

What could go wrong in this picture?



Scouter's Tips

Scouters know what to do when something doesn't go quite right, and how to report incidents. Why are incident reports so important? Why do we as Scouters report every injury? Every incident submitted in Scouting across the country is tracked and categorized to help us be better prepared to predict and prevent common incidents from reoccurring.

Myth:

Submitting Incident reports will get you in trouble.

Fact:

The culture of safety within Scouts Canada is supported by data (those handy incident reports) which are reported after an incident or near miss.

Submitting incident reports won't get you in trouble—you'll be helping strengthen the culture of safety!

The goal of Safety Week will be to highlight some trends from previous years and provide some guidance, tips, best practices, and activities to engage youth to be involved in the planning for the upcoming seasons' adventures. After all, no Adventure is fun if someone gets hurt.

Review:

- Break into Lairs or Lodges and give each patrol leader a copy of the illustration.
- Give the youth enough time to identify any behaviours or risks they can identify. Perhaps ask an open question of what do you think could go wrong in this picture?
- How many things were you able to identify in the Image?

Here are a few things to discuss with youth as you review the activity

Trips and falls:

Cluttered campsites, tent guy lines, rocks, and tree limbs all present potential for tripping on a camp site. Perhaps before you set up camp you can play a game to clear away some of the tripping hazards. Have Beavers collect sticks around your site to use later as firewood. Store camp gear together in an organized location.

Cooking and food preparation:

Hot liquids

Hot Chocolate is an excellent source of warmth in the cool fall nights at camp. When pouring hot liquid into cups to make hot chocolate always place the cup down on a firm level surface and never hold onto the cup. Hot water from a kettle or hot chocolate served from a pot with a ladle should always be done with Scouter help and never served where a spill could land on exposed skin or clothing, we suggest placing the cup on a table and having youth step back.

Animal attractants

Aside from a potential food allergy, the jar of peanut butter is an animal attractant. Racoons, and bees can ruin an adventure's fun just like a bear.

Campfire treats

Marshmallows are a staple in campfire memories... but those delicious glops of sugar can quickly turn into a flaming projectile. Consider taking turns and ensure there is adequate supervision when hungry Beaver Scouts are preparing this delicious camping treat.

Metal marshmallows stick also hold onto the heat of a fire. Hot metal on fingers or palms when removing marshmallows also pose a concern. Perhaps use wooden sticks, these also can be use as fuel for the fire after the marshmallows are all eaten up making clean up much easier.

Around the campsite:

What about the lantern on the ground? Although lighting the campsite at night is important, hot lanterns are best kept high and out of reach. Try battery powered lanterns, or solar lanterns that charge in the day and provide enough light during the early evening when you may want your light source closer to your activity, like a picnic table.

Site selection:

Although this looks like a great campsite with a firepit already there, did you see the beehive in the tree? Sometime the sites we think we know very well can present new hazards even if we have been there plenty of times before. What risks or hazards can appear on a site depending on the time of year? How does the weather effect your favourite camping location? Or a new beehive that perhaps wasn't on that site last season?

Did you notice the youth without shoes on?

Footwear is a must have to protect feet and toes from sticks, rocks, and general outdoor debris...not to mention embers that may escape the campfire.