



MEETING PLANS & IDEAS: CAVING

Caving	Information	Troop Meetings	Main Event
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OBJECTIVES

This month's activities should:

- Teach Scouts the safety rules for caving.
- Help Scouts understand [white nose fungus](#) and how to avoid spreading it.
- Demonstrate proper clothing for caving.
- Help Scouts understand the importance of a caving expert.
- Teach Scouts proper caving techniques.
- Enable Scouts to practice good caving ethics.

LEADERSHIP PLANNING

As a leadership team, you may want to discuss the following items when choosing caving as your program feature during your planning meetings.

- How do we locate a caving expert?
- What is our group's previous experience and skill level?
- Which nearby caves are appropriate destinations based on our skill level?
- How are we going to practice outdoor ethics?
- How will we acquire needed equipment?
- What advancement opportunities are available with this activity?
- Will there be a cost for cave access?
- Can we do a service project in conjunction with the activity?
- What changes should we make to the sample meeting plans that would fit our needs better?

The image shows a sample 'Meeting Plan' form for a troop meeting. It includes a header with 'Troop' and 'Date' fields, and a table with columns for 'Activity', 'Planner's Name', 'Date', and 'Time'. The table contains several rows of activities such as 'Preopening', 'Planning/Outfitting', 'Group Instruction', 'Skill Instruction', 'Advanced Projects', 'Meeting', 'Closing', and 'After the Meeting'. Each row has a corresponding 'Planner's Name' and 'Date' field.

Click above for fillable troop meeting planning form.

PREOPENING IDEAS

[Preopening Ideas on Troop Program Resources](#)

- Show caving videos or parts of a movie, such as Cave of Forgotten Dreams.
- If a Stalactite and Stalagmite Contest was begun during the previous meeting, judge the growth of the stalactites from the previous week, and determine which patrol has won.

OPENING IDEAS

[Opening Ideas on Troop Program Resources](#)

GROUP INSTRUCTION IDEAS

[How Caves are Formed](#)

- Learn about the [National Speleological Society](#).

- Review BSA policies on caving from the [BSA Caving Policy Statement](#).
- Discuss courtesy dos and don'ts.

Caving Equipment

- Discuss the importance of light sources in caves. Explain the importance of secondary light sources.

Caving Safety

- Have an experienced caver discuss the dangers of caving, emphasizing why it is important to avoid injury.

Ethics and Caving Techniques

- Discuss Leave No Trace principles as they relate to caves. Review cave ethics.

SKILLS INSTRUCTION IDEAS



How Caves are Formed

- Discuss the different kinds of caves: solution, tectonic, lava, ice.
 - Learn about stalactite and stalagmites and how they are formed.
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- Review the above information.
 - Learn about cave collapse and the difficulties in moving in wild caves.
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- Review the above information.
- Discuss the dangers of vertical caves.
- Practice caving knots.

Caving Equipment

- Learn about light sources, helmets, proper clothing, and pads.
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- Review the above information.
 - Discuss how to deal with food, water, and waste.
 - Discuss how to deal with water in underground lakes and rivers.
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- Review the above information.
- Discuss vertical caving.
- If available, compare the equipment used for rock climbing and caving.

Caving Safety

- Review cave maps. Learn terminology and symbols.
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-  Review the above information.
 - Examine advanced cave maps of famous caves.
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-  Review the above information.
- Learn how to map a cave. Practice by diagramming the building you meet in.

Ethics and Caving Techniques

-  Discuss white nose fungus.
 - Learn how to decontaminate caving equipment to prevent the spread of the fungus.
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-  Review the above information.
 - Review equipment for human waste management.
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-  Review the above information.
- Discuss how climbing protection can affect a cave.
- Practice the placement of climbing protection that leaves no trace.

BREAKOUT GROUP IDEAS

Getting Ready for the Main Event

- Menu Planning
- Duty Roster Planning
- Patrols discuss what special items they will need for the main event

Preparation for the meeting's game or challenge

GAME AND CHALLENGE IDEAS

[Library of Games and Challenges on Troop Program Resources](#)

- [Blind Train](#)
- [Crowded Circle](#)
- **Stalactite and Stalagmite Contest**
 - *Materials:* For each patrol, a tray, two glass jars, a saucer, woolen thread, and baking soda
 - *Method:* Place both jars on the tray. Fill the jars with hot water and dissolve as much baking soda as you can into each one. Place the jars in a warm place and put the saucer between them. Twist several strands of thread together before dipping the ends into the jars and letting the middle of the thread hang down above the saucer. (The ends can be weighed down with various small, heavy objects to keep them in the jars.) The two solutions should creep along the thread until they reach the middle and then drip down onto the saucer. Place the experiments in a place that can be undisturbed for the next week.
 - *Scoring:* Wait until the next week's preopening; then judge each entry on shape, size, and awesomeness. The best entry wins.
 - *Notes:* Discuss how stalactites and stalagmites are formed in caves. How long would that take?
- **Blindfold Battery Exchange**
 - *Materials:* For each patrol, a flashlight with extra batteries and a blindfold

- *Method:* The goal is to be able to replace batteries completely by touch in case of power failure. The flashlight and extra batteries are placed on a table in front of a blindfolded patrol member. When directed to do so, the blindfolded Scout in each patrol races to be the first one to replace the batteries in his flashlight. An even number of Scouts from each patrol take turns.

- *Scoring:* The patrol with the most Scouts who finish the quickest, wins.

CLOSING IDEAS

- [Leader's Minutes](#)
- [Ceremony](#)

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TROOP LEADER RESOURCE LINKS

[Advancement Resources](#)

[Awards Central](#)

[Boy Scouts](#)

[Guide to Safe Scouting](#)

[SCOUTBOOK](#)

[Scouting Forms from the National Council](#)

[ScoutCast](#)

[Scouting Magazine](#)

[ScoutStuff.org \(Retail Site\)](#)

[ScoutingWire](#)

[Sign in to MyScouting.org](#)

[Take Youth Protection Training](#)

[The Outdoor Adventure Planning Guide](#)

[Troop Leader Guidebook Appendix](#)

[Uniforms](#)

