

THE SCOUTER'S BOOKS – No. 14

PACK HOLIDAYS

By MAO

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Editor's Note:

The reader is reminded that these texts have been written a long time ago. Consequently, they may use some terms or express sentiments which were current at the time, regardless of what we may think of them at the beginning of the 21st century. For reasons of historical accuracy they have been preserved in their original form.

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Throughout this book the term “Akela” denotes the Cub Scouter in charge of the camp, whilst the expression “Old Wolves” includes Akela and all the grown-up helpers. For convenience the masculine gender is used, but must be taken to apply equally to a woman Akela.

CHAPTER I.
INTRODUCTION.

A Pack Holiday may appear to be a simpler undertaking than a Cub Camp, but it is equally important that the Rules should be strictly observed.

In May 1948 the Committee of the Council after consulting the Movement, decided that Cub camping in tents should continue and that air open-air activity, already tried experimentally by some Packs, called a Pack holiday, should be officially recognized. Rules 341 and 341 (a) which govern these are as follows:

RULE 341. – The following rules, additional to those in Rules 332, 333, 335 and 338–40, apply in the case of Pack holidays:

Cubs may be taken away for Pack holidays provided they are accommodated for sleeping and for wet-weather activities in a Group H.Q., Church Hall, School, or other suitable building, and subject to the following conditions:

(i) There must be at least two warranted Scouters, one of whom must be a warranted C.M., D.C.M., or A.D.C. Wolf Cubs.

(ii) There must be at least one adult for every six Cubs present.

(iii) Water supplies, indoor cooking facilities, and adequate sanitation under cover must be available in the building or immediately adjacent to it.

(iv) The D.C. must not in any case give permission unless he is completely satisfied with the leadership and accommodation.

It will be noted that the main difference between a Pack holiday and a Cub camp is that in the former the Cubs do not sleep in tents, but in some suitable building. Few Cubmasters having any experience of the vagaries of a British summer will dispute the fact that a Cub camp in tents can present considerable difficulties to Akela and his helpers when a series of “deep depressions” comes our way, with consequent stormy weather and heavy rainfall which may last continuously for two or even three days in July and August. The problems arising from such an experience may well daunt the hearts of the most qualified team of Cubmasters and helpers and destroy the desire for increased camping in the Troop which we hope to build up in the Cubs. Although some wet weather problems remain, a dry roof is over our heads, and, if we do get wet, arrangements can be made more easily to dry wet clothes in a building than in tents.

Whether Akela decides on a Pack holiday or on a Cub camp there must be at least two warranted Scouters, one of whom must be a warranted Cubmaster, District Cubmaster or Assistant District Commissioner Wolf Cubs, i.e. over twenty years of age and with some knowledge of Cubbing. This last is of some importance, as we are concerned with a Cub activity and not with an open-air activity from the Scout point of view. That will come later when the Cub goes up into the Troop. Hence the need for plenty of adult help and the stipulation that there shall be at least one adult for every six Cubs present. In the case of a Pack holiday the Old Wolf in charge can be included, but when a Cub camp is held the Scouter in charge is excluded when calculating the necessary number of adults.

Therefore when a Pack holiday is chosen a Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster can take twelve Cubs away without additional adult help, or with one other adult up to eighteen Cubs. This ratio of one adult to six cubs is the minimum permitted by the Rules. There is nothing to prevent Akela taking more adult help.

In the case of Pack holidays a rough indication is given as to what may prove a suitable building, but this indication is qualified by section (3) which provides that water supplies, indoor cooking facilities and adequate sanitation under cover must be available in the building or immediately adjacent to it. The water supply may be a well, although a tap over a sink is to be preferred; the indoor cooking facilities may be portable stoves of one kind or another or even a coal stove, though, again, a gas cooker is more desirable; the adequate sanitation under cover could, as a very minimum, be Elsans under a tarpaulin instead of the infinitely preferable water closets. It is obvious that Akela will have an easier task in a building with running water, a well-equipped kitchen and modern sanitation than in a building lacking some of these and thus necessitating some improvisation.

No lower age limit is laid down for a Pack holiday – thus the whole Pack can be taken away without any restriction; although of course Akela is free to make his or her own decisions about an age limit, which, in the case of a large Pack, may be desirable.

All the points mentioned in Rules 341 and 341 (a) and discussed here should be carefully weighed and considered before it is decided to take the Pack away for a Pack holiday or for a Cub camp. The wise Akela will, in addition, seek help and advice from the Group Scoutmaster, District Cubmaster, other Cubmasters and the Assistant District Commissioner (Cubs) before any decision is taken.

A Pack holiday would appear to be the answer where

- a) the Pack is newly formed or consists of young Cubs;
- b) the Cubmasters are young or not very experienced;
- c) camping equipment is short or the Troop needs it for its own camp at the same time;
- d) the summer does not promise well and periods of cold or wet or stormy weather seem probable;
- e) the whole Pack wants to go away together;
- f) ideal or good accommodation is available.

