Camping: Getting ready for the real thing

Although you are a long way from going camping it is now that you could be teaching the girls about camping. Here are just a few ideas that will prepare you and the girls for camp. Remember anything you do is better than nothing. Use your imagination. Almost everything you can do at camp you can do at a meeting.

CRAFTS

Build a camp site:

Materials: bits of material, string, twigs, pieces of tin foil, any other vegetation that would work for trees, and bushes. A board to put it on if you want the girls to keep their sites.

To do: Break the girls into groups of 4. This will be their patrol for the chore.

Give them the materials and instruct them to make a working campsite. You might want to brainstorm all the things that make a good campsite:

Tent, fireplace, gadgets, trees for shade, wood pile, buckets, picnic table, shrubbery, sleeping bags, clothes lines, pots, etc.

Let them start to create.

Learning outcomes: re-enforcing campsite requirements, co-operative challenge, creativity.

Gadgets:

Materials: either sticks and lashing cord or skewers and string. (little fingers have trouble tying small knots)

To Do: Break the girls into groups of 2 or 3 and have them construct full sized gadgets or give them the small items and have them make individual ones. They may want to help each other with holding while tying.

Learning outcomes: knot tying skills, co-operative challenge, the small gadgets can be used as a hat craft

Camp hat crafts:

There are a number of crafts that you can make: compasses, mini gadgets, birds nests, bed rolls, eggs in a frying pan, etc. Use your imagination.

Learning outcomes: creativity, re-enforcement of the need for a hat at camp, depending on the craft, learn about how it relates to camping.

DRAMATIC ARTS

Skits: Remember skits should have a specific theme (example: the do's and don'ts of campfires), a set time limit, and should include all team members. This is a time you should set the groups

Create a poem, cheer, or action story

Work in groups to create a camp themed poem, cheer or story. Read them to the Unit.

Create a rap

Dance: Either introduce them to a dance (bring in an instructor) or have them create one. This can be done to a camp song or can be introduced as a fitness exercise for camp preparation.

Fitness exercise

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Canoe instruction: This can be done in a pool or a certain amount can be done in a hall. Keep this session short. Only do this if you intend to follow up in the summer

First Aid:

Wall climbing:

Cycling: Instruction on changing tires and general maintenance

Tent erecting, striking and storing: as always tents can be erected in a building during regular meeting times. Bring in a couple of extra poles (or long sticks) and some tarps and have the girls erect the tent and put up a tarp over the tent. This will reinforce the knots needed for tarping and the skills and safety needed for tent care. Be sure to have the girls put away everything in the proper way.

Box ovens and buddy burners and firestarters: Why wait until camp to actually make and/or use buddy burners and box ovens. Have the girls make them prior to camp so they are ready to go.

Bedrolls: All levels of Guiding can practice tying and waterproofing their bedrolls. Make this a relay and test the knots by throwing the bedrolls back and forth to each other. Older girls can make waterproof bedrolls. Waterproof fabric, a couple of sewing machines, a pattern and some seam seal is all you need.

Walking sticks: Get some long sticks suitable for walking sticks and have the girls individualize them with whatever pattern or decoration they want.