

SURVIVAL

A Scouting Ireland challenge

Tic Tac Challenge



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.



Tic Tac Challenge

The Challenge is to create a small, always in my pocket, survival kit. Every item in the kit must have a use and purpose and combined with other items in the kit or with other things found in nature become useful for survival.

The container is a standard 'Tic Tac' mint box - yes it is small so it focuses the mind.

The challenge is to get as many items as possible into the box, and close the lid. All of the items must have a use and this must be explained. You cannot pack the box with a large number of the same item (for example 20 fish hooks - these are considered as 1 item even though 20 would be useful).

In compiling and making you kit consider the main focus of survival - keeping alive, finding direction, lighting a fire, signaling for help, making shelter, and finding food.

You need to think small, and how an item can have multi uses. We have provide a listing grid opposite suggesting a possibility of 20 items but we are sure you can increase that amount. When you have completed the challenge take a picture of your finished survival kit and another showing all the items you managed to place inside.



Item	Reason for use
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