



Guidelines

Cold Weather Camping in the Atlanta Area Council for Cub Scout Packs

Camping at the Cub Scout level introduces boys to the outdoors and helps them develop outdoor skills at an age-appropriate level that will be applied more thoroughly when they become Boy Scouts. We want our Cub Scouts to have fun in the outdoors on overnight camping trips and day activities, while insuring that everyone is kept safe. It is important for the leader of those outings to plan properly.

The following graphic should be helpful in planning the Pack’s program and addressing cold weather issues.

WEATHER FORECAST 	<u>Dry</u> Conditions	<u>Rain</u> &/or <u>Windy</u> Conditions
<u>Temperatures forecast above 45 degrees</u>	Day Activities & Tent Camping are acceptable (note #1)	Day Activities & Tent Camping acceptable with/planning & preparation (note #2)
<u>Temperatures forecast in a range from 35 to 45 degrees</u>	Day Activities & Tent Camping acceptable with/planning & preparation (note #1 & 3)	Day Activities Outdoors should be closely monitored (note #4) Nights <u>only</u> in heated cabin or building
<u>Temperatures forecast are below 35 degrees</u>	Day Activities Outdoors should be closely monitored (note #3) Nights <u>only</u> in heated cabin or building	Day Activities Outdoors are not recommended. Caution: further drop in temperature could cause ice & snow

Notes:

1. **Campsite/Equipment – good conditions:** Sleeping bag rated below expected temperature; use sleeping pad and tent with ground cloth.
2. **Campsite/Equipment – lower temperatures, windy or wet:** Insure area is drainage protected. Tent should have good rain fly, sleeping bag rated below expected temperature, sleeping pad.
3. **Clothing Type- lower temperatures:** Layered clothing, clean change of clothes, knit hat, gloves, insulated outerwear.
4. **Clothing Type - lower temps, windy or wet:** Layered clothing, clean change of clothes, knit hat, gloves, insulated outerwear. Poncho or rain gear, and water resistant footwear.



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Camping at the Cub Scout level introduces boys to the outdoors and helps them develop outdoor skills at an age-appropriate level that will be applied more thoroughly when they become Boy Scouts.

Council organized activities address the many issues of supervision, equipment, and safety; and follow specific guidelines for anticipated weather conditions. The challenge is for Packs embarking on Family Camp Overnight and Outdoor Activities. **Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation** (BALOO) and **Youth Protection Training** (YPT) are required for adults leading these outdoor programs. Additionally, it is highly recommended that leadership also be familiar with **Hazardous Weather Training** (My Scouting), **Basic First Aid**, **CPR**, and training specific to the activity, if available. Additionally, Packs must file a **Tour Plan** online.

As presented in the **Guide to Safe Scouting** under XII. Winter Activities, special considerations for cold weather outdoor activities are:

1. **Qualified Supervision** – It is vital that leadership be experienced in the type of camping experience for which the trip is designed. Strong character and common sense are key traits of leaders, especially in challenging situations such as cold weather camping.
2. **Equipment** – Equipment should be proper for the activity, in good condition, and properly maintained. Scouts should be educated and expect to be checked for adequate clothing and equipment. Cub Scouts do not “learn by experience”.
3. **Physical Fitness** – Scouts should be fit for the activity. A review of the Scout’s medical information is important to ensure the Scouts are physically capable of participating in the events.
4. **Buddy System** – The buddy system fosters joint responsibility and makes sure we are watching out for each other.
5. **Planning** – This goes along with the other considerations presented here. Activities should be age-appropriate, and emergency and secondary plans should be considered and developed. Including alternate housing or transportation plans.
6. **Safe Area** – The area should be checked for hazards. For example, activity areas should be identified when being held near open water such as a pond; fields should be checked for unseen holes (ankle breakers), fire ant mounds, and rocks.
7. **Weather Check** – Weather conditions, potential hazards, and the appropriate responses should be understood and anticipated. Leaders should complete the Hazardous Weather training. The week before the activity, leadership should plan for and adapt to the upcoming weather conditions, with a suitable back-up plan if the weather turns inappropriate.
8. **Burning** – Never use flames in tents, teepees, or snow shelters. This includes heat sources such as cooking gas and charcoal stoves. Only heat sources approved for indoor use such as a fireplace in a building with proper ventilation should be used.
9. **Discipline** – All participants should know, understand, and respect the rules and procedures for a safe cold weather outdoor experience.