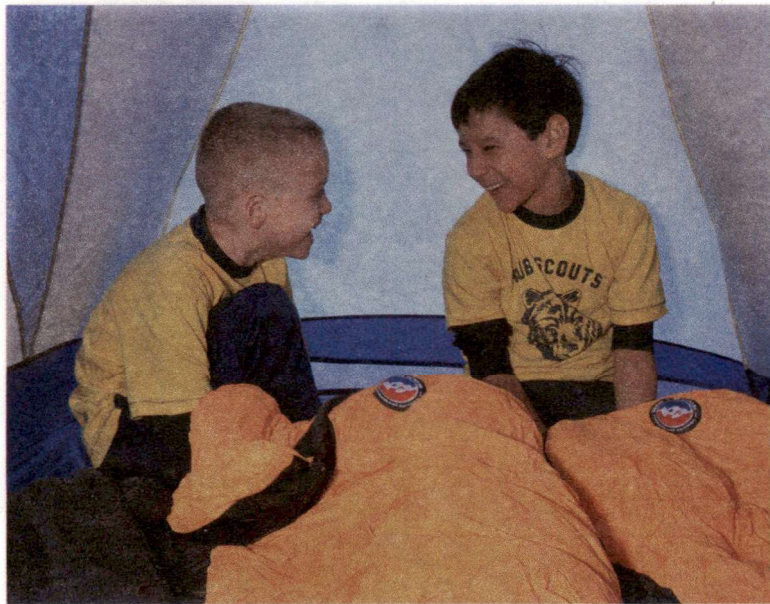


THE BUDDY SYSTEM

The buddy system is when two Cub Scouts work together, share, and keep each other safe. Your den leader decides how buddies are paired. If there is an odd number of Cub Scouts, you can have a buddy group of no more than three.

Having a buddy is especially important when you are doing an activity outdoors, particularly near or on the water.

When you have a buddy, you are not to let your buddy out of your sight. As buddies you are friends, so remember the points of the Scout Law to be friendly, courteous, and kind to each other. You keep each other safe by following any rules or instructions for the activity.



THE CUB SCOUT SIX ESSENTIALS

Cub Scouts love being outdoors. When you go outdoors for an Adventure, there are six things you should bring with you. These are called the Cub Scout Six Essentials. If something is essential, it's extremely important.

1. FILLED WATER BOTTLE

No matter the weather or activity, your body always needs plenty of water to keep it going. You always carry water with you when you're going outside to replace the water your body loses by sweating and even just breathing. Have you ever seen your breath when it's cold outside? That's water your body has lost!

When your body has lost too much water, it will tell you it needs water in different ways. You'll feel thirsty, get a headache, or even get a stomachache.

Get in a good habit of drinking water when you plan to be outside. Drink before you start an activity, take small drinks during your activity, and drink again when you're finished. It is better to take a lot of small drinks than to drink a large amount all at once.



How do you know if you're drinking enough water? One way is by checking your urine (pee). Your urine should be clear and light. If it's yellow, your body could use more water. If it's dark yellow, your body needs more water.



Plastic water bottles are the most popular way to carry water. These come in all shapes and sizes. When choosing a plastic water bottle, think about how you'll carry it and how much water it will hold. Another important part of a plastic water bottle is how you drink from it. Some have straws, some have a valve, and others have just an opening with a screw cap.

Some backpacks are designed to carry a water bladder with a flexible straw attached. These make drinking water easy and give you a place to carry your other Cub Scout essentials.

It is best to keep only water in your water bottle or water bladder. Make sure to wash it after each use to keep it clean.

2. FIRST-AID KIT

Carry a small and simple first-aid kit with things you know how to use. It should also include things you may need based on the activity you have planned. Always check your first-aid kit before going out to make sure it has what you need.



Your first-aid kit should have the following items:

- ◆ Personal medical items (for example, if you are allergic to bee stings, you may need to carry an EpiPen)
- ◆ Pads (to clean cuts before applying an adhesive bandage)
- ◆ First-aid cream (applied to a cut before putting on an adhesive bandage)
- ◆ Adhesive bandages (only a few in two or three different sizes; include latex free)

As you learn more about first aid, you will begin to carry more items in your kit.

3. WHISTLE

A whistle is for emergencies if you get separated from your group. If you lose sight of your group, use your whistle to let people know where to find you. Blow three loud, short blasts, counting to three in your head during each blast. Using a whistle in combination with the STOP method — Stay calm, Think, Observe, and Plan — will help people find you. You will learn more about STOP later in this handbook.



4. FLASHLIGHT

Carry a flashlight in case your activity happens at night or goes later than you expect. Like a first-aid kit and whistle, it's better to have a flashlight and not need it than to need it and not have it.

When deciding what kind of flashlight to bring, remember you have to carry it. There are some you carry in your hands, some that you wear on your head, and even some that you wear around your neck.



You also want to consider how your flashlight is powered. What type of batteries does it use? Do the batteries come with the flashlight? Is it easy to replace the batteries? It's a good idea to carry some spare batteries with you.

When using your flashlight, remember to keep it pointed down and not at someone's face.

5. SUN PROTECTION

Just like you need water when it's hot or cold outside, you need sun protection in all types of weather, too. You can protect yourself from the sun by wearing appropriate clothing and using sunscreen.



Sunscreen and some clothes indicate a sun protection factor, or SPF. The higher the SPF number, the more protection the sunscreen or clothing will provide from the sun's damaging rays. The SPF number is not related to how long you can stay out in the sun. The effect the sun has on your skin can be different based on the time of year, time of day, and what type of skin you have.

A hat can provide good sun protection if it covers not only your head, but also your ears and neck. If your hat doesn't cover your ears or neck, make sure to apply sunscreen to those areas.

When using sunscreen, always follow the directions on the container. Know if your sunscreen is waterproof or sweatproof. If it isn't, you'll need to reapply if you get wet or sweat a lot. Most sunscreen will wear off after a while, and you'll need to apply more if you're outside for a longer period of time.

6. TRAIL FOOD

When you are outside and active, your body will need energy. Pack a snack that is easy to carry, is easy to eat when you are moving, and will stay fresh. Here are some ideas for trail food.

GORP – Good Old Raisins and Peanuts was the first trail mix and was simply raisins and peanuts. Raisins provided sugar and peanuts provided protein, two important nutrients for energy. Trail mix is now much more than just raisins and peanuts. Dried fruits, chocolate candies, and other nuts are just some items you can find in trail mix.



Dried meats like beef jerky and turkey jerky are another source of high-protein foods that make a good snack when outdoors. You can even find vegetarian jerky made from plant-based proteins.

Granola can be simply rolled oats, nuts, and honey baked together. Like trail mix, granola can be made from different ingredients. You can find a variety of granola bars at your grocery store.

When deciding on trail food, **remember what the temperature** will be like. If it is going to be warm outside, anything that has chocolate will melt, making it difficult to eat. If it is going to be 35 degrees or colder outside, you can consider packing cheese as your trail food.

When planning what to bring for trail food, make sure to **check with your den leader to see if anyone has a food allergy**, so you can plan to avoid those foods.