

1 Introduction

Having learnt to set up a tent or shelter, you need to know how to choose a suitable area to set up camp, as well as about the practices and behaviour at camp in order for things to be safe and organised.

This section will:

- Explain how to choose a suitable campsite
- Present the practices and behaviour one should adopt while camping
- Highlight the safety considerations that every camper should know and practice

SECTION F:
CHOOSING A CAMPSITE AND
BEHAVIOUR AT CAMP

2. Choosing a Campsite

Knowing how to build your shelter is one thing. Knowing where to place set up your shelter or tent is also important. There are 5 major considerations:

- a) The area should preferably be in a partially shaded area that is sheltered from strong wind. However, tents should not be pitched under trees. This is to prevent injury if a tree or its dead branches should fall due to high winds.
- b) The ground chosen should be dry. Marshy or wet ground will surely get your equipment dirty. Note the condition of the soil as well. For example, sandy ground tends not to hold tent pegs well. Clay soil drains poorly so you might get flooded if it rains.
- c) The ground chosen should be as flat as possible. Do not pitch your tent on a slope.
- d) The campsite should be near water sources e.g. a river, for ease of collection of water. While proximity to water sources is good, do not camp on dry riverbeds or just by the river's edge. Flash floods may occur during sudden storms.
- e) Do you have permission to camp in the wilderness? Seek permission from the owners of the land, regardless of whether it belongs to the state or private individuals.



3 Practices and Behaviour at Camp

- a) Check the ground before you pitch your shelter; objects on the ground can tear your groundsheet or the bottom of your tent. You may even get injured.
- b) As most tents will not afford you a lot of space, it is best to position all bags neatly in a row in the tent.
- c) Leave all footwear neatly outside the tent to prevent soiling of the groundsheet.
- d) Keep the area around your tent clean and free of rubbish, otherwise you may attract unwanted guests like ants and flies. Also clear away other objects like rocks and fallen branches that might cause people to trip over.
- e) Establish routines to be followed by everyone. If you have a schedule of duties or a programme sheet, waterproof these and stick them at a prominent place, using masking tape.
- f) If you anticipate rain, dig a trench all round each tent. Make sure the trench has an outlet away from the tents.
- g) Do not site the camp toilet near to water sources and where food is cooked. Ensure all biodegradable refuse is deposited into a small pit and covered. Non-biodegradable materials should be packed and brought back to civilisation for disposal.
- h) When using water resources, spare a thought for other expedition teams downstream. Do not defecate, urinate or use excessive detergent or soap in rivers.

