

TROOP 81
SECOND CLASS LEVEL

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. What is Troop 81's only approved source of flame (fire)?
Answer: A wooden match is the only approved source of flame. Cigarette lighters are not allowed. (Note: book-type matches and flint strikers (hot sparks) are allowed only in emergency kits.)
2. Why are tent ground cloths slightly smaller than the tent?
Answer: If the ground cloth was bigger than the tent, rainwater could drip onto the plastic and run under the tent between the plastic and the tent's floor.
3. What are the three classifications of firewood?
Answer: (1)Tinder, (2)Kindling, and (3)Fuel
4. Why is food repackaging necessary for backpacking?
Answer: Repackaging reduces the weight and size of the foodstuff.
5. In freezing weather, what precautions should you take when handling metallic objects?
Answer: Bare skin (and tongues) can be instantly welded to cold metal by freezing. *Avoid skin contact with cold metal!*
6. Why place slow-paced hikers in front of the line?
Answer: The front hikers will set the pace for the group. This will help keep everyone together while on the trail.
7. After a night in the woods, why is it a good idea to shake out your boots before putting them on?
Answer: Your boots offer a cozy home to all sorts of insects and even snakes and scorpions.
8. Which knot is sometimes called the rescue knot and why?
Answer: The bowline is used for mountainside rescues because the loop will not close up when the rope is pulled.
9. What should you do if you're suddenly caught outside in a thunderstorm?
Answer: To lessen the chance of being struck by lightening, *immediately* go to lower ground away from fence rows, streams, or lone trees. Remove metal-framed backpacks and crouch low to the ground with your feet together. *Don't sit or lay down on the ground.*
10. How do you answer a distress call in the back country?
Answer: A distress call is any signal repeated three times. You answer this call with your signal repeated twice.
11. Where do you lose most of your body heat?
Answer: Up to 80 percent of your body heat is lost from the head and neck areas. A cap or toboggan is vital for winter camping.
12. What is frostbite and how is it treated?
Answer: Frostbite happens when skin tissue freezes when exposed to low temperatures for a long time. Frostbite is treated by *slowly* thawing the area using warm water or body heat. *Never* attempt to thaw frozen area by friction.
13. What is an ax yard and what is its purpose?
Answer: An ax yard is a specified area in camp, normally set up by a rope fence, where firewood is cut and stored. The main purpose of this area is safety.

14. How is the U.S. flag displayed against a wall?
Answer: The flag is displayed vertically or horizontally with the stars in the upper left corner.
15. What is a "campsite sweep"?
Answer: A "campsite sweep" is an organized effort by everyone to pick up all trash and litter in the campsite.. It is usually the last activity before departing camp.
16. How can water from a mountain stream be made safe to drink?
Answer: Water purification can be done three ways: (1)boiling the water, (2)chemically treating the water with purification tablets, or (3)straining the water through a special filtering device which traps the harmful material.
17. What makes a compass needle always point in the same direction?
Answer: The balanced needle of a compass is responding to a magnetized area of the earth near the north pole.
18. What should you do if you spill some gas while refueling a camp stove or lantern?
Answer: You should allow the fuel to *thoroughly* evaporate before any attempt to light the stove or lantern. *Never* refuel a hot stove or lantern.
19. How can food that needs refrigeration be made safer for backpacking?
Answer: Foods that can spoil in summer heat can last longer by freezing them at home, then insulating them with paper towels and aluminum foil.
20. Why aren't copied maps as good as the original?
Answer: Most copying machines copy in back and white which will not show the important colors on a topographic map.
21. Why shouldn't bungee cords be used to secure items to a backpack?
Answer: Bungee cords are elastic and will "bounce" with your footsteps. After a while, items tend to loosen and fall off the backpack.
22. What do the red and white stripes of a U.S. flag represent?
Answer: The thirteen stripes represent the original thirteen colonies that gained our country its liberty and freedom.
23. What is the difference between a knot and a hitch?
Answer: A knot ties rope to rope while a hitch ties a rope to an object such as a tree, a tent stake or pole.
24. What is the purpose of a bear bag?
Answer: All smelly stuff, especially food, is in a bag kept hanging high between two trees out of reach of animals.
25. When sleeping outside during cold weather, why have more under you than on top of you?
Answer: More insulation is needed underneath to prevent the cold ground from draining away your body heat.
26. What precautions should you take when using insect repellent?
Answer: Some repellents are very flammable and should never be used near an open flame. Also, the ingredient in some brands can damage waterproofing in tents and dissolve plastics.
27. Which knot is not allowed in Troop 81?
Answer: The "hangman's noose".

28. What is mildew and how can it be prevented?
Answer: Mildew is a smelly fungus that will grow on tents, sleeping bags, ponchos, etc., if these items are stored damp. Thoroughly clean and air dry all camping gear after each outing.

29. Why reverse one battery in your flashlight while carrying it in your pack?
Answer: Reversing a single battery will prevent the batteries from draining if the flashlight should accidentally be turned on.

30. How should you dispose of left over food in the back country?
Answer: Burn left over food in a hot fire or pack it out. Never throw out or bury food.

31. Where are the tent stuff sacks stored while in camp?
Answer: Tent stuff sacks are stored under the tent's front left corner as viewed facing the tent.

32. Why shouldn't rocks from a stream or creek be used in a campfire ring?
Answer: Trapped water inside the rock could produce steam when heated and possibly explode the rock.

33. In cold weather, why is it better to wear layers rather than one big coat?
Answer: Layers of clothing will help hold your body heat by trapping air between the layers. Should you become slightly overheated, simply remove a layer.

34. Why should you always pack at least one "high visibility" item in your backpack?
Answer: A high visibility item, such as a bright red poncho, would help spot you from a distance in case of an emergency.

35. What is meant by "shaking hands" with a campfire?
Answer: When putting out a campfire, you touch the ashes with your hands to make certain the fire is dead out.

36. What is an antiseptic?
Answer: An antiseptic is a first aid lotion used to help prevent infection by killing germs. An antiseptic should be applied to a cut or scratch after the area has been carefully washed with soap and water.

37. How should you store your sleeping bag at home?
Answer: Sleeping bags should be stored flat, or in a over-sized porous sack. Do not keep a bag crammed in its small stuff sack for a long time.

38. What is the universal Morse Code distress signal?
Answer: The code is "S-O-S", first meaning :"Save Our Ship." It is sent by three short signals followed by three long signals and ends with three short signals.