

Notes for Crew Leaders

Duties. When you reach your destination each day, immediately assign duties to the scouts. Don't make a duty chart ahead of time, as this constrains flexibility. Just orally tell the scouts who is to do what. Make sure the bear bags get hung right away, since mini-bears have been waiting for you and are eager to eat your food. The scouts shouldn't pitch their tents until the rest of the camp is set up.

Wake-Up & Breaking Camp. You are responsible for waking up the crew each morning, so bring a reliable alarm. Breaking camp early is the key to the crew's ability to reach each day's destination before the afternoon rain, and to have enough time to do all the activities there. To wake people up, go to each tent and tap it until the occupants tell you they are awake. Time how long the crew takes before the crew starts riding, and write that time down. As you begin riding, let the crew know how long they took, and make it a crew goal each morning to break camp faster than the day before.

Role of Adults. The adults aren't supposed to do any work other than be responsible for their own horse and pitch their own tents. They don't cook, clean or hang bear bags. At the campsites, the adults can just sit around and talk. You scouts are in charge.

Ask. The horseman and lead advisor are your consultants, so don't hesitate to ask them for advice. How is your tone with the scouts? How fair have you been? Their input will help you be an effective leader.

The advice that follows is for hiking treks, and may or may not be relevant to Cavalcade.

Hiking Order & Navigation. When hiking, the navigator is first in line, you are second, and the adults are last. You pick who serves as navigator each day. If the navigator is unsure about which way to go, or there is a disagreement among the scouts as to direction, you make the final call. The adults aren't supposed to volunteer their opinion, but you can ask for their opinion.

Pace & Breaks. You, not the navigator, are responsible for setting the pace and making sure the crew is hiking together and not spread out. Keep checking behind you, and when necessary, tell the navigator to slow down. You decide when to take rest breaks and for how long. You also decide when to take lightning position and for how long (the adults can override you on this, for safety).

Immediate-Need Items. When the crew is hiking there may be a need to quickly access certain items, including the first aid kit, the foot care kit, the toilet paper/trowel/hand sanitizer kit, and that day's lunch. For each immediate-need item, have the same person carry that item during the entire trek, that way everyone always knows who has the item when it is needed. Make sure those carrying an immediate-need item keeps it in an easily accessible place, not buried in their backpack.

Meals. Consider whether switching meals around might be advantageous. For example, if you need to start hiking early, but that day's breakfast is hot, switch breakfasts so you eat that hot breakfast another day. If you are overnighting at a dry camp, minimize your water needs by cooking that day's dinner for lunch, and eat that day's lunch for dinner. Doing all this requires thinking days ahead and planning.