



Cohen Cup 2024

Patrol Leader Handbook

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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the Cohen Cup. The idea of the Cohen Cup is to assist you and your Patrol in learning to set up and maintain a good campsite for your normal camps.

Cohen Cup promotes a high level of camping standards, while working within the Patrol System.

Patrols are expected to set up their own campsites without the help of the Leaders or parents, unless taking part in the Rookie competition.

Each patrol is also expected to have a leader/adult helper attend. These leaders/ adult helpers will be food judges for other patrols, this includes the Rookie sections (Rookies can have more than 1 leader/ adult help)

Participant can attend in one of the following categories:

- **Joey Scouts: Rookie Competition with Adult Support.**
- **Cub Scouts: Rookie Competition with Adult Support**
- **Scouts: Rookie Competition with Adult Support or Advanced competition with no Adult support.**
- **Venturer Scouts: Advanced competition with no Adult support.**
- **Rover Scouts: Advanced competition with no Adult support**
- **Adult Leaders/Helpers: Advanced competition with sites used as displays for youth members.**

Patrols can be made up of mixed sections but the oldest youth member in the team will determine which category you will be judged in. (e.g. if a patrol is made up of Cubs and Scouts, that patrol will compete in the Scout section). Exceptions can be made in extenuating circumstances with prior written approval from the PC and Admin Team.

We encourage patrols to be made up of different sections eg: 3 Cubs, 3 Scouts and 1 venturer or rover. Each patrol must have one P/L, one AP/L and at least 2 other patrol members, patrol numbers must be a minimum of 4 members but not exceed 8 members.

Each Patrol will be assessed as a Patrol, and therefore each Patrol will need to have their own equipment. This means Assessors will not accept Troop equipment shared by multiple Patrols.

We ask Patrols to consider the environment when camping.

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Patrol leaders:

Success in the Cohen Cup camping competition and how much FUN your Patrol will have on the Camp, depends on how well you and your Patrol are organised.

Whilst at times what you need to do may seem daunting, if you approach it one bit at a time, and get your APL to assist with some areas, you will manage easily.

RULES

1. The Patrol must register online by the due date: 20th May 2024. Each Patrol member must complete and bring to the event the signed Y4 permission form (Make copies of the completed Y4 forms for the Patrol Log!!!)

Each Patrol must have a Leader attached to help run the Cohen Cup competition, i.e. Judging the meals, helping run activities, but NOT assisting you!

Late Application forms will not be accepted.

2. For Cohen Cup you must provide a 'pre-camp log' for contents of the pre-camp log, see under the heading of Patrol Organisation. This will be checked on by your assessors.
3. Compliance with the Scout Law and safety rules is essential, i.e. There will be no trench fires, and no trenches to be dug round Patrol tents. All cooking waste liquid is to be strained and drained into a sullage pit. Only use half drums for fires, on supports to keep them off the ground.
4. Site will be an area of approximately 15mx15m. Site selection will be done by the Cohen Cup organising team. You will be advised of your site location on arrival at camp. Boundaries round your campsite are necessary.
5. Only Scouts may unload trailers/camping equipment brought to site. (Rookie Section youth members will be expected to help unload equipment)
6. Each Patrol needs to build a complete Patrol Campsite, consisting of sleeping tent, dining & food preparation tentage and a camp kitchen. More sleeping tents will be required if your Patrol is mixed.
7. You may use traditional canvas tentage or modern tents. You will be judged by how well these are put up and how they are used. See the details in the judging section.
8. Each Patrol is required to build a gateway and a minimum of 3 camp gadgets (one should be a flagpole). Gateway and gadgets should be made using wooden poles and lashings. No star droppers or cable ties to be used in these constructions.

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9. Gas or cooking in raised fire drums is the only type of cooking equipment allowed. No commercial cookers will be allowed. No gas cookers are to be used within 1metre vertical or 1m horizontal of your Cooking Shelters. Gas rings should not be placed directly on plastic or wood – have a metal sheet underneath that can't catch fire or melt. Coleman-type stoves contained within a metal box are OK on a trestle table.

10. Fire buckets must be used and correctly placed on your Patrol's campsite.

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11. All food e.g. meat, milk and perishable food to be stored in a cool box and on ice.
12. Each Patrol will need to bring a supply of water. There is water available on site but it's a shared site.
13. Torches, battery lanterns or battery box powered strip/ bar light are the only acceptable types of lights allowed in tents. **STRICTLY NO GAS OR LIQUID FUEL LIGHTING IS PERMITTED IN OR NEAR TENTS!**
14. Generators are not permitted.
15. Each Patrol will be asked to run a Scouts Own which will be judged by the Guest Meal Judge, so will need to be run at an appropriate time. IE after dinner on Saturday Night or Breakfast on Sunday Morning.

