



What To Consider Before You Go



1. **Where are you going?** In choosing a place to go, your first need is solid information. Contact an office of the Forest Service, National Park Service, state or local conservation and recreation agencies, local outfitters, local hiking clubs.
2. **How far do you want to go?** The distance you cover depends on the terrain, your physical condition, the weight of your pack, and the reasons for the trek. Is the terrain rugged or mountainous? Remember, the average person can hike 2 miles per hour. And with every 1,000 foot gain in elevation, it will take an additional hour.
3. **How long will it take?** Based on where you are going, plan enough time to get to the trailhead, stage, and depart on the trek. Remember, hiking/backpacking: Is a leisurely walk in the woods. It is not a RACE!!!!
4. **How will we get there?** By car, van, plane or train? Will you have to rent a van? Is there a parking lot near the trailhead (starting point of hike) to leave your car or van? How many vehicles will you need? Also consider your gear. How will you get people and equipment to the trailhead?
5. **What is the weather like?** What season is it? Will it rain or snow? Will it be hot and humid? Check with local outfitters or call the forest service to get an idea of the weather in the area you will be hiking. Listen to weather reports for that area.
6. **How many people will be going?** Normally, no larger than 12 (10 Scouts, 2 Adults). Minimum crew size is 4.
7. **Who will be going?** Consider the trek ahead. Is it within the skill level of the individuals participating. Is everyone physically fit to take the trip?
8. **What kind of physical shape are the participants in?** Participants must be physically fit and have had a recent physical exam by a doctor.
9. **Are BSA tour permits required?** Obtained and submitted by your crew leader (adult).
10. **Do I have BSA medical forms on everyone in the crew?** *** MANDATORY ***
11. **Consider the make-up of the group.** Are pre-trip hikes/overnighters necessary? Yes. Everyone must be familiar with each crew member's skill and skill level.

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