

**TROOP 81**  
**LIFE RANK LEVEL**

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

1. As a Senior Scout, why is it important for you to set the example?  
Answer: Younger scouts are constantly observing you to determine the standard and to set their behavior patterns.
2. Why should you change footwear after reaching your backpacking camp?  
Answer: Your heavy hiking boots should be removed and aired out while in camp. Change in to a soft-soled shoe for both comfort and to avoid trampling delicate foliage with the aggressive tread of a hiking boot.
3. While hiking in, why is it a good idea to occasionally look over your shoulder for a "backview" if you use the same trail for the hike out?  
Answer: By looking back from time to time, you'll be able to keep mental notes of landmarks and milestones, and view the trail in the same perspective that you'll have on the hike out. The trail won't be a stranger.
4. What is an "ecotone" and why should it be avoided when selecting a campsite?  
Answer: The boundary between two environments, such as hardwood forest and an open meadow, is called an "ecotone." Such areas are a haven for small animals, and human intervention would disrupt this fragile domain.
5. Why is it important for scouts to re-measure the length of their step yearly?  
Answer: As a scout grows, his length of step increases.
6. In which region is the Great Smoky Mountain Council located?  
Answer: The GSMC is in the Southern Region which is comprised of thirteen southern states..
7. Why should the north side of mountains be avoided when winter hiking?  
Answer: Because the sun is low in the southern sky during the winter, the north side of mountains is shaded and probably icy and hazardous.
8. Why should you avoid burning of plastics and Styrofoam in a campfire?  
Answer: These materials are made from synthetic polymers which release a toxic dioxin when burned. The smoke from burning plastic is a health hazard.
9. As a general rule, how is temperature affected by elevation?  
Answer: The air temperature usually is three degrees cooler for every 1000 feet of elevation gain.
10. What is NESA?  
Answer: The National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) is a fellowship of men who have achieved the Eagle Scout rank.
11. What are the three BSA lifesaving awards?  
Answer: In ascending order: (1)Medal of Merit, (2)Heroism Award, and (3)Honor Medal
12. If you follow a one-degree bearing error for one mile, how far will you miss your intended destination?  
Answer: 94 feet
13. Why are green plants necessary for our ecosystem?  
Answer: Plants provide a vital link in the oxygen carbon cycle. Plants absorb our exhaled breath (carbon dioxide) which is then converted to food for the plant with the help of sunlight and chlorophyll. This process, called photosynthesis, produces oxygen which is something humans

must have to breathe. *Plants filter our air and we filter their air.*

14. What are the restrictions for an Eagle Project?

Answer: An Eagle Project cannot benefit the Boy Scouts or any profit-making business.

15. Why are clothes made from cotton not recommended for winter camping?

Answer: Cotton is inherently hydrophilic which simply means the fabric easily absorbs and retains moisture. Wet cotton garments have little insulative qualities.

16. Why are visual ground-to-air distress signals more effective than aural distress signals?

Answer: Once in place, visual signals will continue to work, even if you are asleep or ill.

17. What effect does altitude have on cooking?

Answer: The change in barometric pressure makes the cooking time longer in higher altitudes even though water boils at a lower temperature.

18. What is the normal hibernation season for black bears in the Great Smoky Mountains?

Answer: Bears normally hibernate between October 15 and June 1.

19. Why should you be aware of any "dead odors" while on the trail?

Answer: Such odors usually indicate a food source for wild animals and bears protect their food in an aggressive manner.

20. As a youth leader, why is it important to preview patrol skits before the campfire?

Answer: By previewing the skits, you can screen the content for acceptability and can avoid duplication.

21. Why are radios and tape/CD players discouraged on camping trips?

Answer: The outdoors should be a place of sanctity. Such a place is spoiled by man-made disturbances. Enjoy the sounds of nature rather than the blare from speakers or earphones.

22. What is the age limit for earning the Eagle Scout rank?

Answer: All requirements must be completed before the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

23. What precautions should be taken when filtering water in cold weather?

Answer: The filter should be purged of water after each use to prevent damage by freezing.

24. Why is it a good idea to record the time of a hike?

Answer: By keeping an accurate record of time spent on the trail, you will be able to predict the time for hike out. Also, if needed, you can give accurate information to a search or rescue team.

25. Why should refueling activity never be done at a location that is higher than a flame source (such as a campfire or a lit stove or lantern)?

Answer: Propane gas and fumes from liquid fuel are heavier than the air and could flow downhill to a flame and ignite.

26. Why should you avoid flash photographs of wild animals?

Answer: Some animals, such as bears, can become startled by the flash and become aggressive.