On arrival

- Patrols will need to register at the St George ASU (Northern) before opening ceremony.
- Patrols will be allocated a time when the Assessors (Camp Judges) will visit them for the first time.
- The Assessors will be independent, experienced Leaders and Rovers. Assessors will be paired up. The visit will be approximately 5 hours after arrival.
- Assessors will allocate points and will discuss them with the Patrol. This feedback should allow the Patrol to work on improvements.

The **WHOLE Patrol** need to be present for the assessment. Before the Assessors move on, a time will be arranged for the second assessment on Sunday morning, when again, all must be present, and activity participation must be arranged around this time.

Assessments take priority over activities. **You will get a copy of the assessment sheet. One of your Patrol will immediately take the original of any assessment sheets Hooper Bunk House.**

You will also be given the name of the person who is your Guest Meal Judge. They will visit your site in the morning and check on your preparation and you must give them the meal times.

Remember your Guest Meal Judge will be having lunch with you on both Saturday and Sunday but these meals will not be judged...

PRE-CAMP TRAINING

Before your Patrol decides to come to Cohen Cup, you and your Patrol (on your own; ie. with no adult help) need to be able to efficiently erect a Patrol Campsite (within 15x15 site) including the following:

- Sleeping tent/s (as many as your mixed Patrol needs)
- Dining fly or tent
- Boundaries round your campsite are necessary
- camp kitchen including food preparation tent; gas stove or fire drum & grates
- Prepare and cook the required number of camp meals including appropriate storage
- Erect a Gateway, 3 camp gadgets and flagpole (all to be made on site, from wood and using lashings)
- Make a Patrol Flag to display
- Be able to run a Patrol Based Scouts Own

Use your Patrol Members wisely, 3 or 4 can put up a tent, this leaves 2 to 3 free to do something else. Do not expect young Scouts to know how to do things by themselves. They are here to learn and you must assist them.

Your job as PL is to supervise and assist when required. You should oversee everything and check it is right. Help when required, guide and advise when needed but try not to do everything yourself, you are a team!

However, do not be lazy! If you are too casual so will your Patrol, if you muck around, so will your Patrol

- if you make a mess and don't clean it up, how can you expect your Patrol to clean up properly - Set the example for your Patrol to follow.

PATROLS NEED TO PRACTICE

PATROL ORGANISATION

Assessors will be watching how you lead your Patrol and how well you all work together.

The '**pre-camp log**' (should be presented in an A4 Binder) is information that you would normally put together when you go to camp.

Many Troops and Patrols will have different requirements on what information should be in this log. The information that we expect to be part of your log is as follows:

Patrol Lists: This is a list of all members of your Patrol, their age, Scout rank (eg. PL, Scout etc), emergency home contact and address details, etc. This can be copies of the Parent permission (Y4 forms.) You should have given the originals at registration.

Roster: A roster of work duties for the camp for all members.

Time frame: A roster of when duties for the camp should be started including meal times.

Menu: A simple outline of what is to be served at each meal, this should include fluids.

Ration List: This is the list of food, gas and other consumable items that you have purchased for the camp.

Equipment List: A list of all the equipment your Patrol has taken to camp.

The lists of information are the most important part of this document, therefore pretty presentation is not required. All we ask is that the document is bound together with clear identification (Patrol and Troop name written clearly on the front) and the document can be easily read.

PL's are encouraged to refer to '**pre camp log**' throughout the Cohen Cup.

ASSESSMENT

This information should be discussed between Patrol Leaders, Patrol members and Adult Leader. Please do not be put off by the Assessors, they are designed to assist your patrol to organise yourselves and carry out tasks that you need to complete over this weekend.

First some general points to note while your Patrol is at the Cohen Cup.

1. Your Patrol will be judged on the general appearance, tidiness and neatness of your campsite, along with the way the Patrol System is operating.
2. Scoring is done on how the Patrol's equipment is used and not the quality of it. Remember that a view of "lack of maintenance" which the Patrol should have attended to as part of general care prior to the Cohen Cup will be considered.

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3. Hygiene will play a large role in the Cohen Cup and will not be treated lightly. There is no excuse for Scouts to lack in their hygiene. Meal preparation, food coolers (esbies), clean up, camp cleanliness etc. will be viewed to the highest standard.
4. Your Patrol will be judged on the running of their Scouts Own.
5. You will get a chance to vote on everyone else's camp site in the Scouts' Choice competition.

