



April 2017

Scout Law: A Scout is Clean

Interest Topic: Cub Scout Hiking

Webelos Topic: Webelos Walkabout

Elective Adventure: Earth Rocks

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“What I am doing wrong. A Confession by Ben”

Reviewing for this teaching topic, I have found that I do MANY things wrong when it comes to hiking. First of all, I have a forced march mentality. Maybe I got it from “Follow Me Boys” or another movie about the Bhutan Death March or something. This makes me try to go to fast. This is not helping the boys learn to enjoy their time outdoors, which should be the real goal of this activity, not these 4 miles faster than the last time. ☺

Another reason I go to fast, because sometimes I plan poorly and have too much hike for the time. Sometimes we had the entire pack doing the 3-mile hike with the Webelos AND on a work night. This violates many of the “how to hike” principles on page 114 of the Webelos handbook. Look around is the 1st principle. This not only helps the boys enjoy themselves more, but keeps them more aware and better oriented, which makes it harder for them to get lost. I need to stop my “Just keep trudging”, and have more fun with the boys outdoors. This brings us to 2 - take breaks. You must go slow enough together, so everyone gets a decent break. Take at least 10 minutes every 30 minutes or more if anyone needs it.

Choose the right distance. For requirement 6 of Webelos Walk About, you need 3 miles. We need to know about our boys if we go more than 3 miles, because hiking should be like any scout games, “Quit while everyone is still having fun!” If you plan too much, you can make it trying for some boys. If you are trail hiking, you need to stay on the trail.

Involve the boys more in planning. It’s their Hike!!! In Webelos, they need the leadership positions for requirement 8, and it really helps them.

Encourage the boys to wear good shoes that are already broken in. I like to suggest pants. It will protect their knees and legs. Here are the Scout Outdoor Essentials: (also listed on page 112 of Webelos Handbook)

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| *Extra Clothing | *First Aid Kit | *Flashlight | *Map & Compass |
| *Pocketknife (earned Whitlingchip) | | *Rain Gear | *Sun Protection |
| *Trail Food | *Filled Water Bottle | *Bug Spray | *Jacket |

Here’s what the Leaders might need in your first aid kit:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------|------------------------|
| *Band-Aids | *Extra Sunblock | *Bug Spray | *Pocket knife/scissors |
| *Sterile Gauze | *Medical Tape | *Tweezers | *Mole Skin |

REQUIREMENT 1: *Plan a hike (create a hike plan).* It has been suggested you can use www.tooelecountytrails.com. You can use the maps from this site that are in PDF form. Maps have distances, and you can download and print. Print it, so your boys have copies. Tooele County Hiking Club has a Facebook page. You could use a compass and a map instead of a GPS or smartphone. Requirement 6 states that a map and compass are a part of a scouters basic essentials. Help the boys fill out the hike plan (page 101).

REQUIREMENT 2: *Assemble a hiking first aid kit.* This is the kit each boy should have. It should be light and small and still have some help for minor first aid needs. The Webelos den should have a den kit for the first aid leader (see requirement 8). You as the Scout Leader may want one to carry, just in case. I keep one in my hiking pack and it mostly has creams and Band-Aids.

REQUIREMENT 3: *Poisonous Plants and Dangerous Animals.* The book has a few examples of poisonous plants: poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac. These are the ones that are bad to just brush against. The plant that has hurt me the most while hiking is stinging nettle. It is a good idea to find pics of it too. Dangerous animals include venomous snakes. In Utah, there are rattle snakes. There are 9 different kinds of rattle snakes according to the USU Extension. They give fair warning. Look, but don't touch, is the best way to handle all snake encounters. Some other animals to make your Webelos aware of are: skunks, raccoons, rodents of unusual size (ROUS), deer, moose, cows, pigs, horses, and big dogs. These are often more dangerous than any snake. Poisonous spiders in Utah are the black widow and the funnel web spider. The funnel web spider has quite a few different names: brown recluse, fiddleback spider, or hobo spider. Spider bites may need medical attention; which, brings us to the really dangerous insects of wasps, hornets, and bees. Because of allergic reactions, their sting can be really scary for some scouts. Make sure you know before you go on a hike if your scouts have ANY allergies to ANYTHING in nature. Last, but not least, ticks and chiggers.

REQUIREMENT 4 – *Prepare a lunch, enjoy on hike, clean up afterwards.* There is nothing wrong with any food you can carry and eat cold, like a sandwich, apple, string cheese, roll-ups, etc. You can get together with your Webelos and make trail mix with their favorite snack stuff, or just take granola bars or fruit snacks. Enjoy what you bring, but make sure to leave the place cleaner than you found it.

REQUIREMENT 5 – *Recite the outdoor code and Leave no Trace for kids.* This is the same as requirement 7 in the Camper Adventure. Helping your Webelos know and use this will pass off two requirements. They are both in the back of the Webelos Handbook (552 – last page); so is the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics website: www.lnt.org.

REQUIREMENT 6 – *Do a 3-mile hike.* Some ideas for a hike could be a penny hike. Have the boys find things on the trail that would fit on a penny. A paint chip hike is matching colors found in nature on your hike to paint chip samples. We made our own using cardstock.

Resources

Geosights, Rockhouser: geology.utah.gov

Traveling Treasures, Plan a Visit: nhmu.utah.edu

Mineral identification chart: <http://geology.com/minerals/mineral-identification.shtml>

Leader Guide: <https://cubscouts.org/library/welcome-to-webelos-cub-scouting/>

Liquefaction Activity

Determine what happens to buildings and other objects during an earthquake. During an earthquake particles become suspended in the water and tend to sink.

Items needed:

1. Plastic bin
2. Sand
3. Water
4. Smooth brick
5. Rubber mallet
6. Optional: additional items such as Hot wheels, Lego guys, etc.

Step 1. Fill the plastic bin with sand. Deeper is better.

Step 2. Pour water to just below the surface of the sand.

Step 3. Place the brick into the wet sand, so that it stands up.

Step 4. Gently tap the side of the plastic bin and then observe what happens.

Additional Earth Science Demonstrations

This may come as a surprise, but some of the best geologic activities are found in the Webelos Handbook and Leader Guide. If you don't have the Leader Guide yet, you can download individual sections. There are separate activities that include: Salt Crystals, Erosion, Fossils, Geysers, Mineral Icicles, Tectonic Plates, and a Volcano (pg. 194-198). It also gives some guidance to a rock hunt, which my group has had a lot of fun doing.

Rock Tumbler

This is a hobby of mine, that I've recently started. So, if you know someone, all you have to do is ask. This activity takes about a month to finish. There are 4 types of grit used to polish stones, each becoming more and more fine. Additionally, you could experiment and come up with a hypothesis. If you plan well, you can check off requirements for both *Earth Rocks* and *Adventures in Science*; since they're both closely related. I use the rocks gathered from our rock hunt, and then allow the scouts to see what they will look like when they're polished.

Rock Samples

The easiest way to get some rock samples is to purchase a kit. I've gotten most of my stuff from the planetarium and Amazon. The downside to that is cost. Check with your organization to see what costs can be covered or donated. Also, reach out and ask. There are some regional groups that may volunteer their time to help. There is a list at the geology.utah.gov website.

Notes
