**Tips for Camping in the Rain**

**PLASTIC BAGS**
I pack all your gear and clothing in various sizes of plastic bags (heavy zip-locks or clear recycling trash bags).

**RAIN GEAR**
A good quality rain jacket and pants are essential. Some folks like ponchos but I am against them, especially for Scouts. It is hard to keep dry in a poncho compared to a rain jacket and pants. Cheap plastic rain gear is cheap for a reason; they tear if you look at them the wrong way. A decent coated, lightweight rain suit will cost about $50-$60.

**NO COTTON CLOTHING**
We’ve all heard the warning that ‘cotton kills’. Even if it doesn’t kill you it will make you clammy and uncomfortable in the rain.  Lightweight nylon clothing and synthetic underwear in the summer – wool or polypropylene layers in the winter will keep you both safe and comfortable.

**WARM AND WET BETTER THAN COLD AND DRY**
Staying warm is important. An overcast, rainy, windy summer’s day can be uncomfortably cool and even dangerous. Our standard gear for any outing at any time of year is a suit of synthetic long underwear. Even when it is soaked the fabric wicks moisture away from the skin and leaves one feeling reasonably dry.

**SLOW DOWN AND ENJOY**
Don’t panic, you won’t melt. If you are hiking or canoeing stop and haul out the rain gear when the signs point to rain – don’t wait for the rain to start. Stay prepared for rain all the time it will not cause an emergency. Rain is not the end of an adventure – it’s part of it. It is the coldest, wettest, most challenging outings our Scouts remember most fondly.