

SCOUTERS' HANDBOOK

HIKING THEME

PATHFINDER

15) Prepare for and take part in a cross-country hike of not less than 10km and explain your choice of equipment, if any. Give a short verbal report on the hike a week later to your patrol. Half the distance may be done on water.

The scout should be encouraged to complete the other requirements for the Pathfinder Badge before going on this hike.

The hike should challenge the candidate but not discourage him from hiking in the future. This could be the scout's first adventure with his patrol and the candidate must be well trained and able to enjoy the hike to the full. It should be as practical as possible and the explanation of his choice of equipment could be carried out as an informal chat with the PL during the hike or at the lunch stop.

The Candidate should be given a copy of the outdoor code before the hike and during his report back after the hike he should be asked to briefly discuss his understanding of this code and how it was applied on the hike.

The evaluator should discuss the need for correct footwear, headgear, raingear, cool and warm clothing. Other hike equipment and its use should also be discussed, e.g. torch, rucksack, first aid kit, water bottle, compass etc.

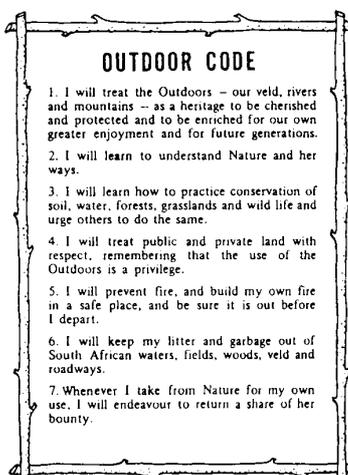
A patrol hike would be the ideal opportunity for the PL to evaluate his patrol members for this requirement. It could also be done during a troop hike, if a

patrol hike is not possible, where his PL could carry out the evaluation.

During the hike he should be asked to establish the direction of travel of the party using various methods, e.g. using a watch, a shadow stick, rings in tree stumps, prevailing winds, compass or if out after dark by the Southern Cross or Orion's belt. He should also be encouraged to observe his surroundings and to ask questions about anything new to him.

A week after the hike he should verbally report back to his patrol on the route covered what he observed along the way, his general impression of the hike and any problems encountered. He may refer to notes made on the hike if he desires. His Patrol Leader should be the evaluator on the hike and during the report back.

Should he choose to carry out part of the hike on water he must play a part in navigating steering, propelling or some other function while on board. (A holder of a Water Charge Certificate must be present in this case).



ADVENTURER

14) Present and demonstrate the personal equipment required for an overnight hike and show how to pack it.

15) Act as second in charge on a Patrol hike of not less than 15 km including taking effective responsibility for those duties delegated to you by the scout leading the hike, including item 1 of this advancement level. (MAP READING).

The scout should be encouraged to complete the other requirements for the Adventurer Badge before going on this hike so that he can use the other skills to assist him in planning this hike.

A) The Candidate must lay out the equipment he would take on an overnight hike (e.g. eating kit, sleeping kit, washing kit, clothes and emergency / survival kit. The scout must justify his choice of equipment by explaining to the patrol or the troop his reason for taking each item and how it is used.

The scout must demonstrate the packing of the equipment into a rucksack following all the rules of packing. e.g. items to be used first near the top, no hard objects against the back, heavy items high and close to the body, easy access to torch, raingear and emergency items. All items protected from the weather and nothing swinging outside the pack.

B) The candidate should assist in the route planning and describe the terrain the party will be crossing either by reading off a 1:50,000 map or by drawing a map to approximately the same scale showing contours,

obstacles, sources of water, emergency escape routes and possible night stops. This map should have sufficient detail of paths, landmarks etc. to enable the party to follow the route.

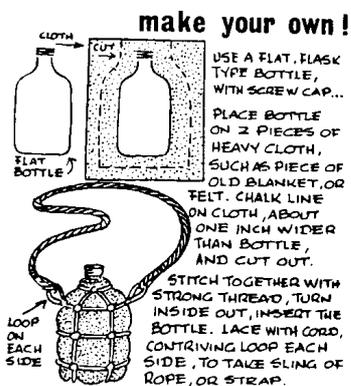
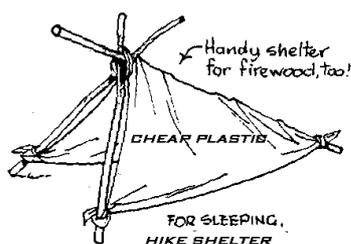
The candidate should also be given tasks such as working out a timing plan, transport, permits or menu planning etc.

During the hike the scout must take part in the decision making, assist with navigation and leading of the party.

The candidate should submit a short log in the format of the First Class log book to gain experience in log writing.

The TS should discuss the planning and implementation of the hike & log and advise the candidate how he can improve his techniques for the First Class hike.

