



## Module 1: Organizing an Outing

If you have never organized a fishing outing, it can be a daunting experience. This module is designed to provide guidance and some tips that should help you as a leader or parent to organize a successful outing. An outing can be defined as an activity outside your pack's location that consists of a tour or an organized event. This module addresses an organized event. To begin, always ask yourself the following:

1. What is the goal, and what do I hope to achieve?
2. Does it affect a pack with many dens or just a den with small number of youth?
3. How should it look? Consider this before you develop the plan.
4. Who should my helpers be?
5. Is the event age-appropriate for boys in my pack?
6. Is the event a one-day outing or an overnighnter?
7. What is the distance we'd want to travel?
8. What is the weather going to be like?

Find a wall and have a handful of sticky notes with markers in hand.

1. On a 3x5 sticky note I write the words "ORGANIZING AN OUTING" and place it on the wall.
2. With my 3x3 sticky notes, I begin the process of identifying subheads that should surround the main heading. For example:
  - Location
  - Promo/marketing
  - Community involvement/organizations

- Transportation
  - Fishing equipment
  - Fishing Scouting awards
  - Human resources
  - Food
  - Fees
  - Health and safety
  - Permits, licenses, or regulations
  - Who should be participating?
  - Plan “B”
3. Allow space to expand on the heading to include subheadings that relate to the heading. For example: Under “human resources,” subheadings could include leaders, parents, and community organizations.
4. Let me touch on a few of the headings and provide some comments:
- Location—this is a very vital decision. Are you conducting a tour to see fish, or are you actually conducting a fish derby or clinic?
    - Depending on your location and nature of the event, a tour and activity plan may be required, with parental permission and qualified drivers, should you decide to carpool. If you are participating in a council function such as day camp, most all of the requirements will be outlined for you. If you plan it yourself, you will need to be aware of your council’s requirements for conducting an outing.
    - If you are planning a fishing event in a park district or community park, check for usage permits and fishing regulations.
    - Does the location you chose have adequate restroom facilities, nearby refreshments, ample space for other planned activities, and picnic opportunities?
    - Does the lakefront have a safe fishing area (well suited and free of hazards) and sufficient space for a large number of youth to fish at the same time?
    - Does the safety observer have ample view of the area that is being used for fishing? (The safety observer acts like a lifeguard and assures that everyone in his area of responsibility is safe while fishing.)
    - If using boats, are the Safety Afloat guidelines being adhered to?

- Health and safety—Adhering to the health and safety guidelines and the Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety is paramount for all leaders. Not doing so may disqualify you from receiving insurance benefits from the BSA should something drastic happen, such as a serious injury or an accidental death. Safety tips:
  - All Scouts should have a buddy.
  - Youth Protection—trained, two-deep leadership
  - Qualified supervision
  - Discipline
  - There should be leaders or parents trained in first aid, CPR, and the use of the defibrillator.
  - First-aid kit
  - PFDs
  - Rain gear and extra warm clothing
  - Water
  - Sun tan lotion
  - Mosquito/insect repellent
  - Life ring with long rope attached to it
  - Long pole
  - Location and phone numbers of the nearest medical facilities
  - Disaster recovery plan for severe weather
  - Plan B

Module 1 is still a work in progress and all comments and suggestions are welcomed.

This module was created by Bill Pepito. A longtime Scouter and avid fisherman, Bill is with the Northeast Illinois Council and serves as a Certified Angler Educator for the Wisconsin Department of Resources and the International Game Fish Association. He is also a certified angler instructor for the Boy Scouts of America and is a member of the National Fishing Task Force for the BSA.

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