

'What if' camp challenge scenarios



1. **Cooking Challenge: You have food but no gas, matches**

You've got plenty of food but no gas or matches.

What if you had to cook a meal using only what's around your campsite?

How would you light a fire or prepare food safely?

Discussion Prompts:

- What natural materials could you use to start and sustain a fire safely?
- How would you make sure your fire area was safe and left no trace?
- What Scout fire-lighting techniques or skills could help you?
- What meals could be cooked with minimal tools or utensils?
- How would you ensure hygiene and food safety without gas or electricity?
- How could your patrol share tasks to get food ready efficiently?

2. **Night Challenge: It's getting dark and your torches are dead.**

All your torches and lanterns have dead batteries, and the power is out.

You need to finish setting up camp before it gets dark.

How could you find your way safely, or keep morale high in the dark?

Discussion Prompts:

- What Scout skills help you stay safe and calm when it's dark?
- How can you use natural light sources like the moon or stars to move safely?
- How would you keep the patrol together and prevent anyone from getting lost?
- How could you create light using safe materials found at camp?
- What are the dangers of moving around camp in the dark, and how can you reduce them?
- How could this situation build trust and teamwork in your patrol?

3. **Communication Challenge: No phones or radios — how to contact another patrol?**

Your phones and radios are out of power.

What if you needed to contact another patrol across the field or the leaders' site?

How could you send a message without technology?

Discussion Prompts:

- What traditional Scout signalling methods could you use (Morse, semaphore, whistle codes)?
- How would you ensure your message was clearly understood?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of visual vs. sound signals?
- How could your patrol plan a communication system before camp starts?
- What real-world situations might require you to use these skills?
- How can good communication prevent panic or confusion in an emergency?

4. **Weather Challenge: It's cold and raining, and there's no gas or heaters.**

It's cold and raining, and you can't use heaters or gas stoves.

What if you needed to keep warm and dry through the night?

What could you use to build shelter or stay comfortable?

Discussion Prompts:

- What materials or natural resources could help keep you dry and insulated?
- How would you set up a shelter that protects from wind and rain?
- How does layering clothing help you stay warm?
- What activities could help keep your patrol's spirits up while you wait for the storm to pass?
- How can you plan ahead to prevent this situation on future camps?
- Why is it important to stay dry to avoid hypothermia?

5. Battery Breakdown Challenge.

It's the second night of camp and most of your patrol's batteries are flat. Torches are dim, your lantern won't last much longer, and you still have two days left. There's no mains electricity.

Discussion prompts:

- Which battery-powered items are essential for safety at camp?
- Which items are "nice to have" but not necessary?
- How would you decide what gets used first?
- Could you share equipment instead of everyone using their own?
- Why are rechargeable batteries better for the environment?
- What are the downsides of disposable batteries?
- How could solar chargers or hand-crank torches help at camp?

6. Entertainment Challenge: No electricity for music, videos, or games.

There's no electricity for music, videos, or games.

What if you had to entertain yourselves for the evening?

What games, songs, or activities could you do together?

Discussion Prompts:

- What traditional Scout activities could you do to have fun together?
- How can everyone contribute an idea or talent to entertain the patrol?
- What makes a good campfire story, song, or skit?
- How can you make sure everyone feels included in the activity?
- What are the benefits of group entertainment compared to using devices?
- How could you make this "no electricity" time a positive experience for everyone?

7. Navigation Challenge: No phone or GPS.

What if you had to find your way back to base after sunset?

What techniques could you use to navigate safely in low light?

Discussion Prompts:

- How can you use natural navigation (sun, stars, shadows, or terrain)?
- What are some landmarks you can use to orient yourself?
- How could you make a basic compass if you had simple materials?
- What should you do if you realise you're lost at night?
- How can your patrol prevent getting lost in the first place?
- How does staying calm help you think more clearly when navigating?