



Bear Necessities

Complete requirements 1-4. Requirements 5 and 6 are optional.

1. While working on your Bear badge, attend one of the following:
 - a. A daytime or overnight campout with your pack or family
 - b. And outdoor activity with your den or pack
 - c. Day camp
 - d. Resident camp
2. Make a list of items you should take along on the selected activity from requirement 1.
3. Make a list of equipment that the group should bring along in addition to each Scout's personal gear for the activity selected in requirement 1.
4. Help set up a tent. Determine a good spot for the tent, and explain to your den leader why you picked it.
5. Demonstrate how to tie two half hitches and explain what the hitch is used for.
6. Learn how to read a thermometer and a barometer. Keep track of the temperature and barometric pressure readings and the actual weather at the same time every day for seven days.

Week of November 30:

- Activity: Set Up a Tent (Requirement 4)
 - Learn where to set up a tent. What makes for a good tent site? What areas should you avoid for your tent site?
 - Learn how to set up a tent. How you set up your tent is key to having a good night's sleep. A well-placed groundcloth will keep you dry. A snug rainfly will not only keep you dry, it will be less noisy in the wind.
 - Learn how to care for a tent. Most tents need to be carefully folded in order to fit back in their storage sack. What should you do with a wet tent? What about a dirty tent? How can you help keep your tent clean while you're camping?

Week of December 7:

- Activity: Make a Plan (Requirements 2 and 3)
 - We're going on a virtual campout! What should we bring? We'll make a plan for the gear we'll need for an overnight campout. The pack will provide the cooking gear, but we're responsible for our own sleeping arrangements. Our den is going to be cooking a meal, too, so we need to figure out what food we'll need (and what meal we'll cook)!

Week of December 14:

- Activity: Weather Watch (Requirement 6)
 - We're used to thinking about temperature when we think about weather, but today we'll be learning about barometric pressure. Monitoring air pressure can help us forecast changes in weather. We'll learn about thermometers, barometers, and what changes in air pressure tell us about future weather.
 - Optional home activity: Build a Barometer (see next page)

Week of December 21:

- Activity: Knots: Two Half-Hitches (Requirement 5)
 - Half-hitches are the easiest knot to tie. We'll learn how to make them strong and useful.

Build Your Own Barometer (2 options)

(from Bear Den Leader Guide, copyright 2018 BSA)

Coffee Can Barometer

Materials:

- Balloon
- Clean, empty metal can (think coffee can sized)
- Rubber band
- Straw
- Tape or glue (not hot glue!)
- Toothpick
- Cardboard

Instructions:

1. Cut the balloon in half. Throw away the end with the hole.
2. Stretch the balloon piece across the open top of the can.
3. Secure the balloon to the coffee can with the rubber band. Make sure it is stretched tightly and free of leaks.
4. Set one end of the straw at the center of the balloon cover and lay it across the edge of the can. Glue it in place.
5. Insert the toothpick halfway into the loose end of the straw. Glue in place.
6. Stand the cardboard vertically next to the pin, or tape it to the wall.
7. Check the news to find the current barometric pressure. Make a precise mark on the cardboard at the level of the toothpick to indicate the pressure.
8. Check and record the pressure each day; over time you will build a pressure scale.

Bottle Barometer

Materials:

- Clear glass bottle with a long neck
- Water
- Food coloring
- Clear straw
- Rubber stopper or cork to fit the bottle
- Cardboard or paper

Instructions:

1. Fill the bottle to just over half full with water. Add a few drops of food coloring.
2. Bore a hole through the cork or rubber stopper the same diameter as your straw.
3. Fit the stopper with the straw into the bottle's neck to seal it. The straw should be in the water and extend above the top of the bottle.
4. Gently blow bubbles using the straw to make water rise through it above the stopper.
5. Follow directions 6 through 8 from the coffee can barometer to create a measuring scale. The water in the straw will rise if the air pressure is low. The water will go down if the air pressure is high.