Although the number of staff required for a Pack holiday may be less than that for a Cub Camp, many considerations apply in both cases.

a) Make sure of an adequate staff of Old Wolves – all over the age of eighteen, at least. Scouts and other young persons may be helpful, but are not able to take any real responsibility, in case of accidents, illness or other emergency, and should therefore be regarded as additional to the ordinary staff,

b) It is unwise to have a mixed staff of young unmarried people; a young female Akela, for instance, would do well not to take Rovers as her permanent staff. This kind of thing often gives rise to scandal, however groundless it may be, and this is just as important at a Pack holiday as in Camp. Some members of the public may judge the whole Movement by the impression we make upon them, on any one occasion.

Where a mixed staff cannot be avoided particular care should be taken that the situation of sleeping quarters, or sleeping tents, are such as to prevent the possibility of any suggestion of impropriety arising, and an older person should be present as a “chaperone” but such cases are better avoided altogether.

(c) One member of the staff must have a good knowledge of cooking and catering, and another should know a sound amount of first aid and nursing.

The Reasons For Pack Holidays And Cub Camping

When well run these activities are desirable because:

1. They help the Cubs

a) The Cubs are given a happy, healthy holiday, mainly in the open air; perhaps the only holiday they may get, and, even more probably, the only time they will be right away from town surroundings.

b) The Cubs' desire for adventure and romance is satisfied.

c) The Cubs can be made keener and fitter in every way because of the opportunities for training and for acquiring good habits of mind and body.

2. They help Akela

a) Opportunities are afforded – more than a whole year of ordinary meetings – of getting to know the characters of the Cubs and of learning to understand their needs, their ideals and their aspirations,

b) Akela and the Cubs are brought into a very close relationship and bound together by happy memories of a time which none of them will ever forget.

3. They help the Pack

The “happy family” spirit of the Pack is increased, an *esprit de corps* is gained and a history and tradition that will stand it in good stead in difficult times is built up.

4. They help the parents

A better understanding of Akela's work and methods is given as well as a keener appreciation of what is being done for their children. An inexpensive holiday is provided which otherwise could not be afforded.

5. They help the Movement

Parents are taught the value of the Movement. People in the neighbourhood of the Pack holiday or camp see the results of the training and may influence the starting of new Packs or the gaining of new supporters and workers for the Movement.

Responsibilities

The Cubmaster in charge of a Pack Holiday undertakes enormous responsibilities.

1. Responsibility to the Cubs, who will depend upon Akela's arrangements for health, comfort and happiness.

2. Responsibility to the parents, who have entrusted to him the safety and welfare of their children both physically and morally.

3. Responsibility to the Movement that the Pack Holiday shall in no way discredit the great Brotherhood of Scout in the eyes of the public, and of those who are good enough to lend their premises and their land for such purposes.

These are great responsibilities, not to be lightly undertaken by the most experienced Akela. It is not merely a matter of common sense; nor can the problems involved be fully understood by the reading of books. Experience as an Assistant in a well-run Pack Holiday is the best training for the Cubmaster. That experience must not be bought at the expense of the happiness, comfort and safety of the Cubs.

Joint Holidays

This does not mean combined camps of Scouts and Cubs. Combined camps or other activities involving combined training cannot be too strongly condemned.

A “joint” holiday is one in which two or more Packs take part. It is essential in such cases that the Cubmaster of one of the Packs (obviously it should be the most experienced Cubmaster) should be in charge of the holiday and should receive the loyal support and co-operation of the other Cubmasters present.

There are some advantages – such as economy of gear and pooling of experience – in such a project, but also many disadvantages, among them loss of the happy family spirit, and these should seriously be considered.

It is even more undesirable for Cubs to share a Pack Holiday with other children or other Youth Organisations, whose standards may be very different from our own.

CHAPTER II

PRELIMINARIES.

(a) NOTIFICATION AND PERMITS.

Rules 332 and 333 apply equally to Pack Holidays, in stipulating for 28 days’ notice of the Summer holiday.

This should be no hardship, as preparations should begin many months ahead of the proposed date and there is much to be done.

The important thing is that no intimation should be given to the Cubs or their parents until permission is received.

The application should go through one’s own D.C. on Form P.C. (Cubs).

(b) STAFF.

The question of staffing has already been mentioned and attention drawn to Rule 341 (8) and (11).

It is important to make sure that all the members of the Staff are physically fit and have good tempers. Also that they will get on well together and each one pull his or her weight.

It is wise to call meetings of the whole team at an early date to decide the date, duration, locality, and other preliminary details of the Pack holiday. Regular meetings should also be held throughout the whole period of preparations, partly in order that the staff should get to know each other, and so that each member should know exactly what duties he or she is responsible for. A list should be made at one of the early meetings of the staff showing everyone’s daily duty, and each Old Wolf should be given a copy.

It is well worthwhile if the staff can have a preliminary weekend camp together, which will serve to settle all these details and create the right team spirit.

(c) DATE, DURATION.

