

TRIP PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION

Presentation courtesy of Debbie Hinde

Canoe Trip Planning & Organization

- ✓ Where do you want to go?
- ✓ What is the water like?
- ✓ Learn more about this trip!
- ✓ Know the weather and on-land conditions.
- ✓ Are there any laws and/or restrictions?
- ✓ WHO is going and what skills do they need?
- ✓ Group planning questions, equipment
- ✓ The Put-In Talks
- ✓ Trip Leader thoughts

Agenda

#1 - Where do you want to go?

Hometown
Paddle?

Full day
trip?

Car camp
& paddle?

Multi-day
camp
trip?

Someplace
I've never
been?



#2 – What is the type of water for the trip?

Ocean Bay?



Moving Water?

Lake or Pond?

What water hazards or characteristics should be considered?

- Open water or small, protected area? Tides? Wind? Waves?
- Water temperature?
- Flow conditions? Classification of the river?
- Dams, undercuts, frequent strainers, known rapids, holes?

#3 – How do I find out about this trip?



- Internet Searches
- Friends
- Magazines
- Club Newsletter
- Local Paddling Clubs
- Local Outfitters

#4 – What are likely weather conditions?



- Internet
- 24-Hour phone lines
- Newspapers



#5 – What are likely on-land conditions?

- Insects, reptiles & mammals of concern *and* of interest
- Rocky, desert, ice, snow, clay, wooded...
- Tamarisk blockage
- Rowdy party area
- Cliff camping
- Trains



#6 – Laws & Restrictions?

- Club waivers, Parental permission, ACA insurance...
- Toilets, Trash, Fires, Cooking
- Fishing, Firearms, Alcohol, Glass containers
- Number in party, ages, pets...see #7 too!
- Are there boat gear requirements governed by local agencies?



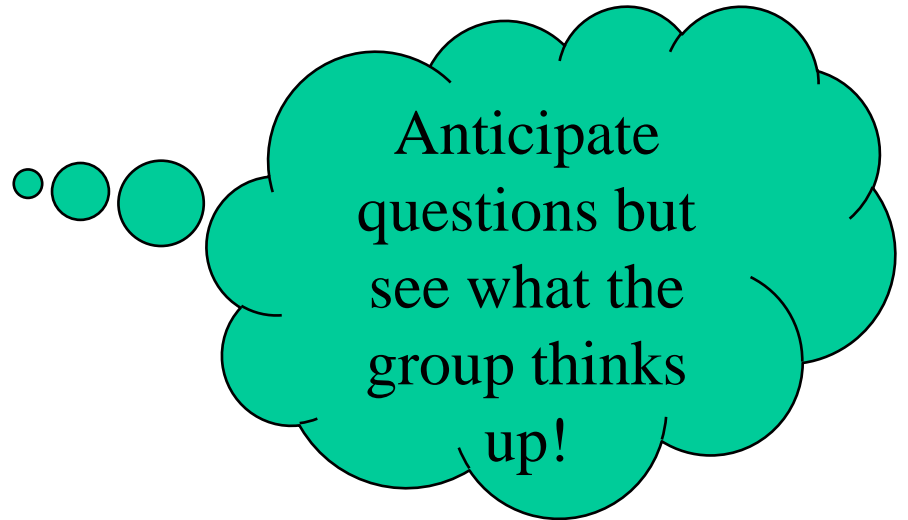
#7 – WHO

- Who is coming?
- What skills do they need?
- Do I know them or do I know someone who knows them?
- What questions do I need to ask to understand their experience or lack thereof?



#8 – Basic Planning Questions

- Who has their own boat, who needs a partner?
- How do I contact everyone during the planning & organizing phase?
- Do we need pre-trip training or a meeting?



#9 – More Planning Logistics

- Meeting Place
- How do we get there?
- Reservations
- Permits / Park Passes
- Cell Phone List
- Local Emergency List
- Home Emergency List



#10 – Equipment

- Discuss Group equipment vs. Individual Equipment.
- What equipment is **REQUIRED** for the group and individuals?
- Pass out equipment list examples. Compile your own lists, or use some from your club, and include special items such as child and pet needs.



#11 – The Put-In Talk

- Group Introductions
- Confirm weather, water, required equipment
- Confirm permits, documentation
- Review plan for the day, segment, trip
- Car keys, cell phones safely stowed
- Count # boats



#12 – The Put-In *SAFETY* Talk

- PFD Fit, helmets
- Rescue situations – Responsibilities of rescuers and victims
- Whistle and Paddle/Arm signals
- Buddy boats, boat order
- Scouting, landmarks, group communication



#13 – Before you do this, ask yourself...

- Am I willing to speak up to individuals who put the group at risk?
- What skills do I lack that concern me about this trip?
- Can I team up with someone who has skills to complement my weak areas?
- Is there anyone else along that has special skills to enlist as needed?

Then get on out there!



Go Eric!



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