Should he choose to carry out part of the hike on water he must play a part in navigating, steering, propelling or some other function while on board. (A holder of a Water Charge Certificate must be present in this case).



FIRST CLASS

10) Plan for and lead a Patrol on an overnight hike:-

- a) of not less than 20 km
- b) Across country (Half may be done on water)
- c) Approved and evaluated by the DC or his nominee
- d) Leading at least 3 other scouts of lower advancement level than the candidate.
- e) Each hike may only qualify one Scout.
- f) A written log is to be submitted. The log and rough notes must be handed to the D.C. within 21 days after the hike.
- g) This must be the last test before the PGA

This is the final evaluation for the First Class Badge. The candidate must already hold the Adventurer Badge and have passed all the other sections of the First Class Badge and only have the PGA with his TS still to be completed.

While a standard must be set by the District Examiner as the bottom line, the candidate must be expected to do his best and use his scouting skills to the advantage of the party. If a scout does not meet these criteria he should be asked to repeat the hike.

From a 1:50000 topographical or similar map the candidate should, in consultation with his Troop Scouter, choose a challenging route, not less than 20 km in length, which is suitable for the party and bearing in mind transport, the time of the year available equipment and the candidates abilities as a leader. It must be across open country and not following roads, or hike trails with footprints pointing the way.

The leader's skills of navigation should be tested.

Should he choose to carry out part of the hike on water he must play a part in navigating, steering, propelling, acting as coxswain or performing some other function while on board. (Either the candidate or a member of his party must be a holder of a Water Charge Certificate in this case).

Once the candidate has chosen a party of 3 other scouts who are less qualified than himself and preferably from his own patrol, and the Troop Scouter is satisfied it is a suitable route, the candidate must visit the examiner (DC or Nominee) and discuss the route, escape route, theme and action plan with him. The DC must approve the route, theme etc. and instruct the candidate to proceed with his planning which is an important part of this test.

The candidate then prepares: -

- a) Personal kit lists for each member of the party.
- b) Patrol kit list of equipment to be divided among the party.
- c) List of items in the general first aid kit and the pocket kits to be carried by the party.
- d) List of contents of the survival kit to be carried by each member.
- e) Menu and quantity lists including costs.
- f) Means of transport to and from the hike.
- g) Budget of all expected expenses including costs of permits, transport and food
- h) A letter to each candidate giving details of the hike and a parent consent form.
- i) The scout application form applying for a hike permit (this must be submitted to Area HQ at least 21 days before the hike)
- j) The application forms for permission to cross land from the Department of Forestry / Conservation or private owners (these should also be submitted at least 21 days

before the hike to allow time for the permits to arrive.

10 days before the hike all the above must be submitted to the TS & DC for approval.

On the evening before the hike the Troop Scouter must satisfy himself that the party have the correct equipment and are ready to meet the conditions that may be expected on the hike by inspecting the party and their kit. The TS must then advise the DC or his nominee that he is satisfied with the preparedness of the party and the expected weather and that the hike will proceed.

Should the party have to use one of their escape routes and by so doing not complete the full distance the DC in consultation with the Area Hike Advisor must decide if it was the right decision (e.g. An injury to one of the party).

If it was unavoidable or the safety of the party was at stake due to some unforeseeable circumstances the distance covered should be accepted even if they did not cover the full 20 km. If it was due to the weather and the weather report predicted heavy rain then the correct decision would have been not to start and would not be acceptable

Within an hour of arrival at the end of the hike the candidate should advise the examiner and the TS that they have completed the hike and all is well.

Within 21 days of completing the hike the candidate must submit to the examiner his rough notes and a log written in the standard format. The left hand page shall be divided into five columns with the following headings: - "Time", "Direction", "Leg Distance", "Details" and "Total Distance". The log should be factual and make it possible for future hikers to easily follow the route when read in conjunction with the strip maps. Brief items of a personal nature should be added to increase the interest and give an insight to the reader.

The opposite right-hand page should contain a strip map covering the area that has been logged on the left-hand page. The scale should not be smaller than 1:15000 and should show vegetation, gradients, landmarks and places of interest. It should also clearly show the paths followed and the direction of travel. Each map shall show a scale, key and magnetic & true north.

The log should also contain instructions on how to get to the start and away from the end of the hike and a brief description of the route to be followed.

At the end of the log reports, sketches & photographs of flora, fauna, soil erosion and conservation seen in the area should be included. All the parent consent forms, permits, equipment and food lists should follow these with comments on their suitability.

The final page should be a conclusion giving the feelings of the leader and the party and any recommendations to future hikers.

While only one scout can lead this hike and qualify for the First Class hike section another scout could assist and qualify for the Adventurer Badge hike (section 14) if he meets those criteria.