1. Date.

It is unwise to take Cubs away on holidays before Whitsun, or after the end of August, as good weather is most important to the success of a Pack Holiday. Within those limits, the date

must be dependent on School holidays and on the possibilities of getting an adequate staff. Travelling near the Bank Holiday week-end should be avoided if possible.

2. Duration.

Neither a Pack holiday nor a Cub camp should last too long; rather let it err on the side of brevity. It is very undesirable to run any chance of the Cubs getting tired and becoming homesick or getting too used to being away. Moreover, the taking away of other people's children is a very big responsibility which Akela will be well advised not to prolong unduly. In any case, the Cub has many years before him in which to camp; do not give him too much strong meat in his early years.

Four or five days is sufficient, particularly of Packs in big towns where it is necessary to go some distance, may feel, not without reason, that so short a period does not really justify the trouble and expense. Again, there are cases in which Cubs can only go away if they will not return before their parents come back from their own holiday. In such cases there may be full justification for the Pack holiday continuing for a week or even ten days, so long as it is well run.

No hard-and-fast rule can therefore be laid down, but, as already stated, it is better for the Pack holiday to be too short rather than too long.

(d) ACCOMMODATION.

1. Locality.

It is a mistake to go too far from home. Reduced railway fares can be obtained, but apart from the question of expense, a long journey adds a good deal to Akela's troubles and responsibilities. The Cub, too, is a very young boy, who is apt to become suddenly home sick at night if too far away from home. A good building is by far the most important factor, in the choice of a site for a Pack holiday, and this may often be found quite close at hand.

At the same time one wants to give the Cubs a complete change for their Holiday, and Packs in big towns are bound to have to travel some distance. The open country is probably all the change that they need, and if it has hills to climb, woods and streams to explore, so much the better.

A Pack Holiday at the seaside is very attractive and it may be the only chance that some of the Cubs will ever get of such a delight, but suitable accommodation for a Pack Holiday may be very hard to get at the time when it is wanted. It is not worth sacrificing one's privacy and standards for the sake of the sea.

Also, if Cubs go to the sea they must bathe, and there are the most stringent rules controlling this activity, the importance of which can be denied by nobody.

There may be safer waters in which to bathe or paddle, and to these may be added the romantic delights of a farm, downs, woods, or even a ruined castle, any or all of which may make a Pack Holiday memorable – provided the accommodation is right.

With the exception of Downe, Cub Camps and Pack Holidays are not permitted on Headquarters sites.

It is probably unnecessary to add that it is not permissible to take Cubs abroad.

2. Accommodation.

The choice of the actual building or buildings is therefore of first importance, and is one of Akela's biggest responsibilities, which can be delegated to no-one else.

Nobody can quite judge what is suitable for one's own Pack nor should one ever rely upon another person's judgment in such an important matter. It is Akela's own responsibility and, if anything goes wrong, it will be he who must bear the blame for not having seen the buildings, checked the facilities and satisfied himself on these points and on the suitability of the surroundings.

When considering possible buildings for use as accommodation for a Pack holiday most Cubmasters will at once think of a **Group H.Q.** Whilst many of these will be very suitable, choice should not be limited to Scout property or buildings. Some education authorities are willing to allow Packs to use **schools** and other buildings if good notice is given and satisfactory arrangements can be made for cleaning and maintenance. It is hoped that the number of such authorities will increase. They will do so if teachers and officials can be convinced that Pack holidays have value and make a contribution to informal education. Even Group H.Q. and schools will not provide sufficient accommodation at peak periods for all Packs who want to go away, so we must look wider than these two classes of buildings. The following suggestions may be found useful;

Sports pavilions and dressing-rooms. Football, cricket, and even golf clubs might be approached, and the sports grounds of business houses and works should be considered.

Farm buildings. Many of these have been modernized in recent years and may have sound flooring, water supplies, and even electric light.

Stable buildings. These may vary from the impossible (where the yard is a morass) to the very fine racing stable of a magnate (where saddle-rooms and lofts provide ideal accommodation). A large country house no longer in private occupation may be found to have stables, cottages or other buildings which are quite suitable.

Hutted camps. In some parts of the country aerodromes or military camps no longer in use may provide a possible place for a Pack Holiday, although these are the least likely to come up to the standard of our requirements, and call for even more meticulous investigation.

The more rural areas which are usually more suitable for holidays are normally well catered for by such organizations as Women's Institutes and the British Legion. As in Scouting, many local units have their own H.Q. buildings which may well be worth investigation.



FIG. 1

Although the final decision as to whether any proffered accommodation is suitable or not is for Akela, he should not regard the search for the best that can be found limited to what he himself knows and can think of. This is a matter for all the Old Wolves and, indeed, all the Scouters of the Group. The help of the Group Committee and parents should be sought, and any suggestions made, unlikely as they may appear at first, must be treated seriously. By "looking wide" in this way we shall find very suitable places when at one time we thought the task impossible. Don't forget to pass on any good ideas to your Commissioner and I.H.Q.

