

SURVIVAL

A Scouting Ireland challenge

Moon Base



Survival scenarios

Imagine yourself with a walking party. There is a blast of wind, a lot of noise and you are engulfed in an avalanche of snow. You are sailing in a yacht a heavy wind blows, you lose your mast and are set adrift. How do you cope?

These situations are ones which people have found themselves in on occasions in the past and will, doubtless, find themselves in the future. For this reason a knowledge of survival can be as useful as a knowledge of first aid.

Although we live in a relatively civilised environment the ease of modern travel, coupled with the fact that Scouts are going to more remote areas, maintains the need for a knowledge of survival skills.

Before going further it may be as well to define the term 'survival' - 'Survival is the art of remaining alive in and escaping from a hostile environment, without full facilities.' This needs a few words of explanation. If you camp in the hills in winter with a good mountain tent, a warm sleeping bag, a stove with plenty of fuel and no shortage of food, this is camping not survival. Survival begins when some relatively essential item is missing and becomes more acute the less one has.

The American Rescue Service has said that country people or city people who

have had a lot of Scout training are the best survivors.

To stay alive the following must be considered

Food

Without it one will eventually die although not as rapidly as one might think. In her book, *Hey I'm Alive*, Helen Klaben describes how she stayed alive for forty nine days on virtually nothing.

Water

With no water available a man, even in a cool climate and doing no work, is unlikely to survive more than fifteen days.

Shelter and Warmth

Without these the physical condition of the survivor will deteriorate.

Medical

Untreated injuries or sickness will undermine the body to some extent especially if allied to a lack of shelter and food. Additionally the ability to escape on foot will be inhibited.

Communication

A person is a very small object and the earth is a very big place. Some means of attracting attention is vital for anyone in need of help. A mobile phone is excellent

if a signal is available if not then traditional means of communication will need to be used.

Movement

How to move, when to move, etc. now become vital questions to be answered.

Navigation

This may not be to one-degree accuracy but in many types of terrain it is quite an effort to keep going in a constant compass direction without veering well off course.

Load-carrying

Too big a load will reduce your chances of reaching help but too small a load may mean vital items are abandoned.



Moon Base

Your spaceship has just crash-landed on the moon.
You are 200 miles (320 km) away from Moon Base 3.

It is midday (remember the lunar day lasts 14 Earth days). Your crew's survival depends on reaching the base.

15 items have been salvaged from the wrecked ship. Firstly, working by yourself, in private, rank the items 1-15 in order of importance.

When you are finished you should now join up with your Patrol/Team and agree a group listing.

Box of matches
Food concentrate
15m of nylon rope
Parachute silk
Solar powered portable heating unit
Two .45 caliber pistols
One case of powered milk
Two 45 kg tanks of oxygen
Self-inflating life raft
Magnetic compass
15 liters of water
Signal flares
First Aid kit (containing spacesuit injection needles)
Solar powered FM receiver-transmitter
Stellar map (to aid navigation)



Moon Base

List of items

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15m of nylon rope

Parachute silk

Solar powered portable heating unit

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injection needles)

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Stellar map (to aid navigation)

NASA Rating	
15	Box of matches Virtually worthless -- there's no oxygen on the moon to sustain combustion.
04	Food concentrate Efficient means of supplying energy requirements.
06	Nylon Rope Useful in scaling cliffs and tying injured together.
08	Silk Parachute Protection from the sun's rays.
13	Solar powered Heating Unit Not needed unless on the dark side.
11	Two .45 caliber pistols Possible means of self-propulsion.
12	One Case of powered milk Bulkier duplication of food concentrate.
01	Oxygen tanks Most pressing survival need (weight is not a factor since gravity is one-sixth of the Earth's --each tank would weigh only about 17 lbs. on the moon.)
03	Stellar Map Primary means of navigation - star patterns appear essentially identical on the moon as on Earth.

NASA Rating	
09	Self inflating life raft CO2 bottle in military raft may be used for propulsion
14	Magnetic compass The magnetic field on the moon is not polarized, so it's worthless for navigation.
02	15 liters of water Needed for replacement of tremendous liquid loss on the light side.
10	Signal Flares Use as distress signal when the mother ship is sighted
07	First aid kit Needles connected to vials of vitamins, medicines, etc. will fit special aperture in NASA space suit.
05	Solar powered FM receiver-transmitter For communication with mother ship (but FM requires line-of-sight transmission and can only be used over short ranges.)