



Weather AWARENESS

“A Scout must prepare himself by previous thinking out and practicing how to act on any accident or emergency so that he is never taken by surprise.”

“The open-air is the real objective of Scouting and the key to its success.”

- Robert Baden-Powell

Baden-Powell advocated that young men spend a lot of time learning in and about the out-of-doors. However, we still need to be aware of our surroundings and their changing conditions, including what is happening with the weather.





Weather AWARENESS

(cont.)

Severe weather hazards can be dangerous. Each requires a basic understanding of what to do so that you can protect yourself and your Scouts. Here are a few for you to consider:

1. Know the weather forecast before you set out on your trip.
2. Prepare for the types of weather hazards that are associated with your destination. The BSA's online Weather Hazards training is a great resource in this area and should be renewed every two years.
3. Double-check weather conditions immediately upon arrival to verify forecasts.
4. If visibility becomes limited, respond quickly to gather the Scouts in your care.
5. Locate any designated emergency shelters in the area.





Weather AWARENESS

(cont.)

- Remember the Scout Motto - Be Prepared!
- You and your Scouts need to be properly equipped and attired, especially in cold weather.
 - Layers, layers, layers!
 - The three W's:
 - a wicking layer (long underwear)
 - a “warm” layer (fleece or down)
 - a “wind” layer (waterproof shell)
 - Change into a fresh base layer before turning in.
 - Wet is your enemy.





Weather AWARENESS (cont.)

- Things to pack for the campout:
 - Hiking boots or sturdy shoes (no tennis shoes!)
 - Warm parka or jacket with hood
 - Extra underwear (in case you get wet – stay dry!)
 - Extra socks (wool or synthetic) – for the same reason
 - Stocking hat (fleece or wool)
 - Mittens or gloves (fleece or wool), preferably with water-resistant shells
 - A really warm sleeping bag.
 - Add a blanket or extra sleeping bag, if needed.





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(cont.) Resources

Guide to Safe Scouting > Activity Planning and Risk Assessment

- <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss07/>

Guide to Safe Scouting > Winter Activities

- <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss12/>

Review cold-weather camping tips from the Winter Camping section of Troop Program Features, Volume III.

- <https://troopleader.scouting.org/program-feature-winter-camping/>

Review the buddy system for cold-weather safety.

Having Youth paired aids in monitoring each other's physical condition and observation of surroundings and circumstances.





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Weather Merit Badge, No. 35964

• http://www.scoutingbsa.org/Programs/BoyScouts/Merit_Badges/Weather.html

BSA Weather Merit Badge checklist, lesson plan, material from the National Weather Service

• https://www.weather.gov/owlie/scouts_merit_badge

Dangerous Weather & Safety Rules from the above site (first portion of requirement #2)

- [Lightning](#)
- [Winter Storms](#)
- [Tornadoes](#)
- [Hurricanes](#)
- [Floods](#)
- [Heat](#)

A Concise Study Guide for the Weather Merit Badge from the NWS:

• https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/scouts/Weather_Merit_Badge--A_concise_study_guide.pdf





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(cont.) Additional Resources

Weather signs to look for on a campout

- <https://www.outdoorrevival.com/old-ways/predict-weather-using-nature-signs.html?firefox=1>
- <https://www.nydailynews.com/weather/sns-want-to-predict-weather-look-for-17-signs-20191031-td72ahzuefbmvecsgs7wej5sre-photogallery.html>
- <https://1source.basspro.com/news-tips/outdoor-information/7520/17-signs-nature-can-help-you-predict-weather-video>

Be aware of the weather at the location where you plan to camp, if not nearby.

Hypothermia

- <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/hypothermia/>

Hyperthermia

- <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/22111-hyperthermia>





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Additional Resources (cont.)

Camping skills for cold and/or wet conditions:

Cold –

- <https://www.backpacker.com/skills/beginner-skills/winter-camping/cold-weather-camping-sleep-better-than-a-hibernating-bear/>
- <https://www.overlanddiscovery.com/blog/10-genius-tips-for-cold-weather-camping/>
- <https://tentcampingtrips.com/cold-weather-camping-tips/>
- <https://settocamp.com/tips-for-camping-in-cold-weather/>

Wet –

- <https://www.hipcamp.com/journal/camping/tips-for-wet-weather-camping-or-please-let-it-rain>
- <https://www.mountainwarehouse.com/expert-advice/tips-for-camping-in-the-rain>
- <https://takemecamping.org/camping-wet-weather/>
- <https://www.thehikinglife.com/2017/06/tips-for-hiking-in-cold-and-wet-weather/>





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Additional Resources (cont.)

- [National Weather Service](#)
- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)
- [Weather Wiz Kids](#)

There is a great article in Boy's Life with even more cold weather camping tips:

- http://boyslife.org/outdoors/outdoorarticles/6981/checklist-for-a-basic-cold-weather-outing/?utm_source=Volunteers&utm_campaign=df395b3b1d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_11_30&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9777d746fe-df395b3b1d-207199161

North Star puts the "outing" in Scouting!