3. Use of accommodation

With such a wide range of buildings it is obviously impossible to lay down any very hard-and-fast rules as to use. The layout of an ordinary residence or, indeed, that of a camp, provides a guide. The sleeping accommodation needs more privacy and shelter than the place where the eating or cooking takes place. The kitchen and the wash-place need to be near the water supply if the latter is not actually in the room. Whilst it is necessary for the sanitary accommodation to be handy, the actual location has to be considered carefully in relation to the use of the adjoining rooms or buildings.

It will be a great help if the host himself or a representative can be present at the time of the preliminary visit. His ideas on the use of the accommodation should be sought and his objections met as far as is consistent with good Scouting. If good reasons are given for any desire to depart from his ideas, most probably his prejudices will vanish.

In the case of some accommodation it may be necessary or worth while to make some arrangements for repair, alteration, or cleaning, before the start of the holiday, unless the staff is more than usually large and competent. Caretakers of almost any building will probably expect payment for this, though it is possible the local Group may be able to help a bit and thus keep this expenditure within bounds. Of course, Akela will have been in touch with the local Scout folk before paying the visit. If he does not take this precaution he may pay many fruitless visits. Whatever may be the condition on arrival the Pack must assuredly leave everything clean and tidy on departure for the sake of the good name of Scouting.

(e) PRELIMINARY VISIT.

Apart from the initial visit to inspect the buildings, the site and the neighbourhood, before anything is settled there are several other jobs which call for at least one preliminary visit:

1. To make sure that the surrounding country is suitable and safe, containing no tempting death-traps which must be put out of bounds.

2. To make friends with the local Group, if possible, and perhaps to enlist the help of their Scouters, Rovers or Seniors, for any borrowing or manual labour.

3. To visit local tradespeople and farm, and arrange for supplies. Find out which is early closing day. Go into possibilities of hiring or borrowing any benches, trestle tables, boxes for stores, also sacks and straw for mattresses, if palliasses are not available.

4. If necessary arrange for transport from the station.

5. Ascertain the whereabouts of the nearest doctor, ambulance or similar means of conveyance, hospitals and chemist. Also of the police, who may prove your best friends in case of anything going wrong. Go and see, or write to, the doctor.

6. If the Pack is going to a service at the church, let the clergyman know in case any special arrangements for seating are necessary. If the Pack includes some Roman Catholics, the parish priest should be informed.

(f) TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS.

Arrangements for transport of boys and of equipment must be made in good time, whether by tram or by lorry.

Reduced railway fares can be obtained at the following rate: Cubs half the normal single fare for the double journey.

It is wise to check that lorries are covered by insurance to transport Cubs.

(g) ADVANCE PARTY.

The work of the advance party is to make the immediate preparations, so that everything may be ready for the arrival of the Pack.

Some of the Staff who are not needed to travel with the Cubs, or perhaps other Scouters, Rovers or Seniors of the Group, might undertake this task, possibly with local assistance.

Cleaning has already been mentioned, but other preparations must depend on the nature of the building. There may be luggage or gear sent in advance to be unpacked and arranged, palliasses to be carted, fires to be laid and lit, stores to be sorted out, and possibly, tents to be pitched for extra accommodation for the staff or the stores.

For immediate preparations it is unwise to rely on local people or, in fact, on anyone other than one of the Old Wolves of the staff.

The advance party should see that stores and other things ordered locally are delivered as arranged, and that, if necessary, according to the time of arrival of the Pack, the kitchen is prepared and a meal ready for the Cubs.

Chapter III

EQUIPMENT

At a very early stage Akela should make out a complete list of all equipment required. This should be done before the preliminary visit is made, so that he may know what he will want to obtain locally.

The list should be divided into sections:

1. What the Pack or Group already has.
2. What must be acquired.
3. What Akela hopes to get locally, checked on the preliminary visit.
4. What each helper will bring, with duplicate list for each.
5. What each boy must bring, with a duplicate list for each mother.

It is wise to keep copies of these lists when the Pack Holiday is over, with any notes and additions, which would prove of invaluable help for another year.

Indeed, it is very desirable that an exercise book should be kept throughout, showing every phase of planning, preparation, development and action taken.

The following list of equipment, for a Pack Holiday of 12-18 Cubs, may provide a useful basis for the first year, until Akela has built up his own experience.

General:

- Union Jack.
- Flag staff, or pulley and halyards for local erection.
- Spades (two are desirable).
- Rope, cord and string (sisal is cheap and strong).

Prayer-book, Bible and hymn-sheets or books, for use at Cubs' Own.

Games equipment: football, tennis balls, bean bags, cricket outfit. Don't overlook things which may be useful on a wet day; papers and pencils, illustrated papers, handcraft material, even dressing-up gear.

Groundsheets, for sitting out on wet ground.

Palliasse case or sacks and pillow case, one for each Cub to be stuffed with straw. If mattresses and pillows are available, they are of course better.

Tents, if necessary, for Scouters, stores, etc.

Planks and supports, or trestle table for meals, and, if possible, some overhead shelter if it is an out-of-doors dining-shelter.

Disinfectant for lats. Toilet paper.

Soap and towels.

Washing bowls, at least one to three Cubs

Tubs – useful for washing feet.

