



Troop 182

Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

#1 - Do the following:

a. Explain to your counselor the hazards you are most likely to encounter while participating in wilderness survival activities, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, or lessen these hazards.

b. Show that you know first aid for and how to prevent injuries or illnesses that could occur in backcountry settings, including hypothermia, heat reactions, frostbite, dehydration, blisters, insect stings, tick bites, and snakebites.

#2 - Seven Priorities for survival in the backcountry or wilderness location. Must recall from Memory.

1. STOP.
2. Provide first aid.
3. Seek shelter.
4. Build a fire.
5. Signal for help.
6. Drink water.
7. Don't worry about food.

#4 - Describe the steps you would take to survive in the following conditions:

- a. Cold and snowy
- b. Wet (forest)
- c. Hot and dry (desert)
- d. Windy (mountains or plains)
- e. Water (ocean, lake, or river)

a. Cold and snowy

- Keep yourself warm and dry. Keep snow out of your clothing.
- Watch for signs that people are becoming chilled.
- Take steps to find shelter and if possible light a fire.
- Create a shelter that will insulate you from the cold.
- Drink Plenty of fluids.

b. Wet (forest)

- Keep yourself and other dry and warm. The shade of the forest floor can be chilly and dampness can make it feel cooler.
- Drink Plenty of fluids.
- Try moving to more of an open area. Hard to be seen in dense forest.
- Don't change locations unless you have to.
 - If you must change locations, mark your route clearly.

c. Hot and dry (desert)

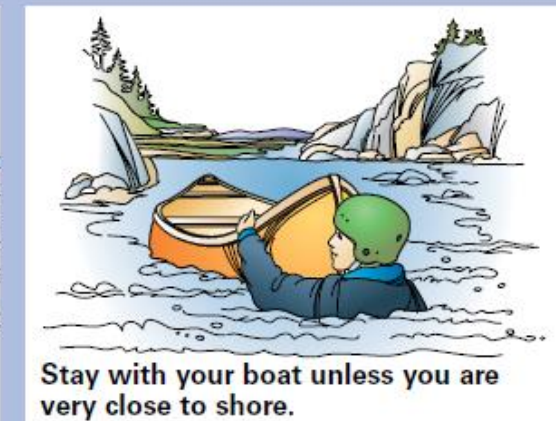
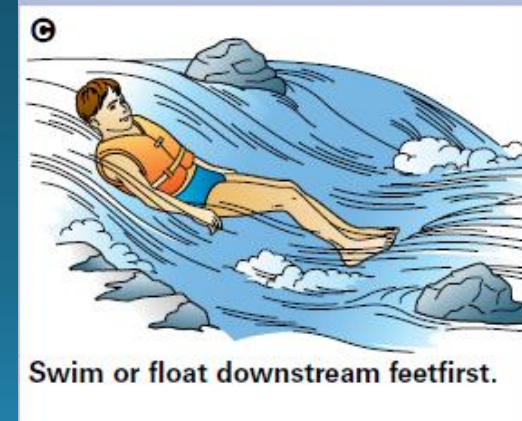
- Stay as cool as you can during the day. At night however it can be cool.
- Rest in a high, shady spot during the day.
- Keep necessary activities in the cool of the evening or early morning.
- Wear sun protection (sun screen, long clothing). Wear a hat.

d. Windy (mountains or plains)

- Wind can keep you cooler, however it can also sap away moisture and cause you to drink more fluids.
- Keep out of the wind if possible. It can keep your energy and morale down.
- Protect yourself by wearing a windproof outer layer.
- Seek shelter on the calm side of a boulder or large tree.

e. Water (ocean, lake, or river)

