MEETING PLANS & IDEAS: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Preparedness	Information	Troop Meetings	Main Event

OBJECTIVES
This month's activities should:

- Provide an understanding of basic first aid techniques.
- Give youth a good grasp of the fundamentals for dealing with life-threatening situations.
- Help youth develop enhanced self-confidence for making decisions in stressful situations.
- Provide youth a chance to practice emergency skills in a realistic scenario.
- Encourage the pursuit of future emergency preparedness opportunities.

LEADERSHIP PLANNING
As a leadership team, you may want to discuss the following items when choosing emergency preparedness as your program feature during your planning meetings:

- How prepared are we currently for emergencies? Where would we like to be? How do we get there?
- What types of emergencies could we encounter in everyday life?
- What are some local agencies that regularly respond to emergencies? Which ones could help us prepare?
- What will we do for our main event?
- What other subtopics would fit well with this feature?
- What specific badge, award, or requirements should we focus on fulfilling?
- To meet our needs, what should we change in the sample meeting plans?

Click above for fillable troop meeting planning form.

PREOPENING IDEAS

Preopening Ideas on Troop Program Resources

- As Scouts arrive, have them demonstrate techniques necessary for getting out of a building that is on fire. Practice hurry cases for first aid. Do this activity without much instruction to get Scouts attuned to their genuine immediate reactions.
- As Scouts arrive, have them show the floor plans of their homes and discuss their plans in case of a home emergency, including escape route, method of alerting first responders, safe places for the family to meet away from the home, etc.
- Have merit badge counselors on hand to promote such badges as Emergency Preparedness, Search and Rescue, and First Aid. Have them highlight requirements Scouts could complete during this month's meetings and main event.

OPENING IDEAS

Opening Ideas on Troop Program Resources

GROUP INSTRUCTION IDEAS

Prepare

- Preparing for emergencies is all about being able to identify threats from natural and other disasters. Have an older Scout or knowledgeable adult leader discuss the definition of emergency preparedness, how the unit currently plans for such events, and where Scouts can learn more (Emergency Preparedness merit badge pamphlet, Guide to Safe Scouting, etc.).

Respond

- Responding to emergencies properly is by far the most important area to focus on. The response can be the most dangerous aspect but also can make a huge difference if done right. Concentrate instruction on the importance of responding quickly and with a focused mindset. Consider having a guest speaker for this meeting whose job involves responding to emergencies.

Recover

- Have a guest from an agency such as the American Red Cross discuss how disaster relief groups aid and restore communities after natural disasters. (Members of your chartered organization may work or volunteer for one of these groups.)
- Discuss the impact that Scouting units can have in helping people recover from natural disasters.

Prevent

- Today's instruction should be focused on preventing and lessening the impact of future emergencies both in the home and in the unit. This could also be a great opportunity to introduce Scouts to a variety of occupations that serve the community through emergency mitigation work. Use guest presenters if possible.

SKILLS INSTRUCTION IDEAS

● ESSENTIAL ■ CHALLENGING ◆ ADVANCED

Prepare

●
- Review techniques necessary for getting out of a building that is on fire, and practice hurry cases for first aid. Discuss how putting forethought into the situations can increase effectiveness and personal safety. Have Scouts draw up plans and try again.

■
- Review above information.
- Work on troop mobilization techniques.
- Write a detailed plan for moving a large number of people in an emergency situation and practice.

◆
- Review above information.
- Work on discovering how emergency preparedness is done every day at a local community level, with emphasis on preparation and planning.

Respond

- Role-play calling 911 for an emergency. (Don't actually call 911, of course.)
- Discuss personal scene safety and what to do when first discovering an emergency.
- Review CPR and identifying and treating shock.

- Review above information.
- Work on crowd and traffic control and keeping others safe.
- Discuss taking a leadership role at an accident scene.

- Review above information.
- Work on lost-person techniques and simple search-and-rescue patterns.
- Discuss what to do when help is delayed, as well as how to transport an injured person from the backcountry, keeping in mind the safety of the rescuer and the injured person.

Recover

- Learn about what to do upon returning home after a disaster, including proper safety techniques for identifying structural damage and for searching through debris.

- Review the above information.
- Discuss the search and rescue X-Code system and INSARAG marking system. Consider using chalk and scenarios for Scouts to practice.

- Review the above information.
- Discuss coping with the emotional trauma related to emergencies.

Prevent

- Learn how to inspect a home for potentially dangerous situations such as toxic cleaners in reach of small children or exposed wires. Use the Emergency Preparedness merit badge pamphlet as a reference.

- Review above information.
- Put together emergency packs and kits for use in unit and family emergencies. Use the Emergency Preparedness merit badge pamphlet as a reference.

- Consider having a person from a local emergency response team give a presentation on ways for older Scouts to get involved in the community.

BREAKOUT GROUP IDEAS

Discussion

- Demonstrate understanding of emergency preparedness by putting together simple written plans for a number of household emergencies (for younger Scouts) and unit event emergencies (for older Scouts).

Getting Ready for the Main Event

- Menu Planning
- Duty Roster Planning
- Equipment check

Preparation for the meeting's game or challenge

GAME AND CHALLENGE IDEAS

Library of Games and Challenges on Troop Program Resources

- Bandage Relay
- First Aid Carry Relay
- Stretcher Relay
- **Lost-Person Search**
  – *Materials:* Objects representing lost persons (such as dolls or action figures), at least one per patrol
  – *Method:* Set up a search area outside the meeting place with clear boundaries. Scatter objects throughout the area. Patrols perform a lost-person search, as described earlier. Continue playing until time is called or all objects are found.
  – *Scoring:* The patrol finding the most lost objects wins.

CLOSING IDEAS

- Leader's Minutes
- Ceremony

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Scouting Forms from the National Council

ScoutCast

Scouting Magazine

ScoutStuff.org (Retail Site)

ScoutingWire

Sign in to MyScouting.org

Take Youth Protection Training

The Outdoor Adventure Planning Guide

Troop Leader Guidebook Appendix

Uniforms

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