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A single session, fast-paced 4-5 hour clinic on Saturday _____, 2011 at the LowerGear Backpacking Center that will satisfy all non-wilderness-based requirements for the Backpacking Merit Badge (excluded requirements are listed below). This session is led by Dallas Shewmaker, owner of LowerGear and a veteran of thousands of trail miles with a backpack. Clinic starts promptly at 10:00am and ends between 2:30 – 3:00pm. See the estimated hourly schedule at the end.

Prerequisites:

- Read the backpacking merit badge pamphlet and be thinking about answers to the requirements
- Have at least one previous overnight camping experience

Bring with you:

- BSA Backpacking Merit Badge Pamphlet
- A copy of the Backpacking Merit Badge Workbook from <http://meritbadge.org/wiki/images/7/79/Backpacking.pdf>
- Your BSA Merit Badge Application (blue) card, signed by your unit leader
- A small snack for a mid-session break
- 2 Pens or pencils

During this clinic, you will learn a lot about backpacking trip planning, techniques, and safety, and will achieve the following segments of the 11 requirements for your Backpacking Merit Badge:

1. Health Concerns – satisfied in full
2. Backpacking Essentials - satisfied in full
3. Backpack Trip Planning - satisfied in full
4. Leave No Trace Principles – satisfied in full
5. Water Treatment Options - satisfied in full
6. Topo Maps – introduction; but (b) requires wilderness demonstration to satisfy
7. Inclement Weather - satisfied in full
8. Stove and cooking - satisfy all except (c) actual preparation of 3 meals
9. Backpack Trip Scheduling and Packing – satisfy except for (e) wilderness hike
10. 15-mile Trip Participation - requires wilderness trips
11. 30-mile Trip Planning - requires wilderness trip

The individual merit badge requirements are not reviewed in class in numeric sequence as they appear above and in the pamphlet, but instead are organized by common topics, along these lines:

- Topic 1 - What to take; how to pack your gear; how to fit and lift your pack
- Topic 2 - Minimizing risk; prevention and treatment of potential problems
- Topic 3 - Comparison and Operation of stoves; cooking and clean-up
- Topic 4 - Leave No Trace principles; hygiene; water treatment
- Topic 5 - Using topo maps and GPS
- Topic 6 - Backpacking Trip organization and planning

After this session participants will have the following requirements to earn and be acknowledged and approved by your unit leader or other counselor:

Participate in three backpacking trips of at least 15 miles and three days each, as well as also plan, schedule and participate in at least one 30-mile, 5-day trip. Within these 4 trips, you must prepare your meals; use a topo map, compass and/or GPS; plan and inspect a trekking patrol; complete a service project while on a trip; and write a brief report on your trip. The details of these remaining wilderness requirements are included as parts of Requirements #6, and also parts of #8 thru #11.