Mugs for cleaning teeth, at least one for every three Cubs.

Mirrors.

Shoe cleaning outfit.

Rubbish boxes or bags.

Lanterns.

If indoor lavatories are not available, as one would wish for an ideal Pack Holiday, then the list must also include latrine tents and buckets with seats, one for every 6 Cubs and one for Old Wolves.

The Sick Bay.

This should be prepared in a separate room, if possible, or in a cubicle, apart from the main sleeping quarters, and should be equipped with:

A Camp bed, spare blankets, and pillow.

Medicine box or First Aid equipment.

Hot water bottle.

Possibly a spirit stove or primus and kettle.

A torch or extra lantern, if necessary.

A chamber pot.

The Medicine Box should include a clinical thermometer, and somebody should know how to use it correctly.

For Kitchen and Stores:

- 2 large dixies. It may be thought desirable to take 3.
- 2 small dixies.
- 2 large frying-pans.
- 6 large metal bowls: for serving bread and butter, mixing puddings and keeping things in.
- 3 large metal bowls: for washing up, cleaning vegetables etc. (These will possibly serve for roasting; if not, it may be desirable to take some other bowls for the purpose).
- 3 large enamel jugs: for serving water, tea, etc.
- 3 large plates.
- 2 mugs (½-pint or pint): for measuring, etc.
- Supply of knives, forks, spoons, including carving knife and fork and wooden stirrer.
- 2 large ladles.
- 1 milk can with lid, unless the milk will be delivered in bottles.
- 1 butter basin.
- 1 tin-opener: for emergency rations.
- 1 hand-axe: it is generally wiser to take two, in case one gets broken.
- 1 Bushman-type saw.
- 2 lanterns: one is possible, but it is better to have one each for kitchen and stores tent.
- 2 tables or large boxes: one each for kitchen and stores tent.
- 2 American cloth table covers.
- Supply swabs, mops and drying cloths, pudding cloths and butter muslin.
- Supply of boxes, and tins for storing food.

For the Cub.

The following is a list of the articles which a Cub should bring to a Pack Holiday. A copy of this list should be sent to every boy's parents in good time beforehand. It is advisable to make it understood that, if at all possible, the things should be packed in a waterproof kit-Bag and all clothing marked with the owner's name.

2 blankets – more, if possible; in any case, Akela should have a good supply of spare blankets.

Overcoat or waterproof.

Sweater, spare jersey or old coat.

Pyjamas.

Change of clothing. Old flannel shorts and shirt are very useful, since, if necessary, they can be used instead of pyjamas. A soft, wide-brimmed hat is also useful.

Spare vest or undershirt.

Spare stockings.

Spare boots or shoes.

Canvas shoes or sandals: for wet grass and for games, etc.

Handkerchiefs.

Bathing costume.

Soap and towel.

Toothbrush and toothpaste.

Hairbrush and comb.

Plates (two, deep) and mug: preferably enamel, certainly not china.

Knife, fork and spoon. These and the plate and mug should, if possible, have some distinctive mark of ownership.

For the Cub Scouters.

The Cub Scouters are, of course, free to sleep in tents, if there are no separate rooms in the building. They should in no case sleep with the Cubs. Tents may be shared with another Old Wolf if necessary, and should be large enough for comfort, and for the considerable amount of gear which Akela must take.

Akela's list, beside personal requirements, should include such essentials as: electric torch and refill, lantern, Note-books, Log Book, money and money box or bag, repair outfits and possibly a Primus.

CHAPTER IV.

HYGIENE

The importance of hygiene cannot be overstressed, since the health of the Cubs and, indeed, the whole success of the Pack Holiday may depend upon it. If it should fail in any particular way, parents will never again agree to their boy going away with the Pack – and probably all Scout Camping will be included in their condemnation – and the owners of the property will certainly never offer it again for such a purpose.

(a) Lavatory Accommodation.

Rule 341 (3) stipulates that there must be “adequate sanitation under cover” and that this “must be available in the building or immediately adjacent to it.”

Should the Pack holiday be held in a building such as a school, hall or cricket pavilion, arrangements are simple when there are the ordinary types of water closets. As has been referred to elsewhere, it is the duty of the Old Wolves to see that these are kept clean and in good working order. It is quite definitely not one of the odd jobs which may be allotted to the Duty Six.

In some cases it may be necessary to use Elsans or chemical closets. If this is so and an outbuilding has to be used for the purpose, the rules of hygiene must be even more meticulously observed, and proper arrangements made for the emptying of the chemical closets.

In any case there should be washing facilities close to the lavatories, and the rule should be established that hands must be washed after use.

It is very important to arrange separate washing and lavatory facilities for Old Wolves.

Whatever the lavatory arrangements, it should be made easy for the Cubs to go there when they wish, and a light or lantern provided and kept alight at night. It is not always realised that many Cubs are nervous of the dark and would probably hate to admit it.

