

## UTILIZING THE SQUAD SYSTEM IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PLANNING

Organizing girls into small groups, or squads, of 4-6 girls is an effective way to plan, prepare, pack, and implement outdoor activities. It is in these squads that the girls are able to take an active role in the planning.

The squad system is especially effective because it allows all girls to voice their opinions. In small groups, they will all have more opportunity to participate in planning and decisions that, in a large group, would be left to a few vocal girls.

Squads also allow for easy delegation of tasks. For instance, if planning a weekend campout, one squad might be responsible for planning the menu, another for planning the evening activities and another for planning the Badge activities that will occur. Girls not only learn valuable leadership skills, but lessons on organization, teamwork, safety and planning.

**Organization:** Once organized into squads, it is helpful if the group elects a leader. The squad leader is a girl willing to take on a leadership role. She needs to work with the other girls in her squad, encouraging them to work as a team to accomplish whatever task they may be doing. This may range from cooking at a campout to doing a flag ceremony to working on a service project. It is the squad leader's job to organize, supervise, and motivate her fellow squad members as she works with them to accomplish their task. The squad leader must also convey the squad's intent to her Unit Leader or other designated Troop leadership.

### Kaper Charts:

A Kaper Chart is a wonderful tool that Troops can use to divide work responsibilities among the girls. These charts provide a method of work rotation to equally divide the daily tasks and can be tailored to fit individual Troop needs for a particular activity. Squads are each assigned a symbol for easy recognition and tasks are spelled out so responsibilities are clear. Below is an example of a Kaper Chart for an week-long camping trip:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cooks	☺	☀	🎵	♥	♦
Firebuilders	☀	🎵	♥	♦	☺
Clean-Up	🎵	♥	♦	☺	☀
Latrines	♥	♦	☺	☀	🎵
Grounds	♦	☺	☀	🎵	♥

Squad #	Symbol
Squad 1	☺
Squad 2	☀
Squad 3	🎵
Squad 4	♥
Squad 5	♦

#### Roles:

**Cooks:** Prepare, cook, and serve meal and say grace

**Fire builders:** Gather wood and separate by stacking into tinder, kindling, and fuel. Build the fire and maintain while cooking. Ensure fire buckets are present. Extinguish fire. Clean up fire ring. Clean and maintain lanterns.

**Clean up:** Heat dishwater, organize the dish washing, clean up tables and preparation area, remove garbage, and clean the cooking utensils

**Latrines:** Sweep, pick up paper and trash around latrines. Clean the sink and toilet if applicable

**Grounds:** Pick up paper and trash and prepare the eating area

Another way to display and assign jobs is to create a Kaper Wheel. A paper plate with squad symbols is fastened on top of a larger circle labeled with tasks. Each day the paper plate is rotated, and squads receive a new task.

