

**TROOP 81
STAR RANK LEVEL**

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Why should latrines be dug in biologically active soil rather than sandy or clay soil?
Answer: Soil that is rich in organic matter will assure speedy decomposition of human waste.
2. What should be done with leftover firewood?
Answer: At an established campsite, neatly stack the wood near the fire ring for the next camper. At wilderness campsites, scatter the wood into the forest where it was found.
3. Why shouldn't cotton or manila rope be fused with a flame?
Answer: Rope other than plastic or nylon will burn rather than melt.
4. Can thawed water from frozen backcountry streams be safe to drink?
Answer: No. Freezing will not kill harmful organisms in the same way that boiling the water will.
5. Why should tents be pitched with a south or southeast exposure?
Answer: A southern exposure will allow morning sunlight to evaporate any overnight moisture condensation.
6. When staking a tent in hard soil, why should the stake be slanted toward the tent?
Answer: If the tent is in a hard wind, it's better for the stake to pull out than the tent to rip.
7. When making a fire pit in grassy soil, why is it important to keep sod blocks moist and covered?
Answer: The sod blocks must have water to remain alive and covered to lessen the effects of evaporation.
8. Why should tents be rolled toward an unzipped door?
Answer: Rolling a tent toward an open door will allow trapped air to escape avoiding a trapped air pocket.
9. What is the proper way to dispose of a worn U.S. flag?
Answer: U.S. flags should be burned with dignity and honor at a private ceremony.
10. When does the Troop Committee normally meet?
Answer: The Troop Committee meets quarterly on the fifth Monday.
11. How often is the National Jamboree held?
Answer: Every four years.
12. What is "graywater" and how should it be disposed?
Answer: Water that has been used for dish washing or clothes washing is referred to as "graywater" and should be poured in a sump hole through a strainer.
13. What precautions should be observed when using iodine tablets for water purification?
Answer: Iodine tablets rapidly lose their effectiveness after the bottle has been opened. Discard opened tablets after 3 months.
14. Where is the National BSA Office located?
Answer: Irving Texas.

15. Why shouldn't the leaves and vines of poison ivy be burned?
Answer: Urushiol, the toxic sap of poison ivy, can become airborne in the smoke and cause an allergic reaction if the smoke touches the skin, or even worse, if inhaled.
16. What is "Wind Chill Factor"?
Answer: The amount of the apparent lowering of air temperature caused by the chilling affect of the wind is the wind chill factor.
17. Why are backcountry permits necessary when backpacking in a national park?
Answer: The National Park Service requires hikers to register their trips in order to record park usage and to better serve trail users if emergency assistance is required.
18. Why are better compasses filed with a liquid?
Answer: The clear liquid serves as a damper which makes the compass needle steady and less sensitive to vibrations.
19. How can weather conditions be predicted by observing smoke from a campfire?
Answer: If the smoke hangs low to the ground (meaning low air pressure), expect rain soon. If the smoke rises into a nice vertical column (meaning high pressure), plan on good weather.
20. Why is low-impact camping encouraged in Scoutings' outdoor program?
Answer: Living in harmony with our environment is constantly emphasized by teaching "No Trace" camping techniques.
21. Why is a light oil used on a whetstone when sharpening a knife?
Answer: The oil will help float away any small bits of metal which might clog the pores of the stone.
22. Why is hypothermia difficult to detect?
Answer: The cold weather affliction tends to intrude slowly, without noticeable discomfort to the victim. Detection usually comes from someone other than the victim.
23. What is the safe way to melt paraffin?
Answer: Blocks of paraffin wax can be safely melted in a double boiler. The pot next to the heat source is filled with water and the smaller pot with the paraffin floats in the hot water. *Never* place a pot of wax directly on a stove!
24. In the Philmont Grace, what does "raiment" refer to?
Answer: Raiment means any clothing or garments.
25. What's an extra precaution when handling liquid fuel in cold weather?
Answer: Avoid skin contact with liquid fuels in cold weather because the rapid evaporation of the fuel will also drain away body heat and frostbite may result.
26. How can dry fire wood be found in a floating log?
Answer: The fact that the log is floating means the center core of the log is dry and not waterlogged.
27. Why should you avoid food that appears to be disturbed or nibbled upon?
Answer: This is an indication that some animal might have gotten to the food.