POINTS AWARDED 0 – 4

- 0 Did not try - No effort has been made.**
- 1 Unsatisfactory - You tried but not yet an acceptable standard**
- 2 Satisfactory - Acceptable standard - could be improved**
- 3 Good - A good effort where more attention to detail is needed**
- 4 Excellent - Could not do better with available gear and conditions**

24 points for Gateway, 12 points for Flagpole and Gadgets. You will also get points for the way your Patrol works together and the quality and completeness of your Patrol log.

All points are added together, and an outright winner is awarded the Cohen Cup. If there is any disagreement among assessors that is crucial to deciding winners, a senior member of Scouting will make a final judgement.

However, all the points are graded into three levels of achievement, Bronze, Silver & Gold, plus the overall winning patrol who will have their name engraved on the Cohen Cup. There are also awards for the best gateway, flagpole and gadgets, cooking, Scouts' choice of best overall campsite, and for the theme.

The Rookie competitors will be eligible for the bronze awards, but winners of each section will be declared.

MEAL ASSESSMENT

Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast are assessed by your Guest Meal Judge.

You will also need to supply the Guest Meal Judge lunch on Saturday and Sunday which will not be judged. They will introduce themselves to you in the morning and you will need to inform them of the time for meals. This is the time you must stick to or lose points!

You will be responsible for giving the Guest Meal Judge a judging sheet, and it will be your responsibility to get the judging sheet back and to hand it to the Score Keeper at HQ.

You will be cooking a 3-course dinner and a hearty camp breakfast themed menu will give you extra points.

The Saturday Evening Meal is the most important in the competition. We shall be judging this meal most carefully. You need to display your menu.

For dinner, which you can cook on your open fire drum, aim for:

- Starter or soup made from fresh ingredients, no packages.
- Main Course including at least 2 vegetables with the meat, cheese, fish, tofu or whatever you use for protein in this important menu item. A pasta or rice-based meal is fine, but don't forget the veggies, which can be in a salad.
- Dessert which requires some cooking on site.

Breakfast should include:

- A choice of beverages
- A cooked element
- A cold or refreshing element such as prepared fruit or cereal

When assessing meals the following is important:

- Punctual start to the meal
- The quality of the food, ie. Are there good and healthy ingredients
- The quantity of the food - is there enough for everyone.
- The standard of the food - is it cooked properly - IS IT SERVED HOT!!!
- Get everybody's knives, plates etc. and set the table properly. (a tablecloth could be used to cover badly damaged tables). The Guest Meal Judge will bring their own, so leave a space.
- Nominate 1 or 2 people to serve the food, everybody else except the kitchen hands should be sitting at the table.
- Ensure there is cordial/water on the table for drinking.
- Say grace or give thanks before anybody starts eating
- Make certain everybody eats together
- Clean up the table promptly after each course.

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- If possible, offer the Guest Meal Judge coffee or tea after the meal.
- Be polite and nice - TALK TO HIM/HER and make him/her welcome.

Hot water must be organised by each individual Patrol. It only needs to be ready for use from the time you start preparing your meals.

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Hygiene is vital to this section; remember you must wash your hands with soap (liquid) before touching any food.

You must notify your Guest Meal Judge as soon as possible if your mealtime is to be changed, not just before serving.

Behaviour is also looked at during meals, so remember your manners.

Clean-up is to be completed promptly before you leave your site. Don't forget **HOT WATER**.

UTILISATION OF SITE

Assessors will be looking at the way you have set up your camp on the site provided. When setting up your site, you need to consider the neighbouring Patrol sites and the principles of minimum impact camping. Boundaries round your campsite are necessary, and you will need a definite entrance to your site in the form of a gateway.

You will also need a sign that identifies your Patrol name. This must be in a prominent position. Remember your site must be clear of litter; this includes litter that was there before you arrived and litter just outside your boundaries.

EATING SHELTER / KITCHEN

- Your shelter must be correctly put up and be high enough for you to walk around comfortably. It must also be able to shed water easily. It must be well tied down with guy ropes as if the weather was going to be really bad.
- Get the layout right. Avoid cramped equipment.
- Tables and chairs need to be level and safe.
- Tables that have tops that are cut and damaged from years of camping should have a tablecloth on top when in use.
- Food must be stored properly and each Patrol must store their own food, non-perishables either in the Patrol Box or in lidded plastic containers. Eskies/ice boxes must be used for food that must be kept cold (meat on the bottom, next to the ice).
- Cooking utensils should be stored away in boxes and not left out in the open.
- Assessors will be very tough on hygiene, therefore, please ensure Scouts do not leave food scraps lying around.
- Assessors will make sure wet waste is disposed of in the sullage points provided. Food wastage is not to be left in the sullage points after water has been drained from the food.
- Always have the lid on the rubbish bin or rubbish bags tied closed.

