

Safety Tips



It starts with Scouts.

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Travelling? Leave an Itinerary

An important part of the planning process for any trip is creating a trip itinerary. This is a good way to carefully consider your travel plans, and to ensure that your goal for each day is reasonably attainable.

An itinerary can also be valuable to rescuers in the event of an emergency. While no group plans for things to go wrong on an outing, it's worth being prepared for eventualities like a severe turn of the weather, a serious injury, equipment failure, or just plain getting lost. If your group does not check in at a planned time or arrive home as expected, a trusted friend or family member can notify authorities to mobilize assistance.

An itinerary can be useful to all Sections, on any scale of trip. It teaches attention to detail, and the understanding that obstacles are often unforeseen. A broken-down passenger van could conceivably leave an entire group stuck and in need of no more than a little roadside assistance—regardless of how long the Scouts have been out, or how far they traveled. Knowing a planned route will typically make it easier for authorities to find you if events take an unfortunate turn.

Of course, an itinerary is even more important for remote or backcountry treks (sailing, kayaking, hiking, or canoeing) over a longer period of time. A senior Section might plan a trip that takes it far from cell phone range and road access. If something goes wrong, an itinerary may make things easier for rescuers working in challenging, remote conditions.



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Your trip plan should include your planned departure and arrival times for every day of your trip. Indicate the route you plan to take. It is also important to include names and descriptions of every member of your party (try to include photos), and descriptions of vehicles and gear. For example, if you're planning a canoe trip, be sure to include the makes and colours of your canoes, tents, and backpacks. Also record the makes, years, colours, and licence plates for the vehicles that you plan to take to your put-in or trailhead.



AdventureSmart offers a convenient online trip plan that you can email to a trusted friend or family member (available here: www.adventuresmart.ca/tripplan/tripplan.php). It is important to note, however, that completing this form online does not mean that any authorities will be automatically alerted if your group does not return as expected. Notifying authorities is the responsibility of those you've trusted with your itinerary.