A BERET OFFERS NO PROTECTION IN RAIN. BUT A FOIL HOOD SOON SOLVES THE PROBLEM! YOU CAN ALSO MAKE A CAPE OR A PONCHO FROM FOIL.



Time	Direction	Leg Distance	Details	Total Distance
12.15	E	1 km	Turned due S towards sea. down slope to stream. crossed track, with rocky path. heavily eroded. 10th anniversary. From back to morning sharp wind again. note back from 500m of track.	1 km
12.50	SW	1 km	Country beautiful but empty. unchanging. Government stream. undulating ground through thick mangroves. to reach hill appears 500 feet above sea. Obvious coastal views.	2 km
13.30	S	1 km	General forest. 11 miles to beach stop on Bulmagula River. down steep steep grassy hill. sand along beach. Lunched on shells, baked beans, bread, orange, coffee. Slept along the sand. (Prolog. including Gormon. Bones, Gormon. Gormon, Gormon. Mangroves. Volcanic etc. Total river remains after steep and wide. with shanty preceding a paving hazard at Luncas.	3 km

EXPLORER

9) With your Patrol, plan and lead an overnight expedition, of one of the following:

- a) To somewhere unusual or
- b) Using an unusual mode of transport or
- c) To raise money for charity or
- d) To research a subject of your choice.

Half the expedition may be on water Report back with a written or audio-visual presentation to your troop

This should be the final evaluation for the Explorer Badge. The candidate must already hold the First Class Badge and have passed all the other sections of the Explorer and only have the PGA with his TS still to be completed.

Where a candidate has completed his First Class but not all the other sections of the Explorer and an opportunity arises, which may not arise again, to carry out this expedition, then the D.C. or his nominee may sanction the carrying out of this expedition before the completion of all the other sections.

While a standard must be set by the district as the bottom line, the candidate must be expected to do his best and use his scouting skills to the advantage of his party, the environment and the community. If a scout does not meet these criteria he should be asked to repeat the expedition.

The project must be discussed with the examiner at least 30 days before it is carried out. If approved a document must be prepared by the candidate showing his objective, the resources he will use and his plan of action and hand this to the examiner 10 days before the expedition.

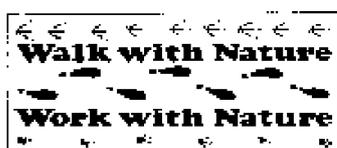
This is not the usual overnight hike but rather a project to make the candidate think and find out what options are available in his

community or surrounding area and evaluate his abilities as an organiser and leader. It must be an expedition, away from the scout's home or HQ, initiated by the candidate and not part of a project being organised by the troop, district or any other body. The patrol must be fully involved in the planning and implementation of the project and not just tagging along

The candidate and his patrol should be actively involved in the project for at least 15 hours excluding sleeping, planning or preparation time. The project could run through the night or on two consecutive days with a sleep over at the project venue.

The candidate should be encouraged to make the project an adventurous and unusual one, which will engender a sense of achievement for himself and his Patrol.

The project should be evaluated on the choice of activity, quality of the planning and leadership, the involvement of the patrol and the achievement of the objective. The presentation of the results to the troop must also be considered. Correct use must be made of any flip charts, white boards or audio-visual equipment available. The written report should cover all aspects of the activity with clear sketches, diagrams, maps or photographs rather than a log and should be presented to the troop with explanations where necessary. A time should be allowed for questions from the troop on any aspects of the expedition. The COH in consultation with the TS must then decide if the candidate has not only reached the required standard but done his best



SPRINGBOK

Plan and lead a hike of over a route you have not covered before of:

- a) **Not less than 30Km**
- b) **Two nights**
- c) **Four members including yourself, the others being First Class or below**
- d) **On a study of a project of your choice providing it is relevant to Scouting.**
- e) **Your proposal must have the pre-approval of the Area Commissioner or his nominee.**
- f) **Submit a written log, including a report on the study, to the Area Commissioner or his nominee for evaluation.**
- g) **Half the distance may be on water, animal or bicycle.**

This should be the final evaluation for the Springbok Badge and should be an assessment of the scouting skill and leadership learnt while getting to this level. The candidate must already hold the Explorer Badge and have passed all the other sections of the Springbok and only have the PGA with his TS still to be completed.

Where a candidate for the hike has completed his Explorer but not all the other sections of the Springbok and an opportunity arises, which is unlikely to arise again, to complete the hike, the Area Examiner may sanction the carrying out of this hike before the completion of all the other sections of the Springbok.

This should be the toughest hike the candidate has done and should cover wild, rough terrain, through country where the candidate has not hiked before. The planning, decision-making, hiking and camping skills should be of a very high standard. The candidate must show initiative, determination, and self-reliance.

While a standard must be set by the Area Examiner as the bottom line, the candidate must be expected to do his best and use his scouting skills to plan, organise, lead and control the hike in a way that is best for the party and the environment. If a scout does not meet these criteria he should be asked to repeat the hike.

