

## GRIZZLY PATROL AFTER CAMPOUT PROCEDURES

[This was sent as an email to the troop on Aug. 19, 2009]

Troop 944 adult campers (Grizzlies),

I have not had a chance to create a "post-campout equipment procedures" pertaining to Grizzly equipment, similar to the one that exists for the patrols. But before this next campout I would like to FIRMLY state some basic rules here to govern "what to do" with equipment following a campout. Most of these do's and don'ts have accumulated from experience over time and are not directed towards any recent experience, group, or person. I am not trying to be over-bearing on this issue or nasty about it. But the bottom line is that the Troop QM should not be expected to clean and dry equipment before or after campouts. It's too much work. Maybe some of these are policy-type issues that can be discussed (and voted on) at committee meetings, but most are common sense.

1. I am starting to get in the habit of checking out Grizzly equipment. Nothing as "formal" as the patrols, I just want an accounting of who takes what. I realize that the equipment is returned by different parties.
2. Please return equipment as soon as you can. Sometimes events are bunched together. I generally prepare equipment the week before an event, sometimes two. That means the equipment has to be accounted for and ready in advance of the next trip distribution, which is sometimes 9 days before the trip. Tag any broken or missing equipment and if you think of it shoot the QM an email. There is no official Grizzly equipment turn in time (or check out). Do it whenever you can.
3. Please try to return gear back in the box that it was originally in. If you are new, ask a more experienced scouter (at camp). Please don't assume "oh let's just get it into the boxes and let the QM sort it out". I try to label boxes the best I can (but there is room for improvement). Ensure any food to go back into storage is sealed up very well and containers are clean on the outside (the syrup container!!)
4. Here's a big one. ALL EQUIPMENT MUST BE RETURNED DRY. By dry I mean dry. You have to actively INSPECT things to ensure they are dry - don't assume. These are NOT considered dry:
  - a. Wet-wiped tablecloths that are then immediately folded up.
  - b. coffee pots or any cookware that have drips inside (aluminum corrodes).
  - c. water jugs that have ANY drips in them and are sealed up (mildew).
  - d. wet sponges stored in a sealed bag (bacteria/mildew).
  - e. canopy tops or legs that are wet(mildew, rust)
  - f. wet lanterns (they rust inside).
  - g. wet tables, top and bottom (we stack them, they have rustable parts).
  - h. 5 gallon drink coolers with drips in the bottom or water still INSIDE the lid.
  - i. tents not thoroughly dry, including the 2 plastic pieces.
  - j. Wet or damp wash bins.
  - k. Wet cookware wiped off with a towel. Not good enough - needs air dry.
5. Another big one. Equipment must be "CLEAN ENOUGH FOR THE NEXT USE". Problem areas:
  - a. stoves with greasy surfaces or food drips.
  - b. "quick-rinsed" drink coolers with lemonade residue still at the bottom.
  - c. Cookware with burned-on food.
  - d. bins that have collected dirt at the inside bottom. (it doesn't hurt to wipe off the outside either).
  - e. scummy wash bins (besides the permanent scum).
  - f. tables not wiped off.
6. WHO DOES ALL THIS CLEANING AND DRYING? Seems to me about the only way it makes sense is that the person who takes it home after camp is responsible for it. Hopefully, the honor system will work and this task is equitably shared. You might think the cookware box is the most work, but usually it is fairly clean. But it usually comes back from camp wet or damp and that needs attention. If you feel you are getting stuck with too much equipment, the time to speak up is at camp!