

Camper Equipment Night

5th Brantford - Battlefields Council

Critical Shift: Parents have informed and realistic expectations which our Groups and Sections have the capability to consistently deliver.

Our Story:

5th Brantford Scout Group noticed that their youth were showing up to camp with insufficient gear. Families followed the packing list, however some items packed were not suitable for camping. Plates were too small, plastic cups made it difficult to hold hot soup or beverages, cutlery was not durable enough and sleeping pads were too thin. This left a lot of additional supplies for the Scouters to pack. The Group assumed their packing list and instructions were intuitive, but realized quickly that different families have very different backgrounds and experiences with camping and knowledge of items which are appropriate for camping.

The Problem:

Youth not being properly equipped for camp due to Scouting families not knowing which types of products, equipment and supplies are appropriate to pack for outdoor adventures and why it matters.

Our Solution:

Holding a Camper Equipment Packing Information Night during a regular Section meeting where Scouters, youth and their families could attend. Scouters brought their own personal camping equipment/gear to show and share, as well as commonly packed items that are not quite recommended for camping, to be able to teach families why. They also brought pictures of equipment being used to show how they worked.

How It Works:

Inviting Scouting families to Camper Equipment Information Nights helps to better prepare their youth for camp. This is an opportunity for Scouting families with little to no camping experience and less-experienced Scouters to ask questions and gain knowledge about which types of items are best suited for outdoor adventures and why certain types of items are not as effective. Proper packing will result in better-prepared happier campers.



What Success Looked Like:

- Parents and youth were better informed about what to pack and arrived at camp well-prepared.
- Scouters didn't have to stress about packing so much extra backup gear.
- New campers felt more confident getting the supplies they needed.



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Give it a Try!

Step-by-Step

1. Prior to camp, invite Scouting families to attend a Camp Equipment Information session during a regular Section meeting. Expressing the importance of attending.
2. Prepare required camp gear to display and images/videos to show how they function. Share unnecessary items that are best to avoid packing as well.
3. Start the information meeting promptly to ensure enough time to show and discuss all items. Go through each category of packing list items (ex. clothes, meals, sleeping gear, medication, etc.) explaining why some items are better suited than other similar items.
4. Be sure to ask if anyone has any questions after each and elaborate if necessary.
5. At the end of the interactive presentation, invite everyone to come up and get a closer look at the items and seeing the difference between the items that work well and those that don't.
6. At the end of the session, send each family home with a packing kit list of supplies and suggested locations of where they can purchase them.



Tips & Tricks

- Winter hats and gloves are great for cold evenings and mornings during other seasons.
- Have the families touch the items to feel and notice the differences.
- Demonstrate a foam pad vs a self-inflating mattress for kids to lay down in and feel the difference.

What Do I Need?

- Knowledgeable Scouters to host.
- An assortment of camping gear and photos/videos to demonstrate how the items work (ex. a dining mess kit for dishes to hang and self-dry).
- A table or other way to display the gear.
- An itemized list of important camping gear and stores that carry the harder to find items.

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