Another important consideration is the danger of bed-wetting, which is not at all uncommon among Cub-aged boys. Akela should enquire on this point from the Mother or Guardian of each boy and find out if there is any medical treatment which should be continued in camp. Probably such parents will be able to provide a good-sized mackintosh sheet. The boy should not be blamed for this unpleasant habit, as he is usually powerless to avoid it. He is very often embarrassed and ashamed, and considerable tact and kindness are called for. Extra care should be taken at Inspection to see if the blankets are at all wet or damp, and if so they must be thoroughly aired and dried before re-use.

(b) Refuse Pits and Disposal of Refuse.

In all probability a dustbin will be in use if the Cubs are in a building, but, whenever possible, all rubbish should be burnt either on an indoors fire (possibly some type of Ideal Boiler which may be in use) or an outdoor one, or it may be possible to make a simple incinerator out of doors such as is used in camp.

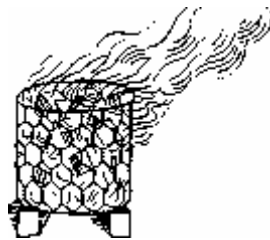


FIG. 2

A simple form of incinerator can be made with a rough basket of wire netting stood on a couple of bricks and pegged down to the ground by means of a few long staples made of stouter wire. Another very simple form can be made with a few bricks or large stones and two or three iron bars placed across to ensure air getting underneath the refuse.

In the same way as in camp, all vegetable parings and surplus “scraps” should be kept in a special bucket (which should be covered) and arrangements made for someone nearby to have these for their hens or pigs.

General principles of tidiness apply to Pack holidays in the same way as they do in camp.

The Cubs should be taught the importance of disposing of all rubbish at once. They should learn from the first moment not to drop paper, food or anything else on the ground and, if they see anything of the kind, to pick it up at once. It may be explained to them that they should behave no differently in this respect than they would in the best room at home.

Akela should make it as easy as possible for the Cubs to be clean and tidy in this way, and there should be one or two small bags into which dry rubbish can be put. Such a bag can be

made in a few minutes out of an old piece of canvas sacking. A boy cannot be expected to go to the incinerator or refuse pit every time he wants to throw away a small piece of paper, but if a sack is provided he has no excuse for dropping it on the ground. These bags should be emptied and the contents burnt every day before inspection.

Tins, having been burnt out in the incinerator, should be “bashed” and buried, together with any other indestructible solid refuse, loose earth being shovelled over the deposit every time after use. At the end of the Pack Holiday the hole must be firmly filled in with at least 6” of earth on top and any turf replaced, to prevent the pit being dug up by animals.

Liquid refuse must not be put in the solid refuse pit, but requires a special soak-away, with a grease-trap for greasy liquids.

The correct way to construct these things may be learned from camping books or from any experienced Camper. It becomes increasingly obvious that unless the Pack Holiday is held in a building where all normal kitchen and drainage facilities are laid on, the cook, if not all the staff, must have considerable knowledge of camping methods.

It is only by extreme care in the disposal of refuse, and by never leaving any food uncovered that the nuisance and the danger of wasps and flies may be avoided.

(c) The Washing-place

The position here should, in many cases, be easier, as the building in which the Cubs are housed will in most instances have a water supply and possibly wash-basins indoors. In any case, the ruling (P.O.R. 341(3)) states that “Water supplies must be available in the building or immediately adjacent to it”.

Should the building not have wash-basins, a wash-place must be fitted up in a room, shed or outbuilding suitable for the purpose. Metal or canvas basins will be necessary and the tables or benches on which to put them. It may be necessary to make further screening from the weather, or the public.

There should be sufficient basins to provide one to every three Cubs.

An old Wolf must be responsible for the cleanliness and tidyness of the wash-house, seeing that towels are hung out to dry, and basins turned upside down to drain.

CHAPTER V.

FOOD AND COOKING

Feeding at Pack holidays and camp, as at home, is of the utmost importance. Therefore, as has been mentioned elsewhere, at least one Old Wolf should have a real knowledge of cooking.

Never let us forget the warning that “Good food badly cooked is no longer good food!” Whilst away you have your opportunity for giving good nourishing food to boys who in some cases, are perhaps not too well fed at home. Therefore give as much butter, margarine, milk, fresh fruit and greenstuff as you can, though tinned food will no doubt also appear in your menu and should certainly be kept in the store tent in case of emergency.

At one of the preliminary staff pow-wows make out the menus for the week, at the same time consulting with the other Old Wolves.

Having decided upon the menus, the cook can then retire and think out his or her stores list. If possible, order all dry foods and also cleaning materials in bulk.

The chief cook should keep a careful record of all food consumed: this will prove an invaluable guide to quantities the next year.

The following list of quantities may give an idea of the approximate requirements per Cub per day.

