

Plast Canada

HIKING & BACKPACKING TRIPS

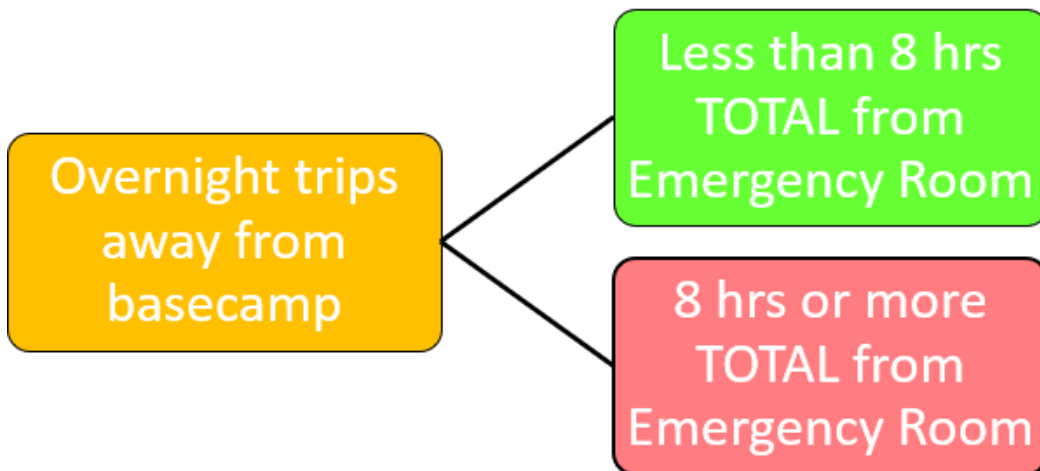
Policy Requirements

- * Plast Scouts engaged in a hiking or backpacking trip shall be supervised by no fewer than two leaders with an overall staff to participant ratio of 1:8 or better.
- * Plast Scouts engaged in a backcountry hiking or backpacking trip shall be accompanied by at least one leader who has a current Standard First Aid/CPR certificate.
- * Plast Scouts engaged in an extended backcountry hiking or backpacking trip shall be accompanied by at least one leader who has a current 16-hour basic wilderness first aid / CPR certificate. The other leader must have as a minimum a current Standard First Aid/CPR certificate.
- * Trip leaders for backcountry or extended backcountry hiking or backpacking trips shall undergo trip familiarization and pre-trip training.
- * Plast Scouts engaging in extended backcountry hiking or backpacking trips shall undergo trip familiarization and pre-trip training.

Explanatory Material

The specific requirements for trip leadership during camp depends upon the maximum remoteness of the group during the trip, either:

1. Backcountry – less than 8 hrs total travel from emergency services
2. Extended Backcountry – 8 hrs or more rom emergency services



Leaders included in the trip supervision ratio are capable of managing the group alone – this requirement reflects a situation where it becomes necessary for the group to split up or if the primary leader becomes incapacitated.

Group size and leader qualifications may be adjusted from the minimum requirements of this policy to reflect local conditions. For example, mountain conditions are complex and variable and the maximum group size for a Parks Canada backcountry camping permit is ten (10) people. As a result, a group backpacking in this location needs to consist of two (2) leaders and no more than 8 Scouts which yields a 1:4 ratio.

Procedures

1. When assigning trip leaders, the camp director (or designate) will designate which staff is the lead and which is the assistant leader.
2. When other activities are planned as part of a backcountry hiking or backpacking trip, the camp director (or designate) will also consult the policies and information for those activities. (For example, if swimming is anticipated during a backcountry hiking or backpacking trip, adherence to swimming policies is also an essential part of the trip plan.)

Recommendations



At least one trip leader should have experience in the areas being travelled or in similar terrain and weather conditions. This experience may have been gained on personal trips, as a participant, or while in a leadership role.



In addition to the general tripping requirements outlined in STAFFING FOR PLAST CAMPS, a reasonable expectation is that a hiking trip leader has 10 days of hiking experience in the previous 5 years. This experience may have been gained on personal trips, as a participant, or while in a leadership role.



In addition to the general tripping requirements outlined in STAFFING FOR PLAST CAMPS, a reasonable expectation is that a backpacking trip leader has 10 nights of backpacking experience in the previous 5 years. This experience may have been gained on personal trips, as a participant, or while in a leadership role.



On backcountry hiking or backpacking trips (non-extended), having both trip leaders with Standard First Aid / CPR is highly recommended and having a trip leader with 16-hour wilderness first aid is encouraged.



On extended backcountry hiking or backpacking trips, having two trip leaders with wilderness first aid is highly recommended.

Definitions

Backcountry Trip	The group remains within 8-hours TOTAL travel <u>under their own power</u> to reach an access point where emergency medical services may be obtained
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Backpacking	The group spends at least one night out on trail in a self-sufficient manner (i.e. carrying food, tents, etc.). Terrain is non-technical (i.e. no rope work or glacier travel is required).
Extended Backcountry Trip	The trip includes locations where the group would be faced with travelling 8-hours or more <u>under their own power</u> to reach an access point where emergency medical services may be obtained
Hiking	The group spends no nights out on trail. Terrain is non-technical (i.e. no rope work or glacier travel is required).
Trip	The group is away from main camp AND independent of its support services

References

Plast Canada Policy – Staffing for Plast Camps.

Forms

Administration

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