

High Adventure Planning **(Written by Jerry Oss 9/25/05)**

The following plan will help organize the planning of a High Adventure Trip. Most high adventure trips should be planned for older Scouts. The Scouts that get the most out of high adventure trips are experienced these Scouts have attended a Many Point style camp for two or three years. These Scouts are looking for more challenges and have the skills necessary to have a successful high adventure.

Troop Annual Plan

Be sure the trip is put on the Troop annual plan. Firm up dates as early as possible is very important. Your Scouts should decide what they want to do two years in advance. Some trips require advance reservations and some can be hard to obtain. The early planning gives all your Scouts a goal for the future and is a great tool for Scout retention.

Planning Meetings

Scouts and adults attending the trip should have regular planning meetings to prepare for their adventure. To help focus on the trip itself have these planning meetings should be on a non-scout meeting night. These meetings can be used for skill development, menu planning, communication, and other business that may be necessary to make the trip successful.

Shakedown Weekend

Plan on having a shake down weekend to find problems and to help develop group teamwork. If hiking is part of the adventure regular hikes will help build up everyone's endurance.

Budget

Start figuring budgets early. A set price is helpful to help your Scouts save for the trip. The biggest expenses are camp fees, food, and transportation.

Payment

Allow the Scout to pay on the installment plan. High adventure tend to cost more the normal summer camp. Fundraisers will help remove some of the sting.

Select the proper Transportation

Personal Vehicles.

One person per seat belt. Plan to pay for gas payment for drivers, it is important to consider gas as a budget item. Scout Travel permits limit driving time for the safety of the group.

Rented Vans.

Special license is required for 18 passenger vans. Most rented vans do not allow for trailing. You will be paying rental fees even when van is parked at the destination

Charter Buses.

A bus driver requires payment for the time on the road as well as food and lodging. The bus is expensive to operate would not be a good option for small groups,

Trains

Amtrak has great rates for groups offering specials during the year. In the past February has been a good time to purchase tickets to be used any time of the year. The family special with free youth tickets when purchasing an adult ticket this helps keep the price down. Trains don't go everywhere and will require additional transportation at your destination.

Air transportation

Group and charter rates may be available. For camps at great distances. You can expect that this form of travel will cost the most but your high adventure can be shortened by many days.

Food and supplies

Some camps supply food some don't. If you are required to supply your own food you must plan your menus in advance. This planning pays off in the long run because it allows you to buy items in bulk at stores designed for that purpose. Let the Scouts plan the menu's with the guidance of the adult leaders. Balanced meals are necessary for a good experience; sometimes boys have a hard time with this concept. Remember you have to have cold storage for some items. You will have to know where to purchase perishable items at your destination. Estimating food costs can be easy if you can calculate what it costs to buy food per day on a weekend campout and multiply by the number of days of the high adventure. Keep in mind buying food can cost 10% to 15% more in small towns.

Side trips

Some areas offer can't miss type stops. This could be monuments, water falls, tours, etc. Be sure these side trips are approved by the BSA and the parents know about it in advance. High Adventures that involve hang gliding or other dangerous activities will be a problem and you need to know what you can and can not do. See your *Guide to Safe Scouting* for approved and unapproved activities.

Important Permits and Certifications (See the *Guide for Safe Scouting*)

Local Tour Permit, National Tour Permit, BSA Flying Permit Application, Parent Consent Form, Safe Swim Defense Training, Safety Afloat Training, CPR Certification, Certified Lifeguards, maybe necessary for an approved BSA trip. Check on the items well in advance of your high adventure so you can comply with the requirements.

