

Evaluating the Pathfinder Gold Camping Emblem

Program Mission

To foster a sense of accomplishment that is earned by first learning, then doing. To heighten the feeling of self-worth through recognition of that accomplishment.

Introduction

The Pathfinder Gold Camping Emblem provides young women with the opportunity to organize and run a camp. When assisting with this opportunity, it is important to remember the following:

- The Gold Camping Emblem is not a mini Camp Leadership Certificate
- Extensive written work should not be required
- The Pathfinder is expected to organize a fun and safe camp, but the ultimate responsibility for the camp rests with the Guider

Evaluating the Participant

- The evaluator does not have to be a Camp Advisor.
- A Guider with a Camp Leadership Certificate may evaluate her own unit
- The evaluation should be a learning experience for the girl. Consider her effort and look for ways to widen her knowledge of camping.
- Praise for specific actions is more rewarding than general comments.
- **Example:** "You did a good job finding dry kindling to light the fire while it was raining" is better than "That's a good fire."
- A girl who has made an effort to plan and lead her camp deserves to earn her badge. There are not many reasons for failure.

In Summary

Remember that on-the-job learning requires effort and appropriate reactions to situations as they arise. The Gold Camping Emblem should recognize demonstrated learning as well as new skills.

Example: A 14-year-old Pathfinder who is faced with a rebellious 13-year-old may not have the necessary skills to deal with the situation. The Guider needs to step in and coach her through the predicament, thus teaching her the skills required to cope with similar instances.

Example: What if the Pathfinder forgets something? Perhaps even something very important? We all forget things sometimes. Even Guiders who have run camps have stories about forgetting the food! Improvising is a multi-faceted skill and how the girl copes with and solves the dilemma should be recognized.