Table of Quantities

ARTICLES	QUANTITY
Bread	1 lb per head per day. This works out as the average with an almost unfailing regularity; it being assumed, of course that, the bread is not eaten quite new. Half as many 2-lb loaves as there are boys in camp, with a margin for safety of one extra for each six, is a very accurate estimate of the requirements for one day.
Butter	$\frac{2}{3}$ oz. to 1 oz. per head per day.
Jam, marmalade, etc	2 oz. per head per day.
Tea	2 oz. will just make enough for one meal for 20-25 Cubs. It is not desirable that tea should be too s'rong. As not every Cub likes sugar in ¹ his tea it may be as well, in some cases, to add this <i>after</i> the tea has been made.
Cocoa	$\frac{1}{4}$ lb. will make enough for about 35 Cubs.
Milk	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt. per head per day is the smallest possible quantity, and more is desirable.
Sugar (for all purposes)	2 oz. per head per day. Don't let Cubs help themselves.
Rolled oats.	2 oz. per head per breakfast is a very liberal allowance. If oatmeal is used, less is necessary.
Meat, breakfast	sliced sausage, etc. $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{9}$ lb. per head.
“ midday	Roast or boiled. About $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ lb per head (exclusive of bone), Stews, meat puddings, etc. $\frac{1}{5}$ to $\frac{1}{6}$ lb, per head.
Potatoes.	At least $\frac{1}{2}$ lb per head per day.
Sausages, bacon, etc.	Buy as required. Buy rashers of bacon, not in a solid piece to be cut up.
Flour, for puddings.	2 oz. per head.
Suet	About quarter the weight of the flour will do. The more used, the lighter the pudding.
Biscuits	Count the number in a pound, and so estimate the number required.

SPECIMEN DAILY MENUS.

Saturday	Picnic Lunch.	Whatever is available.
	High Tea	Fish cakes, Bread and Butter, Jam, Cakes
Sunday	Breakfast	Cornflakes, Sausages, Bread and butter, Jam or marmalade.
	Dinner	Veal and Ham Pie. Salad. Potatoes. Treacle sponge pudding.
	Tea	Smoked fillet. B. and b. Jam. Cake.
Monday	Breakfast	Porridge. Scrambled eggs. B. and b. Jam or marmalade.
	Dinner	Steak and kidney pudding. Vegetables. Stewed figs or rhubarb and custard.
	Tea	Macaroni cheese. Bread and butter. Lettuce.
Tuesday	Breakfast	Cornflakes, bacon, fried bread, tomatoes. Bread and butter, Jam or marmalade.
	Dinner	Boiled beef, carrots and potatoes. Summer pudding or blancmange.
	Tea	Kippers. B. and b. Cake.
Wednesday	Breakfast	Porridge. Sausages. Bread and butter. Jam or marmalade.
	Dinner	Corned beef. Salad and potatoes. Stewed plums and custard.
	Tea	Scrambled eggs. Bread and butter. Cake.
Thursday	Breakfast	Cornflakes. Cold breakfast sausage. Bread and butter. Jam or marmalade.
	Dinner	Fish or stew. Vegetables, Stewed fruit or dates.
	Tea	Bread and Butter. Jam Cake.
Friday	Breakfast	Porridge. Fried tomatoes and fried bread. Bread and butter. Jam or marmalade.
	Dinner	Roast meat (pot roast). Vegetables. Currant suet roll.
	Tea	Baked beans on bread and butter. Lettuce sandwiches. Cake.
Saturday	Breakfast	Porridge or cornflakes. Bacon and batter. Bread and butter. Jam or marmalade.
	Dinner	Corned beef and salad. Bread and butter. Trifle.

The Feeding Place.

It is undesirable that meals should be eaten in the sleeping place. An out-door dining room is infinitely preferable for a Pack Holiday, but not as a glorified picnic. Cubs should be able to sit up to a table, where they will eat better and manners may be enforced.

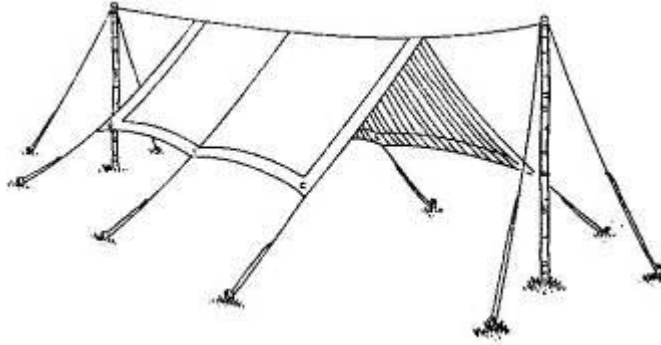


Fig 3.

Tables and benches should therefore be provided, and some sort of shelter overhead, as a protection from either sun or bad weather is essential. See Fig. 3.

A strip of American cloth, fastened down with drawing pins makes a good tablecloth, and is an aid to hygiene and manners.

In some buildings there may be a verandah, which would be an ideal place for meals.

CHAPTER VI. PROGRAMME.

The outline for the daily programme will have been drawn up before arrival. It remains for Akela to fill in the details day by day. Alternative programmes for good and bad weather will be necessary, but flexibility is most important every day, dependent on opportunity and mood, as well as weather. Cubs need supervision, but it is an excellent thing to allow an hour after tea or half an hour in the morning during “games” for the Cubs to amuse themselves. They should never be allowed to hang about for hours with nothing to do, but it is a mistake to think they must be “organised” all day. Akela or the Games Old Wolf will be the leader of all sorts of exciting explorations and tracking games outside the boundaries every day, but when on the site itself during the hour suggested a game might be started with some of the Pack, the others joining in as they wish.

