

Troop 16 - Snow Pioneering and Winter Survival Competition



Overview

This is a competition campout. The Troop Cup will be awarded to the team that builds the best shelter or system of shelters to house their entire team. That means there can be combination of quinzees, trenches, pit houses, or other techniques. The constructed camp must include a kitchen area. We will use the bucket kitchens for this event.

Quinzees may only be built by Okpik-trained Scouts and safety protocols must be followed (i.e. anyone digging inside must have a second Scout right outside the door). If a Patrol has no Okpik trained boys, or they don't choose to build a quinzee, that won't be held against them.

The shelter system and camp will be judged by Okpik-trained adults who will be awarding points based on the following factors:

1. **Solidness of construction** – Will this shelter hold up?
2. **Space** – How well do the shelters house all the boys on the team? Points are not necessarily awarded for huge shelters, since often these take too much energy to build in a survival situation. But, cramming Scouts into small shelters won't score points either.
3. **Understanding of physics** – Shelters that understand that cold air sinks (so doors should be lower than sleepers) and that air holes are necessary, will score points.
4. **Style and Amenities** – Shelters with elements like shelves, wind breaks, tunnels to other shelters, and good placement will receive points. Also shelters that look good, are well placed, and well put together will score well.
5. **Survival Ethic** – Surviving emergency conditions in the winter requires getting water, shelter, food, and clothing right. You will be judged on how well your camp manages each of these together. It's not enough to build a big shelter, you have to care for your water and food needs, and keep your team warm and dry.

The competition will begin shortly after we arrive on Saturday morning. Patrols may not claim spots until the whistle blows indicating start. We will have a designated one hour lunch and then teams can continue to build until 3:30pm. At that time, the judges will make the rounds and score points. Along with scoring points, they will give *Certificates of Occupancy* to each shelter, which will allow them to be slept in on Saturday night.

Scouts must have the following to participate (check with an ASM if you need help getting these):

- **Two complete sets of outerwear.** While the shelters are being built Scouts must wear a different set of snow clothes than they will wear after the competition is over. This means a separate set of snow pants, gloves/mittens, jackets, and hats. When the building is over, you will be required to change into a new set of clothes for the rest of the trip.

- **Tent and Tent Partners.** It is likely that some Scouts will not be able to sleep in their shelters because judges will not give them a certificate of occupancy. Therefore, all Scouts should have tent sleeping accommodations.
- **Tarps and Ground Cloths.** The Troop will provide your team with 1"x3" boards that you can use as roof rafters or for other purposes. Exactly how many hasn't been decided. However, you will need to bring tarps and ground cloths for the roof and floors of your shelters. Start early trying to borrow or find these. The larger the better; and several would be best. It would be wise to put your name on them. Just put them in the trailer on Friday night.
- **Snow Shovels.** Patrols are responsible for having shovels to make their shelters. The more scoop-like the better. Flat shovels are hard to use to lift snow. Bring several shovels per patrol and put your names on them.



You can choose from a number of types of shelters. Some of these choices will depend on the snow and the conditions. You can even mix and match creatively.

