

# Scout Group Coordinator Tools

*Planning Your Boundary Waters Adventure*

**Transform your Scout troop with Boundary Waters adventures that build leadership skills and earn merit badges.** Our comprehensive planning handles permits, equipment, and safety protocols so you can focus on creating unforgettable wilderness experiences.

**This guide covers:**

- Pre-Trip Planning Essentials – covering permits and reservations
- Scout-Specific Considerations – rank advancement opportunities, risk management
- Checklists and Activities planning
- During Your Trip – daily leadership tools and educational opportunities
- Safety & Risk Management – weather, medical, and behavior management
- Post trip follow up
- Adult Leader Resources – training requirements and emergency plans
- Specialized Resources – for older scouts and budget management
- Contact & Support

## Pre-Trip Planning Essentials

### Permit Requirements & Reservations

Scout groups must secure BWCA permits well in advance, especially for popular summer dates. Consider these key points:

- **Reserve Early:** Popular entry points fill up quickly for June-August dates
- **Group Size Limits:** Maximum 9 people per permit (larger troops need multiple permits with different entry points and different routes)
- **Age Considerations:** Plan entry points appropriate for your youngest participants
- **Alternative Dates:** Have backup dates ready when making reservations

---

## Scout-Specific Considerations

---

### Rank Advancement Opportunities

Your BWCA trip can fulfill numerous advancement requirements:

- Camping & canoeing merit badge requirements
- Wilderness Survival merit badge activities
- Environmental Science observations
- Personal Fitness tracking
- Leadership development opportunities

### Risk Management

- Complete risk assessment forms
- Verify all leaders have current training
- Ensure proper adult-to-youth ratios
- Review emergency contacts
- Review emergency evacuation procedures

## Checklists

---

### Personal Gear Checklists

- Age appropriate packing lists
- Weight distribution guidelines
- Shared vs individual equipment

### Group Equipment Inventory

- Cooking gear distribution
- Safety equipment checklist
- Electronics and communication devices

---

## Program & Planning

---

Build excitement and preparation with structured learning:

## BWCA History & Ecology Lessons

- Native American heritage
- Logging and mining history
- Wildlife identification guides
- Leave No Trace principles

## Skill Development Sessions

- Canoe handling and safety
- Map and compass navigation
- Camp cooking techniques
- Weather prediction basics

## Adventure Planning Activities

Get Scouts involved in trip planning:

- Route selection exercises
- Menu planning competitions
- Equipment research projects
- Emergency scenario discussions

**Pro Tip:** Create competition between patrols for pre-trip activities to increase engagement and knowledge retention.

## During Your Trip

---

### Morning Briefings

- Weather assessment
- Route planning review
- Safety reminders
- Daily goals and expectations

### Evening Reflections

- Journaling
- Star gazing and night sounds identification
- Group discussion topics
- Advancement requirement tracking

### Natural Science

- Wildlife tracking and identification
  - Plant and tree recognition
  - Geology and rock formation studies
  - Water quality testing
- 

## Safety & Risk Management

---

### Weather Contingency Planning

Northern Minnesota weather can change rapidly:

- Severe thunderstorm protocols
- Cold front preparation
- High wind response procedures
- Extended rain management

### Medical Preparedness

- Comprehensive first aid kit contents
- Medication management systems

- Emergency communication procedures
- Evacuation route planning

## **Group Behavior Management**

Wilderness presents unique leadership challenges:

- Homesickness management
- Conflict resolution techniques
- Motivation maintenance strategies
- Positive reinforcement systems

## **Post Trip Follow Up**

---

### **Advancement Recognition**

Document completed requirements:

- Merit badge sign-offs
- Rank advancement progress
- Leadership position credits
- Service hour documentation

### **Group Reflection Activities**

- Photo sharing sessions
  - Story writing exercises
  - Thank you note campaign
  - Future adventure planning
- 

## **Adult Leader Resources**

---

### **Training Requirements Checklist**

Ensure your leadership team is prepared:

- BSA Wilderness Use Policy compliance
- Leave No Trace training completion
- First Aid/CPR certification current
- Canoeing safety and rescue skills

- Weather emergency procedures

## Emergency Action Plans

Develop comprehensive safety protocols:

- Communication plans with base camp
- Medical emergency procedures
- Severe weather response
- Equipment failure contingencies
- Youth behavior management in wilderness settings

## Specialized Resources

---

### Crew & Older Scout Considerations

For Venturing Crews and older Boy Scouts:

- Extended expedition planning
- Advanced wilderness skills
- Leadership development opportunities
- Career exploration in outdoor fields

### Budget Management Tools

Keep costs reasonable for all families:

- Fundraising activity suggestions
- Equipment sharing programs
- Group discount opportunities
- Payment plan options

**Cost-Saving Tip:** Consider bringing gear most scouts already have, such as sleeping bags & pads, instead of renting.

**Rockwood Lodge & Outfitters, 50 Rockwood Rd, Grand Marais, MN 55604**  
**Call or text (218) 388 - 2242 email [info@rockwoodbwca.com](mailto:info@rockwoodbwca.com)**  
**website [www.rockwoodbwca.com](http://www.rockwoodbwca.com)**

### Contact & Support

We have the experience and training to help you make your plans turn into reality...drop us a line, send us a chat, or give us a call today to get started!