



CHOICE & LAYOUT OF CAMPSITE

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CAMPSITE

General Impression :

The general look of the campsite is the first item for consideration. It must be in an attractive setting, with preferably an attractive view. However, that is not enough. Various practical considerations must be studied.

Site

There must obviously be sufficient space for the size of the camp you are planning for.

Beware of :

- a) long grass - snakes;
- b) low-lying grounds eg: near river - flooding;
- c) ant hills and wasp nest; and
- d) "a valley" or 4 sides surrounded by concrete - flooding.

If the area is strewn with rocks and wood, clear up before pitching tents.

Soil

Drainage must be good so that water logging or flooding will not occur in the event of rainy weather. It is also important that pegs can be driven securely into the soil. The following notes may help in site selection :

- * Sandy Soil - drains well, but if the site is exposed, extra long pegs may be needed.
- * Gravel - drains well, holds pegs well.
- * Loam - has reasonably good drainage, holds pegs well
- * Clay - liable to be water-logged; does not hold pegs well.
- * Peat - is absorbent; does not hold pegs well.



Water Supply

Safe drinking water supply should be readily available. Tap water is ideal, but check to see that the supply is from the mains. Water from lakes, rivers, wells and springs are unsuitable for drinking. Water from hillside streams and springs are generally wholesome, but check that there is no source of pollution upstream.

If in doubt whether the water is safe for drinking, boil it. Water purifying tablets may also be used. They are available from the pharmacy.

Accessibility

The campsite should be accessible to means of transportation. Otherwise the disadvantages of having to manhandle equipment some distance will have to be weighed very carefully against the benefits of the site.

The campsite should also be accessible to the market, doctor etc in case of for example, shortage of food or a medical emergency.

Security and Privacy

It would be good if the site is fenced up - prevents thefts and outside disturbance.

Permanent Shelter

It is wise, especially with inexperienced campers, to arrange for alternative shelter nearby, should the weather become impossible eg: school hall.


Toilets

Good sanitation is important. There must be sufficient toilets and bathrooms.

Protection from strong winds

Check if there is a belt of trees or a rise in the grounds to counter the winds.

Wood



If cooking is to be done on wood fibres, there must be sufficient supply of dead, dry wood suitable for fire.



LAYOUT OF A CAMPSITE

In planning the layout of the campsite, bear in mind the following :

- a) Sleeping tents should not be too close to trees in case there is lightning.
- b) Camp kitchen (Kitchen Shelter)
 - should be large; enough room for cooks to move about.
 - equipped with gadgets.
 - pitch in shady area, near water supply.
- c) Eating area (meal ring)
 - under shade
 - near kitchen
- d) Washing area
 - near water supply
 - good drainage area
- e) Store tent for storing food
- f) First Aid tent
 - sick bay for those who are sick
 - near staff tent
- g) Sanitation
 - well away from kitchen
 - well away from water supply

When at camp, you may wish to set up a flag pole and include a camp notice board.



EXAMPLE OF A LAYOUT OF A CAMPSITE

Key

1,2,3,4	: Patrol tents	9	: Notice Board
5	: First Aid tent	10	: Kitchen Shelter
6	: Staff tent	11	: Wash Area
7	: Meal ring	12	: Tap
8	: Flag Pole	13	: Wet weather

shelter