COOKING AREA

- This is a place where a boundary is needed and is for obvious safety reasons. Boundary fences must be between thigh and chest height of Patrol Members.
- Also, make sure you have enough working space around your cooking area. Stoves should be 1m Vertical and 1m Horizontal from any Cooking Shelters.
- Gas rings are not to be placed directly on a wooden or plastic table, put a metal sheet beneath it. Coleman-type stoves in a metal box should not need that extra fire protection.
- You must observe all the fire regulations as you would on a normal camp. The fire must be well away from all tentage. Take account of wind direction for sparks. Having a boundary around the fire would be a good safety measure.
- If fires are being used, Assessors will be looking for well stacked and covered wood piles at all times.
- Firewood must be brought into camp by you. Half drums are to be used for fires and kept above the ground to prevent burning the grass.

Gas bottles must be current and out of date bottles will be removed from your site immediately. All fittings, hoses and gas appliances should be checked before going to camp to make sure they are in good condition and all the fittings are correct and do not allow gas leaks.

SLEEPING TENT

- This includes your tent being correctly pitched, guy ropes tight and one peg for one rope. Whether your tent is canvas or a modern dome it needs to be pitched as if bad weather were coming. Remember the Velcro fasteners on dome tents. Make all tents stretched square at ground level.
- Trees or other permanent fixtures are not to be used under any circumstances for securing guy ropes.
- You must make sure that no wet gear is ever stored in packs and this means towels etc. must be airing. Tent area should be kept clean and clear of rubbish.
- Tents will be inspected inside so put clothes back in bags and close/zip them up and make your bed area tidy. If your bed mats are rolled up when not in use and everything is inside bags, with the sleeping bags on top of the bag, you will have room to sit/move in your tent without messing up other people's gear.
- During the day brail or air your tent. Dome tents can have their flaps or doorways rolled up, inwards so they don't collect sudden rain.

GENERAL HYGIENE/SAFETY

- Patrols must be aware of personal hygiene. Air your sleeping tent at every opportunity if it is not raining. Air your sleeping bags every day on a longer camp.
- Patrols must always have clean water and soap (preferably liquid soap) and hand sanitiser available. Bars of soap must not be left in the water. Assessors will be taking note of your general hygiene. Therefore, please ensure that all Scouts in your patrol change underclothes daily. Scouts should not sleep in their day clothes.
- A Hygienic camp is a happy camp. Patrols need to make sure there are no hazards on their site (e.g. Tools/ropes lying round) and that all tools are made safe.
- Each Patrol must have their own First Aid Kit
- Keep your Site clean and tidy, especially your sleeping tent and dining fly. Show a knowledge of personal and Patrol hygiene and implement it. Wash your hands before every meal and before cooking. Keep your dining and prep tables spotless, no food residue at all.
- Eskies should be well iced, and keep meat at the coldest bottom, veggies above.
- Always have the lid on the rubbish bin or rubbish bags tied. Make sure the sullage pits are kept clear of food scraps.

GADGETS

- You need to build a minimum of 3 gadgets for your assessment. They must be useful, include some element of Scout Craft and be made during camp. Gateways are not accepted as a gadget.
- Consider the following - wash stand for hand washing - freestanding tool rack - towel rack - billy stand - shoe rack - camp bench or chair – shelter for wood. These items are assessed by a different judge from the camping ones.
- Please ensure all ropes, poles and other items used to make these gadgets are in good condition.

GATEWAY AND FLAGPOLE

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- You will need to select a good entrance point and build a gateway. You should have your Patrol signage there. Do not use star droppers or cable ties for the construction.
- You should also build a free-standing flagpole for your Patrol flag.
- Both these items will be assessed, most likely on Sunday morning.
- Please ensure all ropes, poles and other items used to make gateways and flags are in good condition.

ACTIVITIES

The Saturday Afternoon/ evening Activity is optional.

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Completing/improving your camp site, including gadgets, gateway and flagpole are your priority. Make sure your patrol leaves plenty of time for meal preparation.

Don't forget to be back at camp in time for your appointment with the Assessors!

