

## **Field Skills: Encampments**

PO.3, EO.1-2

### **Introduction**

Begin the lesson by explaining to the recruits the different types of encampments and expeditions they can expect to participate in within your unit and the program (SPACES, NDSP, etc.). Explain the importance of being prepared for each experience and having back up equipment. Finish the introduction by explaining the importance of routine and discipline on encampments and expeditions and how it is every Young Marine's responsibility to be prepared, to adhere to camp rules, and to work as part of a team in every situation. Explain the procedures for today: recruits will first learn what and how to pack for expeditions and will then go over Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

### **Direction Instruction**

Today's lesson will be split into two parts with Independent/Group Practice dividing both parts to break it up.

#### **Part One: Selecting and Packing Personal Clothing and Equipment (EO.1)**

Before beginning this lesson, you should gather all of the clothing and equipment discussed in the PowerPoint and in the recruit Guidebook. The PowerPoint will point out each piece of equipment, describe its uses/purpose, and explain when it should be brought on an encampment (this information is also in the Recruit Guidebook). As you move through the PowerPoint, make sure to point out the piece of clothing or equipment you are describing. You may want to pause periodically to ask the recruits if they own or have ever used different pieces of clothing or equipment. This is a good way to get them thinking about what they will need to purchase or borrow later on and sets them up for the evaluation piece at the end of the lesson. Once you have finished going over all of the clothing and equipment, move to Activity One before going on to Part Two of the instruction.

#### **Part Two: Camp Routine and Discipline (EO.2)**

The second part of this lesson involves giving directions more than direct instruction. Post the Standard Operating Procedures for camp routine and discipline and then explain the activity for this portion of the lesson.

### **Independent/Group Practice**

#### **Activity One: Packing a Bag**

For this activity, you will need several packs and several pieces of each type of clothing or equipment. It would be a good idea to ask to borrow pieces from Senior Young Marines or to have recruits bring some from home if they have it so that you aren't purchasing a lot of equipment. You will also need to print out the encampment assignments which will detail a different type of encampment or expedition as well as expected weather conditions. Break your recruits into teams and give each team a pack and an encampment assignment. They are to then pack their bags according to the expected weather conditions and the type of encampment they have been assigned. Instruct the recruits to pack their bags in as organized a way as possible so that all of their gear is accessible. Let them work out how to do this, but make sure that Adult Volunteers and other Young Marines circulate the room to offer guidance, give suggestions, or make corrections if the recruits are going too far off track. Once all of the teams have packed their bags, have each of them present the results. They are to state the encampment they were given and then explain what they chose for the trip, why they chose each item, and how they packed their bags. Wrap up the lesson by asking the Recruits what

they learned about packing for encampments. Also ask them about different ways to pack their bags and what the best ways are based on the different teams' results.

### **Activity Two: Rules Jigsaw Groups**

After you've posted the SOP's either via a poster or the PowerPoint, break your Young Marines back into their teams. Assign each team a different rule or procedure. Each group is responsible for explaining the importance of the rule or procedure they have been given. Give them three to five minutes to come up with their explanation. It's a good idea to set a timer so that the recruits can pace themselves, stay on task, and know when their time is up. Once they've all finished, you will jigsaw the groups. This means that one member from each team will move to a new group that will contain members from different teams. Your new groups should contain one person that explained a different rule. Your new groups will likely be larger than your original groups so that all the rules can be covered. The new groups will take turns explaining the importance of their rules until everyone has had a turn and all of the rules have been explained. At the end of the activity, bring the recruits back into a whole group and ask them to think about which rule is most important. Open the discussion up to get ideas from multiple recruits. End by explaining the importance of adhering to all rules and procedures to maintain safety.

### **Evaluation**

The evaluation for this lesson will take place during a quiz and the final test. The activities themselves, though, are useful for observing any areas where the recruits are struggling. If certain groups did not pack their bags correctly or were choosing the wrong materials, these groups or individual recruits may benefit from reteaching. The same holds true for groups who do not correctly explain their rule.

If this occurs, pull these groups aside during the activity and ensure that they get one-on-one attention to help them through the task and clear up misconceptions. This can be done by assigning them an Adult Volunteer or a peer tutor in the form of a Senior or Advanced Young Marine. Be sure that their assigned instructor is knowledgeable and will present them with accurate information.

Before moving on to the reflection, explain to the recruits that they will be tested on the information they learned today and have them create a basic packing list for themselves, something that can be used for general encampments and then personalized based on weather. They are to take their list home and check off all of the items they already own as well as take pictures of these items properly folded and laid out to be "packed." Check their lists to make sure they are complete before the recruits leave for the day and then check them again when they return for the next recruit training session to ensure they have been completed.

### **Reflection**

Have the Young Marines discuss with a partner what they learned during the lesson, specifically the importance of having the proper equipment, being prepared, and following SOPs in the field. Ask for three to five volunteers to share what they and their partner discussed. Sharing what someone else said, in addition to themselves, takes some of the pressure off of answering questions.