

Scout Skills Resources

Here are some resources I have compiled for a 2-month scout skill intensive with plenty of patrol vs. patrol competitions. The schedule is as follows:

- Week 1 - Knots: Individual patrol instruction
- Week 2 - Knots: Troop review and competition
- Week 3 - Bowling meeting!
- Week 4 - Lashing: Individual patrol instruction
- Week 5 - Lashing: Troop review and competition
- Week 6 - Canoe safety and campout prep
- Week 7 - Fire Building: Individual patrol instruction
- Week 8 - Fire Building: Troop review and competition
- Week 9 - Orienteering: Individual patrol instruction
- Week 10 - Orienteering: Troop review and competition

The troop must provide rope, lashing staves, one fire starter striker per patrol, and compasses at the appropriate meetings. The responsibility for planning and teaching the skills is on the patrol leaders, they should work with your most experienced scouts to divide and delegate the responsibility. There will also be an adult leader and a scout from the senior patrol assigned to each patrol to assist and support them during instruction times. Please use these resources to plan your patrol's instruction time (~60min).

– An SPL

Knots

Things to teach:

- Basic knots and their usage:
 - Square knot
 - Two half hitches
 - Taut line hitch
 - Timber Hitch
- Intermediate knots and their usage:
 - Sheet bend
 - Bowline
 - Clove Hitch

Links:

- AnimatedKnots.com - <https://www.animatedknots.com/scouting-knots>
 - Their scouting section has very nice tutorials for all the knots needed.
- Scouting Knots - <https://scoutingmagazine.org/2017/04/tie-essential-scouting-knots>
 - Video guides for common scouting knots.

Notes:

- Because there are multiple knots we need to cover and knots can be hard to teach in short periods we will split them up. Please teach the basic knots the first week and the intermediate knots the second week.
- When teaching knots do your best to make sure everyone in your patrol can tie them without assistance.

Lashings

Things to teach:

- Pioneering Safety
- Clove Hitch
- Timber Hitch
- Square Lashing
- Diagonal Lashing
- Round Lashing
- Tripod Lashing

Links:

- Pioneering Merit Badge - <https://pioneeringmeritbadge.org>
 - Not for you to teach the Merit Badge, but the link has lots of instructions and ideas.
- AnimatedKnots.com - <https://www.animatedknots.com/scouting-knots>
 - Their scouting section has very nice tutorials for all the knots and lashings.
- Troop Leader Resources: Pioneering - <https://troopleader.scouting.org/information-pioneering-2/>
 - This page has general info on pioneering and lashings, links to videos teaching the knots and lashings, as well as pioneering safety points. (The safety points are a bit excessive, but many of them are very important. Please go over these!)
- Pioneering Troop Meetings - <https://troopleader.scouting.org/troop-meetings-pioneering/>
 - This page has ideas for activities and instruction ideas.

Notes:

- Start with reviewing Pioneering Safety and the clove and timber hitches
- Cover the square and tripod lashings first and the round lashing if you have time

Fire Building

Things to teach:

- When building a fire is appropriate
- Types of materials - tinder, kindling, and fuel
- How and where to gather materials
- How to use a rod and steel striker
- Fire building techniques including
 - A tinder bird nest to start
 - A teepee
 - A log cabin
 - A lean-to

Links:

- Fire Building Overview - <https://scoutingmagazine.org/2021/08/building-campfire-tips/>
 - This page has an overview of the basics of fire building, please cover the “To build or not to build” section with your patrol.
- How to build a campfire - <https://scoutingmagazine.org/2016/02/how-to-build-the-best-campfire/>
 - This page has more detailed instructions on how to build a campfire. Please also cover the “leave no trace campfires” part at the bottom of the page.
- Fire Building Infographics - <https://scoutmastercg.com/how-to-build-a-campfire/>
 - Here you can find some helpful infographics about fire building, feel free to print them out for your patrol.

Orienteering

Things to teach:

- How to use a compass
- How to find a bearing
- How to take a bearing
- How to use a sight
- How to measure your pace (there will be a 100ft length marked for you to use)
- How to combine direction and distance

Links:

- Orienteering Merit Badge - <http://usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/mb080.asp>
 - Not for you to teach the merit badge, but the requirements have some good ideas of what to teach.
- Troop Leader Resources: Orienteering - <https://troopleader.scouting.org/information-orienteeering/>
 - This page is an overview of orienteering as a sport, something cool to share.
- Orienteering Troop Meetings - <https://troopleader.scouting.org/plans-ideas-orienteeering/>
 - This page has activity and instruction ideas.