your body with water is very important even after mild exercise. Drink water even if you're not thirsty.
7. What is "seam sealer"?
Answer: Seam sealer is a special liquid glue used to waterproof the stitching on tents. Without seam sealer, rainwater could leak through the tiny holes made by the sewing needle when the tent was fabricated.
8. Why coat the bottom of pots used over a fire with soap?
Answer: The flames will blacken the soap, not the pot, which makes clean-up much easier.
9. What is Giardiasis?
Answer: Giardiasis is an infection of the small intestine caused by a parasite called Giardia. These protozoan can enter the body by drinking untreated water.
10. Who is the founder of the Boy Scout movement in America?
Answer: William D. Boyce, an American businessman, founded the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910.
11. How can the North Star be located?
Answer: Polaris can be found by first finding the Big Dipper and following the two "guide" stars farthest from the handle.

12. Who has the right-of-way on the trails?
Answer: Trail etiquette gives the right-of-way to on-coming hikers who are traveling uphill. Also, groups using animals in their expedition are given the first passage.
13. When should the Scout Uniform *not* be worn?
Answer: The uniform should not be worn if it would suggest that BSA endorses any commercial product, service, or political candidate or philosophy.
14. What does "biodegradable" mean?
Answer: Biodegradation is the process of decomposing by natural biological decay. Scouts should be aware of items that will easily and safely biodegrade and not harm the environment.
15. What is "fatwood" and why is it a good fire starter?
Answer: Fatwood refers to the flammable resins (pitch) that are naturally stored in the roots of evergreen trees. Look for it in dead stumps of pine trees.
16. How can you determine the nearness of an approaching thunderstorm?
Answer: Time the sound of the thunder after seeing the flash of the lightning. Sound travels about one mile in 5 seconds.
17. When taking a break while hiking, why is it important not to rest too long?
Answer: An extended period of inactivity will allow muscles to cool down and stiffen.
18. What is a bench mark?
Answer: A bench mark, established by the U.S. Geological Survey, is a specific point permanently marked on the ground and identified on a topographic map. The elevation above sea level of the bench mark is indicated on the map.
19. What are some inappropriate uses of the U.S. Flag?
Answer: The flag should used *never* be as drapery, tablecloth or clothing.
20. How do you dispose of empty butane cylinders when backpacking?
Answer: Empty cartridges should always be packed out. *Never* bury or throw cylinders in a fire!
21. When should you attempt to rescue a drowning person by swimming out to him alone?
Answer: Only as a *last resort* should you attempt a one-on-one rescue.. and then only if you're a *strong swimmer!* First you should *reach* for him with a pole or tree limb, or *throw* out a floatation device to him; Second, you should *go with support* with a rowboat, canoe, etc.
22. Why shouldn't nylon tents be set-up outside for long periods of time?
Answer: Excessive exposure to the sun's ultra-violet light will degrade the nylon fabric.
23. What is paraffin and how do scouts use it?
Answer: Paraffin is a sealing wax which can be used to waterproof matches and make fire starters.
24. What is "Trail Etiquette?"
Answer: Trail etiquette is the common courtesy given to fellow trail hikers. It also means the preservation and care given to a trail itself by not littering, short-cutting switchbacks, removing blowdowns, etc.

25. What is the major misunderstanding about hypothermia?
Answer: Many people believe that hypothermia occurs only in sub-freezing weather conditions. *They're dead wrong!* (Most hypothermic deaths happen between 35 and 50 degrees)
26. What is a whetstone and how is it used?
Answer: A whetstone is a small slab of granite stone used to sharpen knives. The stone's gritty surface, much harder than the knife blade, will put an edge on the blade.
27. Should we be concerned about magnetic declination in east Tennessee?
Answer: Not really. At the present time, the difference between magnetic north and true north is only three degrees.
28. Why should you routinely inventory your first aid kit?
Answer: If you use any items from your kit, immediately replace them when you return home. Check your first aid kit before each outing for any out-dated medicine, adequate supply of bandages, antiseptic, tape, mole-skin, etc.
29. When washing dishes, why wash the dirtiest items last?
Answer: This technique keeps the dishwater cleaner.
30. What should be done with camp trash during the night?
Answer: Since the trash bag will probably contain discarded foodstuff, the trash bag should be placed in the bearbag overnight.
31. What is BSA's national policy concerning the use of liquid fueled stoves and lanterns?
Answer: Any liquid fueled device must be under the direct supervision of an adult.
32. Why should soap, detergent, or shampoo never be used in streams, lakes, or creeks?
Answer: Detergents contain chemicals that promotes the growth of algae which can crowd out native plants, making it harder for fish and other animals to survive.
33. Why carry a metal whistle instead of a plastic one?
Answer: Metal is stronger than plastic and will be less likely to crush. Whistles with rubber coated mouthpieces offer cold weather protection to the lips.
34. How can wet footgear be safely dried near a campfire?
Answer: Campers often ruin boots and shoes with excessive heat. The heat from a fire is too hot if you're unable to keep your hand at the boots for 30 seconds.
35. What should be your immediate action if a campfire ember ignites a nearby tent?
Answer: You should yell "*FIRE*" three times and then attempt to safely drop the tent to the ground and douse it with water.