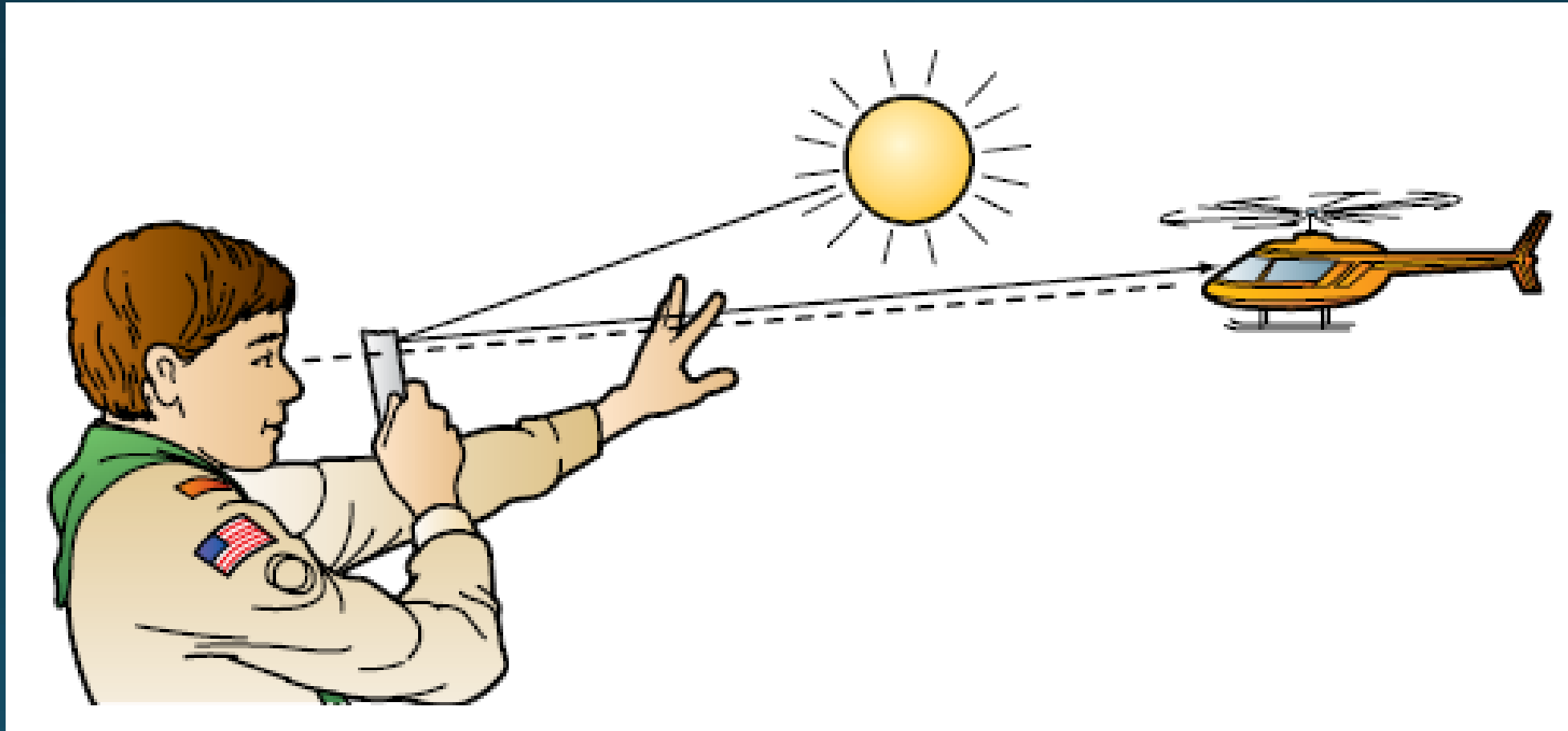
- Protect those near you from drowning.
- Get to dry land or into watercraft asap to avoid hypothermia.
 - If capsized to far from shore, keep as much of your body out of the water as possible.
 - If not possible, conserve energy and body heat by floating with your PFD.
 - Keep head positioned so you can breathe and your arms and legs close to your body.
 - Huddle together if in a group.
- Don't drink Salt Water.
- If in river, don't fight the current. Get on back with feet pointed down stream.



#6 - Using three different methods (other than matches), build and light three fires.

- Battery and Steel Wool
- Fire By Friction
- Flint and Steel
- Magnifying Lens

#7b – Use a signal mirror.



#7C - Describe from memory five ground-to-air signals and tell what they mean



V

REQUIRE
ASSISTANCE

X

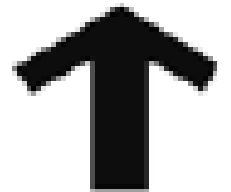
REQUIRE
MEDICAL
ASSISTANCE

N

NO

Y

YES



PROCEEDING
IN THIS
DIRECTION

#11 - Show that you know the proper clothing to wear in your area on an overnight in extremely hot weather and in extremely cold weather.

Clothing is your first line of defense against the elements. It keeps you warm in the winter, cool in the summer, dry in storms, and sheltered from insects, sun, and wind. To help decide what you need, learn about the materials from which clothing is made.

Basic Cold-Weather Clothing Checklist

- Long-sleeved shirt
- Long pants (fleece, wool, or synthetic blend)
- Sweater (fleece or wool)
- Long underwear (polypropylene)
- Socks (wool or synthetic blend)
- Warm hooded parka or jacket
- Stocking hat (fleece or wool)
- Mittens or gloves (fleece or wool) with water-resistant shells
- Wool scarf
- Rain gear
- Appropriate cold/wet weather footwear

Basic Warm-Weather Clothing Checklist

- T-shirt or lightweight short-sleeved shirt
- Hiking shorts
- Underwear
- Socks
- Long-sleeved shirt (lightweight)
- Long pants (lightweight)
- Sweater or warm jacket
- Brimmed hat
- Bandannas
- Rain gear
- Appropriate hiking footwear

#5 - Put together a personal survival kit and explain how each item in it could be useful

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Every survival kit begins with the Outdoor Essentials. Get into the habit of having them with you on every trip into the backcountry.

- Pocketknife
- First Aid Kit
- Extra Clothing
- Rain Gear
- Water Bottle
- Trail Food
- Water bottle
- Matches / Fire Starters
- Sun protection
- Map and compass

Adding some or all of the following items to your emergency kit can come in handy during survival situations.

- Duct Tape
- Whistle
- Signal Mirror
- Thin wire / Dental Floss
- Fishing Line and Hooks
- Heavy Duty Garbage Bag

#8 - Improvise a natural shelter. For the purpose of this demonstration, use techniques that have little negative impact on the environment. Spend a night in your shelter.

- A shelter extends the effectiveness of your clothing by adding another layer to your insulating and wind-blocking system.
- Assess the materials you have around you and make a plan to build an effective shelter.
- Assemble a shelter that does the job but that takes as little energy as possible for you to set up.
- Remember to practice leave no trace when practicing skills.
- However, wilderness situations don't always allow you to practice low impact techniques. Do what you need to in order to survive.

Types or Shelters



Tree pit



Snow pit



Snow trench