As this is really an outdoor holiday for Cub, little will be done in the way of star or badge work.

It is a good plan to hold an informal pow-wow for Old Wolves for a few minutes during rest hour or when the Cubs are in bed, during which any small details and suggestions which will lead to improvement can be discussed.

Specimen time-table:

7.30 a.m.	Rouse. Wash.
8.15 a.m.	Breakfast.
10.00 a.m.	Inspection.
10.15 a.m.	Flag. Prayers.
10.30 a.m.	Games or morning “stunt”.
12 noon	Bathing.
1.00 p.m.	Dinner.
1.45 p.m.	Rest hour, including bank and canteen.
2.45 p.m.	Afternoon “stunt” (away).
5.00 p.m.	Tea.
5.30 p.m.	Get beds made. Games
7.10 p.m.	Flag down.
7.15 p.m.	Supper.
7.30 p.m.	Wash and clean teeth.
8.00 p.m.	Camp Fire.
8.40 p.m.	Prayers.
9.10 p.m.	Warning whistle.
9.15 p.m.	Lights out.

Inspection. This should not be held until the Cubs have had ample time to go to the lavatory and to tidy up. The standard of inspection should improve each day, and one should expect to find: all rooms of the building swept and clean; blankets and towels hung out until midday if fine; palliasses dragged out on ground sheets to air; all equipment laid out tidily or folded up out of the way; rubbish bags or boxes emptied, etc. A full inspection should be made of all clothing, to make sure that nothing is lost, damp or in bad condition.

Uniform for inspection should be correct above the knee, after which the rig of the day will be announced. It is better for Cubs to wear a light pair of canvas shoes and no stockings.

The Scouters should dress in the same way, wearing an old uniform for the rest of the day. They must at all times be an example to the Cubs, especially by wearing full and correct uniform when in public. (As regards uniform for women, see “Notes for Women Scouters”).

Flag. A flag staff should be improvised and the Union Jack should be hoisted or broken with due ceremony every morning and lowered at a fixed time each evening while the Pack stand at Alert.

Bathing. Rules 327 and 329 (I) must be very strictly observed. “Safety first, last and all the time.”

Bank and Canteen. All Cubs money should be handed in to an Old Wolf on the first day for safe keeping. A careful record must be kept and money issued each day as required. A canteen is an important feature, if only in order to check the amount and quality of sweets sold and consumed each day.

Bed-making. Cubs should be shown the right way to make their own beds. Fig. 4 shows the best use of two blankets which method provides as many layers underneath as on top. Blanket pins, at points marked X, make the arrangement more secure.

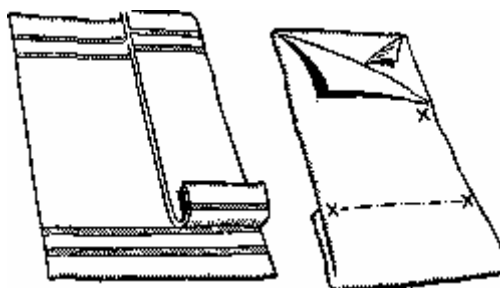


Fig 4 (a)

Fig 4 (b)

Camp Fire. The Scouters should try to construct some sort of Camp Fire Circle. The Cubs should not sit on the ground, if avoidable, but if so extra ground-sheets will be necessary. The Camp Fire should be a really happy climax to the day, with a good fire and a good programme, allowing for any amount of singing and laughter, and the Cubs' own stunts, but not for rowdiness or ragging. These should not be held every night. A few, good ones are preferable.

Prayers and Religious Observances.

On Pack holidays Akela has perhaps the best opportunity he will ever have for helping the Cubs to realize the love of God, to do their duty to Him, and to be really grateful to Him. He will do well not to waste such an opportunity.

It is also for all the Old Wolves a time of great responsibility, for it is impossible to live in these surroundings with Cubs without seeing how far the Old Wolves themselves live up to the Cub Law and Promise. Thus, whether intentionally or not, an example is being set and most of the Cubs will follow it either for good or bad. So it behoves Akela and his assistants to do their best and make the example they set one which will be for good in every respect.

Short, simple Prayers should be said at Flag break, each morning, with a Sixer reading a few verses from the Bible if desired; and again after Camp Fire, or just before the Cubs get into bed, if that is preferred.

In addition to this, Grace should be said or sung before all meals, a Church Service attended on a Sunday, if possible, and, last but by no means least, a Cubs' Own might be held, for which a Pack Holiday provides an ideal opportunity.

REFERENCE TO BOOKS:-

Camping Standards – 1/-

Cub Camping – No. 15 in this series – 1/-.

Summer Camp all the year round – No. 25 in this series – 1/-

Summer Camp Day by Day – No. 26 in this series – 1/-

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