

# CARE OF TROOP EQUIPMENT

Troop 75 has a substantial investment in our tents and equipment. All of us have a duty and a responsibility to keep this gear well maintained. Items given to you for cleaning should be returned by the first or second Tuesday meeting following that campout. The Quartermaster will inspect all returned equipment and will direct you re-clean any equipment that is not properly cleaned. These are our expectations:

**Tents:** need to be kept as clean as possible when being used. That means no shoes or packs inside tents. Although nylon doesn't actually rot, mold and mildew will thrive on a tent that was packed and stored wet. Besides smelling bad, mold and mildew will adversely affect the waterproof quality of the tent. Since we usually pack out while our tents are still damp, they should be opened immediately when you get home. Before taking down your tent, use a rag or T-shirt to gently sweep any dirt, sand, and leaves from the interior of the tent. When you unpack the tent at home, turn it inside-out and give it a good shake. Any dirt or mud should be carefully cleaned from the nylon using a damp sponge and maybe a bit of mild detergent (NO BLEACH!). Don't repack the tent until it is **completely dry**. Report any holes in the fabric or broken zippers to the Quartermaster. We can get these fixed for free, but you have to notify us of the problem. Make sure all the bags, stakes, and poles are accounted for. Report any missing stakes or broken poles to the Quartermaster so that they may be replaced or repaired. Plastic ground cloths should be wiped clean and allowed to dry completely before placing them—separately—in the tent bags. Don't roll up the plastic ground cloth inside the tent—you'll want to be able to find and lay down the plastic before you even pull the tent out of the tent bag. **Failure to take care of your assigned tent will earn you the privilege of using one the Troop's old, floorless, bug-screenless canvas wall tents on your next campout!**

**Picnic coolers:** need to be washed **inside and out** and allowed to dry completely before closing and storing them. Any meat placed in a picnic cooler for a campout should be double-plastic-bagged so that blood will not seep out when it thaws. If other smelly (or potentially smelly) fluids have leaked into the cooler (such as milk or fruit juice), you may have to clean it with a bit of bleach.

**Water jugs and plastic water coolers:** need to be washed **inside and out, including the spigots and spouts**, and allowed to dry completely before storage. Promptly notify the Quartermaster if any plugs, spigots, or spouts are missing, cracked, or leaking.

**Stoves:** need to be wiped or scrubbed clean before storage in your respective patrol box. This means that all grease spatters or other food residue should be completely cleaned from the stovetop, burners, and windscreens. If you make this the cooks' responsibility, they will probably be more careful—and probably less messy—when cooking. If any stove, tank, or supply hose is leaking, turn off the gas tank valve **IMMEDIATELY** and notify an adult leader or the Quartermaster before reusing it. Notify the Quartermaster if gasoline stoves require pump or burner maintenance as well.

**LP gas hoses and fittings:** should be stored in your respective patrol box with your stove, not just tossed into the trailer. Notify an adult leader or the Quartermaster if you suspect any leaks. The Quartermaster can also replace O-rings and gaskets.

**Dutch ovens:** should be cleaned at camp, not at home, and never with soap and water. Dutch ovens should be put back into the campfire after use so that any food residue will turn to ash. This ash should then be completely scraped or wiped from the interior of the Dutch oven. After the interior has been cleaned it should be wiped with a light coat of vegetable oil (not animal fat like bacon grease).

**Pots, pans, griddles, and cooking utensils:** need to be cleaned of all soot and food residue before being stored in your respective Patrol Box. Remember, if you blacken a pan or griddle with a grease fire, you're cleaning it! If you are placing a pot over an open fire, soap the bottom first.

**Lanterns:** may need new mantles. Notify the Quartermaster if the fuel bottle is low or if the globe is broken.