Example: HOW TO BUILD YOUR COHEN CUP SITE SUCCESSFULLY

We assume you have done your organisation prior to the camp and created your Patrol Log of how you have prepared for the event.

The first 30 points should be completed in your first 5 hours on site (including lunch). You will then have your first assessment time.

1. Arrive at campsite and register to get site allocation and the card with your first assessment time.
2. Find your site and get your bearings on where you are located
3. Unpack the trailer, sorting the equipment into separate patrols if you have more than one from your Unit. You may not have adjacent sites. Your Leader will remove the trailer to the parking area and now you are on your own!
4. If you are in your uniform, get changed and store your uniform carefully for later on
5. Inspect site and choose layout – you will have already considered this before and maybe have made a plan. Now you see the real site:
 - choose a clear space for fire drum (4 metre radius all around and above from trees, stumps)
 - choose a wood chopping area if required with good access to fire area (bring chopped wood!)
 - choose a dining fly area with good access to the fire drum but not too close!
 - choose a sleeping tent site that is away from overhanging branches, has good drainage, away from natural drainage areas, as level as possible and with a good walkway all around and of course not downwind from the fire drum!
6. Carry your patrol gear onto your own site
7. Erect sleeping tent(s) as if there was bad weather coming – all guy ropes in use (ensure it is facing away from the prevailing weather - wind & rain)
8. Put in your groundsheet if using Patrol tents - ensure the ends do not protrude under the sides, if necessary make a low wall of the groundsheet inside the tent

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by tying it to the poles

9. Store all personal gear inside tent neatly - make it neat now and keep it neat for the whole camp with nothing loose at any time. If your bed mats are rolled up when not in use and everything is inside bags, with the sleeping bags on top of the bag, you will have room to sit/move in your tent without messing up other people's gear. You can make your bed later

10. Stack firewood under some sort of shelter – this can happen after you set up the fire drum (27) if the weather is really fine

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11. Erect the dining fly and cooking shelter - make sure it is orientated to allow cooks easy access to the fire drum
12. Erect dining table & seats
13. Prepare your kitchen. Erect food preparation table on trestles with storage rack underneath if possible
14. Unpack Patrol box, store utensils etc and erect Patrol box on legs for food or utensil storage – if not in Patrol box, non-perishable food must be above ground in lidded boxes, or in well-drained Eskies
15. Put out first aid kit and sign on top of patrol box
16. Put gas stove on top of prep table and make sure that canvas is more than 1.5m above the stove and 60cm to the side, or 2.5m and 1m for non-canvas tentage. The stove should be in a position where it can be pushed onto the floor in an emergency without igniting canvas or other items.
17. Store empty stove box out of way, but under cover
18. Store tent peg boxes with stove box - out of way - check the mallet is in a box so you can find it easily
19. Check utensils box is stored under prep table
20. Hang or place the patrol log somewhere highly visible. It should contain the menu - duty roster - Patrol list/Permission forms – ration list – equipment list
21. Make a hanging rack/line for tea towels under the cover of the dining fly
22. Make sure Patrol Box is clean and dry and then store all non-perishable food in the Patrol Box - shut the door properly
23. Store the esky near the patrol box, ensure it is shut properly always and remember to drain it regularly.
24. Connect the gas bottle to stove
25. You will have brought drinking water in containers. Keep it in a cool place and

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keep lid screwed on. Collect non-drinking water for washing up and cleaning from the onsite taps.

26. Fill fire buckets – non-drinking water!

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27. Set up fire drum if you are using one. If you can make a boundary around the fire drum, you will increase your safety!
28. Rope off chopping area if you have one. The axe must be kept sheathed and put in the roped off area or somewhere safe and can't be tripped over.
29. Rope off the Patrol site as allocated
30. Get lanterns ready to turn on when darkness is falling.

You need to do as much of the above before your appointment with the Assessors

1. Construct your gadgets, which could usefully be a washstand, a tool rack and a shelter for your firewood for example
2. Construct your Patrol Gateway
3. Erect your Patrol sign in a prominent & visible area on your gate
4. Erect a free-standing flagpole (not part of the Gateway)
5. Erect a sturdy clothesline for airing bedding and wet clothes. Keep it away from the fire and wood chopping areas.
6. Theme your campsite!

These items will be assessed later, on Sunday morning, unless you tell us earlier that your construction is complete. You can do them in any order and it would be good to theme your site before Dinner.

Scouts Own will be run by each Patrol at a time suited to the Guest Meal Judge for meals. Patrols will need to inform their Guest Meal Judge at what time and where they would like to meet for this to happen.