From a 1:50000 topographical or similar map the candidate should, in consultation with his Troop Scouter, choose a challenging route, not less than 30 km in length, which is suitable for the party and bearing in mind transport, the time of the year available equipment and the candidates abilities as a leader. It must be across open country and not following roads, or hike trails with footprints pointing the way. The route should test the leader's skills of navigation. The Area Examiner may suggest suitable areas for the hike but the candidates must plan their own routes, obtain permits and get permission to cross private land themselves.

Should the candidate choose to carry out part of the hike on water the scout must play a part in the navigating, steering, propelling, acting as coxswain or some other function while on board. (Either the candidate or a member of his party must be a holder of a Water Charge Certificate in this case).

The use of water craft, animal or bicycle transport may be used for half the distance but the Area Examiner may add up to 1/3 on to the distance to be covered to keep the standard the same for all candidates. (For example if 20km is covered on foot then 15km must be covered by the other mode of transport)

The candidate must chose a party of 3 other scouts who are at First Class or a lower advancement level and at least 14 years of age, preferably from his own troop. The candidate should then discuss the plans with his Troop

Scouter before visiting the Area Examiner to present the route, escape route, theme and action plan with him. The examiner must approve the route, theme etc. and instruct the candidate to proceed with his planning which is an important part of this test.

The candidate then prepares: -

- a) Personal kit lists for each member of the party.
- b) Patrol kit list of equipment to be divided among the party.
- c) List of items in the general first aid kit and the pocket kits to be carried by the party.
- d) List of contents of the survival kit to be carried by each member of the party.
- e) Menu and quantity lists including costs.
- f) Means of transport to and from the hike.
- g) Budget of all expected expenses including costs of permits, transport and food
- h) A letter to each candidate giving details of the hike and a parent consent form.
- i) The scout application form applying for a hike permit (this must be submitted to Area HQ at least 21 days before the hike
- j) The application forms for permission to cross land from the Department of Forestry / Conservation or private owners (these should be submitted at least 30 days before the hike to allow time for the permits to arrive.
- k) A note to the DC advising him of the details of the hike if he has not signed the hike application.

10 days before the hike a copy of all of the above plus a distance/time plan, a map of the route showing escape routes, a list of the members of the party with their ages and copies of parent consent forms and permits must be submitted to the TS & Area Examiner for approval.

On the evening before the hike the Troop Scouter must satisfy himself that the party has the

correct equipment and is ready to meet the conditions that may be expected on the hike by inspecting the party and their kit. The TS must then advise the Area examiner and the DC that he is satisfied with the preparedness of the party for the expected weather and that the hike will proceed.

Should the party have to use one of their escape routes and by so doing not complete the full distance the Examiner in consultation with the Area Hike Advisor must decide if it was the right decision (e.g. An injury to one of the party) .

If it was unavoidable or the safety of the party was at stake due to some unforeseeable circumstances the distance covered should be accepted even if they did not cover the full 30-km. If it was due to the weather and the weather report predicted heavy rain then the correct decision would have been not to start and would not be acceptable

Within an hour of arrival at the end of the hike the candidate should advise the examiner and the TS that they have completed the hike and all is well.

Within 21 days of completing the hike the candidate must submit to the examiner the log written in the standard format. The left-hand page shall be divided into five columns with the following headings: -

“Time”, “Direction”, “Leg Distance”, “Details” and “Total Distance”. The log should be factual and make it possible for future hikers to easily follow the route when read in conjunction with the strip maps. Brief items of a personal nature should be added to increase the interest and give an insight to the reader.

The opposite right-hand page should contain a strip map covering the area that has been logged on the left-hand page. The scale should not be smaller than 1:15000 and should show places of interest, vegetation, gradients and landmarks. It should also

clearly show the paths followed and the direction of travel. Each map must show a scale, key and magnetic & true north. It must be what you actually saw and not an enlargement of the 1:50000 map.

The log should have an attractive cover, the pages numbered and an index provided. It should also contain instructions on how to get to the start and away from the end of the hike, a brief resume' and profile of the route followed and a copy of the outdoor code.

At the end of the log reports, sketches & photographs of flora, fauna, soil erosion and conservation seen in the area should be included. A full report on the chosen theme must also appear after the log. Synoptic charts for the days of the hike with an explanation of how to read them should also be included. These should be followed by the parent consent forms, permits, equipment and food lists with comments on their suitability.

The final page should be a conclusion giving the feelings of the leader and the party and any recommendations to future hikers.

A much higher standard should be expected for this log than the one produced for the First Class level. The log should be written in such a manner that an inexperienced hiker could carry out this hike, knowing what food and equipment was required and what precautions to take. When evaluating the hike the above and all the planning and implementing of the hike should be taken into account.