

# What about the Weather?



## Materials:

None

## Instructions:

**Go through the following questions and discuss the weather when we are outdoors.**

When we're outdoors, the weather may change. **What kinds of weather might we have to know how to handle? How about temperature changes between day and night? What will you bring to be prepared?**

[Rain – rain coat and boots, Wind – a light jacket to block the wind, Sun – a hat and sunscreen, etc; If the temperature looks like it may be colder in the morning – bring a heavier jacket and make sure my sleeping bag will be warm enough.]

**What about big weather events or natural disasters? What kinds of disasters do we have around Houston, Texas? What can we do?** Always stay calm and that will help you stay safe.

Floods

Thunderstorms

Wildfire

Hurricane

Tornado

On most outings, the worst weather you'll see is rain and annoying heat or cold. Sometimes, however, the weather can be dangerous. It's important to Be Prepared – that's the Boy Scout motto – for bad situations.

## Severe Rain and Flooding

Flash floods can occur when there is very heavy rain over several hours or steady rain over several days. Because flash floods can strike with little warning, you should never camp on low ground next to streams when rain is expected.

When you are camping in the mountains, be aware of the weather upstream from your campsite. Heavy rain miles away can turn into flash floods downstream.

If flooding occurs, move to higher ground immediately. Stay out of streams, ditches, and other flooded areas. Adults should never try to drive through flood waters, no matter how shallow they may seem. Just a few inches of water can carry off a car.

### **Severe Thunderstorms, Lightning and Tornadoes**

Thunderstorms can be loud and scary. Sometimes they produce dangerous lightning and tornadoes.

Lightning can strike 10 miles from a thunderstorm, so you should take shelter in a building or vehicle as soon as you hear thunder – even if the sun is shining overhead. Make sure you're not the highest object in the area, and avoid water, open areas, isolated trees, picnic shelters, and metal objects. If you're caught in the open, spread out 100 feet apart and crouch down like you do when you play leapfrog.

Tornadoes are funnel clouds that can form in spring and summer thunderstorms. The best place to be if a tornado hits is indoors, either in a basement or closet or against an interior wall. If you're caught outside, get in a ditch and lie as flat as possible.

### **Fires, Earthquakes and Other Disasters**

In very rare cases, such as if there's a forest fire, you may have to evacuate your campsite. Follow your leader or family to know where to go.

**-Remember to always stay with a buddy.**

**-Let an adult know if you and your buddy need to leave the group, and tell where you are going.**

**-Carry a whistle to signal for help. Three blasts in a row is the universal distress call.**

**If you think you are lost... what do we do? STOP – Stop, Think, Observe and Plan!**

**If we were going hiking and camping today, what would we wear?**

[Have Cub Scouts determine the weather today and decide what they would wear. Will it be many layered with a jacket, and a stocking cap with gloves and long pants and with comfortable shoes and socks? Or will it be a t-shirt with a sun hat with shorts and comfortable shoes and socks? Or will it be something in between?]

**Remember that a Scout is cheerful. It's easy to be cheerful when the weather on a campout is great. If you are prepared with the right gear, you can also be cheerful on a rainy day.**